



COUNCIL MINUTES

January 13, 2011

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Special Council Meeting in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on January 13, 2011 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Scott Smith
Alex Finter
Dina Higgins
Kyle Jones
Dennis Kavanaugh
Dave Richins
Scott Somers

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Linda Crocker

1. Introduction of the following ordinance and setting January 24, 2011, as the date of the public hearing on this ordinance:

1-a. Amending Title 1, Chapter 6 of the Mesa City Code pertaining to Council committees.

Mayor Smith stated that at the present time, there are six Council committees that have been established at the discretion of the Council and not as a requirement of the City Charter. He explained that over the years, the names and the focus of the committees have evolved and said he was proposing that six new committees be established via Council adoption of an ordinance. **(See Attachments 1 and 2)**

Mayor Smith also noted that with the upcoming swearing in of the newly elected and re-elected Councilmembers, in his opinion, it was an appropriate time to establish the new committees. He added that the committees would be more in alignment with the Council's Strategic Initiatives and various citizen boards and committees.

Councilmember Somers remarked that although he did not oppose Mayor Smith's proposal, he questioned whether it was necessary for the Council to have any standing Council committees. He explained that what often occurs is that staff will make a presentation to a Council committee and then make a nearly identical presentation to the full Council at a subsequent Study Session. Councilmember Somers said that in other instances, a Council committee will spend a considerable period of time discussing/considering an issue and forwarding recommendations to the full Council, only to have the Council ask the same questions and "rehash" the topic all over again.

Councilmember Somers acknowledged that there were certain issues that should be heard at a subcommittee level and suggested that it might be appropriate to establish ad hoc committees to address such items, which could then be presented to the full Council at a Study Session. He cited, by way of example, the recent efforts of the Audit & Finance Committeemembers who spent an extensive period of time reviewing the City of Mesa's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding applications.

Mayor Smith thanked Councilmember Somers for raising a valid question and said he thought it would be appropriate for the Council to discuss the matter at this time.

Councilmember Finter expressed support for Mayor Smith's proposal and the fact that the focus of the Council committees would be more aligned with the Council's Strategic Initiatives. He also concurred with Councilmember Somers that there are occasions when complex and detailed matters require additional Council review and said that in those instances, a Council committee would be an appropriate setting in which to do so.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that Council committees afford the Councilmembers the opportunity to consider an issue in greater detail than time might allow during a Study Session and also to raise issues that they consider important public policy. He noted that he preferred that the Council committee experience be meaningful and added that when he conducts his own analysis of an issue, it is helpful for him to hear the thought processes of the Committeemembers that have reviewed the matter in greater detail.

Councilmember Somers clarified that he did not disagree with his fellow Councilmembers, but merely questioned whether standing Council committees were necessary due to the duplicative efforts undertaken by staff. He reiterated that if there were an issue that three Councilmembers deemed important, an alternative to presenting the matter to a Council committee would be for those individuals to form an ad hoc committee that would serve the same purpose.

Vice Mayor Jones stated that this Council has been very fortunate in the fact that the details of a particular issue are often resolved at the Council committee level, thereby minimizing the amount of time the Council spends on the matter at a Study Session. He also remarked that the Committeemembers often request additional information and convey their thoughts and concerns to staff in an effort to resolve issues before an item is presented to the full Council. Vice Mayor Jones added that for those reasons, he still believes that there is "real value" in the Council committees.

Councilmember Finter remarked that the Council committees provide the Councilmembers the opportunity to assume leadership roles when they serve as Chairman and said that it was also important for staff to have "a point person" on the Council that they can go to on certain issues.

Mayor Smith reiterated that this was a new proposal and that the Council could revisit the matter at any time.

Councilmember Richins stated that he would prefer to proceed with the proposal at this time, but would be interested in revisiting Councilmember Somers' suggestion in the future.

City Manager Christopher Brady indicated that the Council committees have been helpful to staff in providing feedback and direction with respect to issues or concepts that affect policy.

Councilmember Somers further commented that in his opinion, the two committees that serve a purpose include the Audit & Finance Committee, which reviews the audits prepared by the City Auditor, and the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, which often considers requests for City services by individuals who do not reside within Mesa's corporate limits.

It was moved by Councilmember Richins, seconded by Councilmember Somers, that the above-listed ordinance be introduced and that January 24, 2011, be set as the date of the public hearing on the ordinance.

Carried unanimously.

Mayor Smith thanked his fellow Councilmembers for their comments and input.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Special Council Meeting adjourned at 7:52 a.m.

SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona held on the 13th day of January, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

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(attachments – 2)

ORDINANCE NO. _____

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY
OF MESA, MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AMENDING
TITLE 1, CHAPTER 6 OF THE MESA CITY CODE
PERTAINING TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESA,
MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, AS FOLLOWS:

**SECTION 1: TITLE 1, CHAPTER 6, SECTION 1 OF THE MESA CITY CODE IS
AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

1-6-1: COUNCIL COMMITTEES:

The following Standing Council Committees are hereby established: (1459)

Audit, Finance and Enterprise Committee

Public Safety Committee

Economic Development Committee (2990,3216)

Sustainability and Transportation Committee

Government Affairs Committee

Community and Cultural Development Committee

1-6-2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Each committee shall consist of three (3) members of the Council. The committee members shall be appointed by the Mayor, with the concurrence of the City Council, at the first regular meeting of the Council following any regular City election or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

The City Manager shall be a nonvoting; ex-officio member of the Audit, Finance and Enterprise Committee.

The chair of each committee shall be responsible to the Council for the function of the committee. (1459,3114,3216)

1-6-3 AGENDA

Items may be placed on the Council Committee agenda by the Chairperson; the Mayor; 2 Councilmembers; or the City Manager

1-6-2
through
1-6-8 (repealed by 803)

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MESA,
MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA, this _____ day of January, 2011.

APPROVED:

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

NEWLY ESTABLISHED COMMITTEE

Audit, Finance and Enterprise Committee

Public Safety Committee

Economic Development Committee

Sustainability and Transportation Committee

Government Affairs Committee

Community and Cultural Development Committee

FORMER COMMITTEE NAME

Audit & Finance Committee

Public Safety Committee

General and Economic Development
Committee

Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Community and Neighborhood
Services Committee