



COUNCIL MINUTES

June 25, 2015

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on June 25, 2015 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
Alex Finter
Dennis Kavanaugh
David Luna

COUNCIL ABSENT

Christopher Glover
Dave Richins
Kevin Thompson

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Dee Ann Mickelsen

(Mayor Giles excused Councilmembers Glover, Richins and Thompson from the entire meeting.)

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh welcomed exchange students from our Sister Cities of Guaymas, Mexico and Burnaby, Canada.

1. Review items on the agenda for the July 1, 2015 Regular and Special Council meetings.

All of the items on the agendas were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None.

Items deleted from the consent agendas: None.

2-a. Hear presentation, discuss and provide direction on updated Parks Bond allocation.

Parks, Recreation and Commercial Facilities Director Marc Heirshberg displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and discussed the Parks and Recreation Bond updated allocations.

Mr. Heirshberg reported that in 2012 voters approved a \$70 million Parks and Recreation Bond program for parks conversion and improvement projects. He said that approximately \$35 million has been spent on projects to date, with several project modifications.

Mr. Heirshberg indicated that an agreement for acquisition of the Buckhorn Baths property could not be reached with the property owners and stated that the improvements to Kleinman Park have been modified to meet the needs of the neighborhood. He stated that the savings from both projects would allow the reallocation of funds within the Parks and Recreation Bond program and proposed the following changes:

- \$100,000 to Fiesta Sports Park
- \$1,000,000 of additional funding for Greenfield Park
- \$600,000 to extend the Rio Salado Path
- \$1,000,000 of additional funding for Pioneer Park
- \$1,450,000 to Riverview Baseball Complex
- \$2,740,000 to the Federal Building conversion
- \$310,000 for existing park improvements

Mr. Heirshberg provided a revised project schedule (See Page 5 of Attachment 1). He noted that several projects were moved ahead of Pioneer Park and said that any savings derived from completed projects could be reallocated to Pioneer Park. He clarified that the Pioneer Park project was originally budgeted at \$6 million; that \$3 million was allocated to the Mesa Aquatics Complex; that the current allocation for Pioneer Park is \$4 million; and that staff may be able to identify savings from other projects to meet the original expectations for Pioneer Park with a budget of \$6 million.

In response to a question from Councilmember Finter, City Engineer Beth Huning explained that the \$3 million originally budgeted for the Federal Building was for a basic remodel of the interior. She said that after an evaluation, the museum staff requested changing the exterior and adding exhibits inside the museum, which increased the budget to \$5.7 million.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Luna, City Manager Christopher Brady clarified that the additional funding was due to the savings from the Buckhorn Baths project and said that staff was proposing ways to redistribute those funds to other projects.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh added that a key part of the 2012 Bond Issue was historic preservation projects and said the Buckhorn Bath project and the Federal Building are both in line with how the voters intended the money to be used.

Mr. Heirshberg announced that the Parks and Recreation Department was again recognized as a finalist by the National Recreation and Park Association and the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration as one of four gold medalists in populations of 400,001 and above. He noted that the other finalists were Kansas City, MO, Cleveland, OH, and the Maryland National Capital Park Planning Commission. He said this was the second consecutive year that Mesa was recognized as one of the top four finalists.

Mayor Giles complimented staff for doing such a great job with Mesa parks.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh remarked that the City of Burnaby has some great indoor facilities and recreation space and said that it would be great for Mesa to take part in a staff exchange program with Burnaby to share knowledge and experiences.

Mr. Heirshberg followed up by saying that indoor facilities can make a big difference in a community, especially in Arizona during the summer. He said that staff tries to capitalize on as many dollars as possible through the Parks Bonds Program, such as matching grants and donations. He indicated that Desert Arroyo Park is a great example of such partnerships; that children and teachers provided assistance in selecting colors and features for the park; and that the playground equipment manufacturer donated the equipment in return for photographs to assist with their catalog release in January.

Councilmember Finter stated that it would be helpful to see a visual reference as to how the \$70 million approved by voters is being spent. He added that his goal is to meet the expectations of the citizens by completing the projects that they voted for and supported. He indicated that he was a big supporter of the Mesa Historical Museum, but was worried that the increased allocation may negatively impact the other projects.

City Manager Christopher Brady advised that staff could provide the Council with an overall picture of what has been completed, what is obligated and what is being proposed for the remaining projects.

Councilmember Finter said that a council discussion needs to take place regarding priorities and commented that it could be argued that Pioneer Park is a top priority.

Mayor Giles stated that he agreed with the reallocation of funds from the Buckhorn Baths project, but remarked that his top priority would be Pioneer Park. He added that Riverview Park is highly utilized by families and is the best thing Mesa has done in years. He said that Pioneer Park is located at the end of the Light Rail extension and will be a huge success once it is complete.

Mayor Giles, in addition, commented that the museum is not operated by the City and said that, although he is anxious to see the Federal Building become something useful again, he would like to see what will be expected from the Mesa Historical Museum in terms of fundraising and community support. He suggested moving forward with a report from staff providing more detail regarding the allocation of the \$70 million Parks Bond funds.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh reported that the two projects that impact Light Rail the most are Pioneer Park and the Federal Building and he would like both to be top priorities.

Mayor Giles thanked Mr. Heirshberg for the presentation.

3. Information pertaining to the current Job Order Contracting projects.

(This item was not discussed by the Council.)

4. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

4-a. Transportation Advisory Board Meeting held on March 17, 2015.

It was moved by Councilmember Luna, seconded by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Mayor Giles declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh: American Public Transportation Association Rail Conference

Mayor Giles: U.S. Conference of Mayors

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the schedule of meetings and general information is as follows:

Wednesday, July 1, 2015, 5:15 p.m. – Study Session

Wednesday, July 8, 2015, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Session

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:12 a.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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 25th day of June, 2015. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

hm
(attachment – 1)

2012 Parks and Recreation Bond Updated Allocations

June 25, 2015

Updated Parks Bond Allocations

- * Acquisition of Buckhorn Baths property
- * Agreement for acquisition could not be reached with property owners
- * Kleinman Park: \$1,300,000
- * Modify park improvement plans to meet neighborhood expectations
- * Fiesta Sports Park (Powell Jr. High): \$100,000
- * Will allow a playground to be included in the project

Updated Parks Bond Allocations

- * Greenfield Park: \$1,000,000
- * Additional funding needed due to rising construction costs
- * Rio Salado Path: \$600,000
- * Will be used as match for grants received to extend path from Alma School to Tempe
- * Pioneer Park: \$1,000,000
- * Additional funding needed to fulfill community expectations

Updated Parks Bond Allocations

- * Riverview Baseball Complex: \$1,450,000
 - * Provide lighting on 4 baseball fields at Riverview
- * Federal Building Conversion: \$2,740,000
 - * Will allow for development of Museum space and exhibits for a total project budget of \$5,700,000
- * Existing Park Improvements: \$310,000
 - * Irrigation and playground improvements throughout the City

Revised Project Schedule

	Revised Design Start	Revised Construction Start
Fiesta Sports Park (Powell)	Done	FY 15/16
Eagles Park (Mesa Jr.)	FY 15/16	FY 16/17
Greenfield Park	FY 15/16	FY 16/17
Pioneer Park	FY 16/17	FY 17/18
Riverview Baseball Lights	FY 15/16	FY 15/16
Kleinman Park Improvements	FY 16/17	FY 16/17
Federal Building/Museum and Cultural Resource Expansion	FY 15/16	FY 16/17
Rio Salado Pathway	In Progress	FY 15/16
Existing Park improvements	Ongoing	Ongoing

Questions?

