

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 19, 2007

The Intergovernmental Affairs Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on November 19, 2007 at 3:37 p.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Scott Somers, Chairman
Claudia Walters

COMMITTEE ABSENT

Mike Whalen

STAFF PRESENT

Debbie Spinner
Scott Butler

Chairman Somers excused Committeemember Whalen from the entire meeting.

1. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

2. Hear a presentation, discuss and make recommendations on the 2008 State Legislative agenda.

Government Relations Director Scott Butler displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) to provide an overview of the City's issues and priorities for the 2008 State Legislative session.

Mr. Butler reported that the State Legislature would convene on Monday, January 14, 2008, with Republican majorities in both the Senate and the House. He noted that a major issue for the Legislature is the projected \$800 million to \$1 billion budget deficit. Mr. Butler added that election-year politics would also be prevalent during this timeframe.

Mr. Butler advised that Government Relations Coordinator Brent Stoddard would review the guiding principles utilized by staff to address City of Mesa issues with the State Legislature.

In response to questions from Chairman Somers, Mr. Butler advised that State Senators and Representatives serve two-year terms and that all seats would be on the November 2008 ballot. He advised that Representative Russell Pearce has served the maximum number of terms and that several individuals in the East Valley are exploring the possibility of being a candidate for State office. He added that Representative Pearce is considering a challenge to U.S. Congressman Jeff Flake in the Republican primary in order to represent Arizona's Sixth District.

Responding to a question from Committeemember Walters, Mr. Butler said he would obtain information regarding other East Valley legislators who might have served the maximum number of terms.

Mr. Stoddard outlined the following legislative guiding principles:

- Fiscal Sustainability - Includes the protection of state-shared revenues and full funding of existing revenue streams.
- Local Control – Maintaining self-governance of the City and opposing mandates and preemptions.
- Economic Development – Future economic sustainability and maintaining and enhancing current and future economic development tools.
- Neighborhoods – Preserving and enhancing the quality of life for all citizens and providing for safety and security.
- Public Safety – Providing the ability to strategically plan for and respond to public safety needs, including homeland security and emergency response activities.
- Transportation – Transportation bonding, participation in regional transportation planning, and making efforts to ensure that continued funding needs are met are extremely important.
- Water – Supporting efforts to maintain the sustainability of water resources.

Mr. Butler stated that legislation sponsored by the City of Mesa would address Highway Project Advancement Notes (HPANs) in order to accelerate construction of the Gateway Freeway. He reported that the \$100 million limit, which was established when HPANs were created in 2000, is insufficient to address current cost estimates of \$75 million per mile of freeway construction. Mr. Butler advised that Proposition 400 money would fund the cost of the Gateway Freeway, but HPANs could be the mechanism that enables acceleration of the project. He added that all available GANs (Grant Anticipation Notes) have been utilized for the I-10 acceleration project in the West Valley. Mr. Butler said that staff would like the Legislature to increase the limit for HPANs from \$100 million to \$300 million.

In response to a question from Committeemember Walters, Mr. Butler advised that staff plans to seek the assistance of Representative Andy Biggs and Senator Thayer Verschoor regarding this project.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that other priorities include preserving the Legislature's commitment to provide cities and towns with \$727 million in state-shared revenues, of which seven to eight percent of the total would be allocated to the City of Mesa; that cities "share in the pain" because reduced sales tax collections affect the revenues of both the State and the cities and towns; and that a recent study indicated that approximately 90 to 93 percent of the State's revenues are generated by the incorporated areas.

Mr. Butler said that another priority relates to the State Aviation fund and ensuring that funds, which are important to the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport and Falcon Field Airport, are not diverted to the State's General Fund.

Committeemember Walters requested that the "guiding principles" for Economic Development include a reference to increasing the tools for private sector revitalization. She said that although Mesa is a fast growing City, there are many aging areas that require revitalization.

Mr. Butler concurred that this should be included and noted that the Council has emphasized the importance of partnering with the private sector in many areas.

Chairman Somers stated that a key issue continues to be the sustainability of the water supply.

Mr. Butler advised that staff would like the Committee's concurrence with the proposed Mesa-sponsored legislation regarding HPANs and identifying State-shared revenues and State aviation funding as priority issues.

City Attorney Debbie Spinner reported that Committeemember Whalen telephoned to advise that although he was unable to be present for the Committee meeting, he would like information regarding the possibility of securing State funding for a 287(g) training agreement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) when this item is considered by the Council.

Committeemember Walters concurred that the City should investigate the availability of State funding for 287(g) training.

Chairman Somers requested that the Committee address Federal legislative issues at a future meeting.

It was moved by Committeemember Walters, seconded by Chairman Somers, to recommend to the Council that staff's recommendations for Mesa-sponsored legislation regarding HPANs and the additional legislative priorities be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES –	Somers-Walters
NAYS –	None
ABSENT –	Whalen

Chairman Somers declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Chairman Somers thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting adjourned at 4:08 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 19th day of November 2007. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK