



COUNCIL MINUTES

February 8, 2016

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community at the Talking Stick Golf Course, 9998 East Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, Arizona on February 8, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT	SALT RIVER PIMA MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESENT	OFFICERS PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT (CITY OF MESA)
Mayor John Giles Alex Finter Dennis Kavanaugh David Luna Dave Richins Kevin Thompson	Delbert Ray, President David Antone Martin Harvier Jenelle Howard	Jim Smith Dee Ann Mickelsen	Scott Butler Ian Linssen
COUNCIL ABSENT	Archie Kashoya Thomas Largo, Sr. Ricardo Leonard Deanna Scabby	OTHERS PRESENT (SRPMIC)	
Christopher Glover		Gary Bohnee Mike Haney Mike Odeles Bryan Meyers Mike Shield Angela Williford	

1. Opening Prayer – President Ray.

Invocation by Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC) President Delbert Ray.

2. Welcome and Introductions.

President Ray welcomed the Mesa City Council and City of Mesa staff and introduced the members of the SRPMIC Council. He extended his appreciation to the Mesa City Council for their support and partnership.

Mayor Giles thanked the SRPMIC Council and acknowledged the long partnership between the SRPMIC and the City of Mesa and extended his thanks for their contributions to the City of Mesa.

3-a. Update on Mayor's Challenge to End Veterans Homelessness.

Mayor Giles provided an overview of the Task Force to End Veteran Homelessness. He explained that the City has been participating in the Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) program for several years and the task force efforts were a natural extension of that program. He added that since the implementation of the task force, Mesa has been able to house 70 veterans in 2016; and reached out to neighboring communities to complete intergovernmental agreements for processing of voucher applications which has enabled veterans to return to their home communities.

Mayor Giles stated that working to end veteran homelessness will be a continuing effort moving forward. He said that the City recently started a Veterans Court, understanding that this part of the population has unique challenges that require unique resources.

3-b. Update on activities and programs within the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community.

The Keep the Promise Act – Federal Legislation

Gary Bohnie, SRPMIC Intergovernmental Relations Coordinator provided an update on Keep the Promise Act. He explained that SRPMIC has been working with Congress over the last several years on this issue, which could potentially impact unincorporated county lands in Maricopa County. He added that a remedy needs to be found to protect not only Maricopa County, but the rest of the counties and tribes throughout the State that are very concerned about the potential impact to the Tribal State Compact.

Mr. Bohnie stated that legislation has been introduced and should be heard in the U.S. House of Representatives by the end of February. He said that Senator John McCain is working with his colleagues in the U.S. Senate to support this bill.

12% Gaming Grant Program

Mr. Bohnie provided an overview of the 12% contributions that SRPMIC provides to cities and towns; that these contributions support municipal projects and community needs; that the new grant cycle will begin soon; and that SRPMIC staff looks forward to working with City of Mesa staff during this grant cycle.

Miscellaneous Projects

SRPMIC Manager Bryan Meyers provided an update on OdySea in the Desert, which is a large saltwater aquarium currently under construction at Indian Bend Road and Via de Ventura. He explained that it will be a unique facility with approximately 200,000 square feet of exhibits, family entertainment, and a food court with international attractions. He added that it is scheduled to open in late summer or early fall of this year.

Mr. Meyers outlined a new SRPMIC enterprise called the Salt River Auto Show. He explained that this is a relatively small auto mall development located at the Southeast corner of Pima and Indian School Roads. He said that they have begun construction and have secured Chapman Automotive Group as a base tenant. He stated that they are hoping to have dealerships open in the 2017 calendar year.

3-c. Update on activities and programs within the City of Mesa.

Mayor Giles provided an overview of the Early Childhood Education Task Force that is being headed by Councilmember Luna. He explained that early childhood education is a vital need in the community and unless a child has been tested and diagnosed with special needs, there is no funding for resources. He stated that he looked forward to the task force findings.

In response to a question from Vice President Martin Javier, Mayor Giles stated that light rail has been very successful both as a transportation system and as an economic redevelopment engine. He said that since light rail has come to Mesa, the Sycamore Station has averaged 95,000 riders per month and with the opening of four additional stations in August 2015, ridership has doubled to over 180,000 per month, exceeding expectations. He explained that funding has been approved to extend light rail to Gilbert Road and that work will begin in the next few months. He added by saying that light rail has brought attention and investment to downtown and created increased economic development interest.

Councilmember Richins explained that there will be significant road construction around Westwood High School over the next six to nine months for the installation of waterlines. He added that this will include the area between Country Club Drive and Alma School Road. He stated that many of the SRPMIC members bring students to that area and wanted to make sure residents are aware of the construction.

Mayor Giles explained that Vice Mayor Kavanaugh and Councilmembers Finter and Richins are term-limited, and that a year from now there will be new faces on the Mesa City Council. He expressed his appreciation to the outgoing Councilmembers for their great service to the City of Mesa.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Meeting with the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community held on the 8th day of February, 2016. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

dm