



COUNCIL MINUTES

June 5, 2017

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Special Council Meeting in the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on June 5, 2017 at 6:05 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
David Luna
Mark Freeman
Christopher Glover
Kevin Thompson
Jeremy Whittaker

COUNCIL ABSENT

Ryan Winkle

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Dee Ann Mickelsen
Jim Smith

Mayor Giles excused Councilmember Winkle from the entire meeting.

1. Conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget and the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Secondary Property Tax Levy, and take action on the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget.

1-a. A public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget and the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Secondary Property Tax Levy.

Mayor Giles announced that this is the time and place for a public hearing regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget and the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Secondary Property Tax Levy.

Mark Svoboda, a Mesa resident and Director of the Downtown Mesa Festival of the Arts, stated that he is here to advocate for a prioritized budget in favor of Public Safety. He remarked that running a publicly accessible festival 14 to 16 times a year, Public Safety is extremely important to them. He noted that the Downtown Mesa Festival of the Arts averages 3,000 to 5,000 visitors at each festival and that injuries occur as well as issues with the homeless. He emphasized that Public Safety requires the budget and resources in order to respond as the City grows. He noted that the City is currently the 36th largest City in the United States.

Nate Gafvert, representing the Mesa Police Association (MPA), commented that he has been a resident since 1980 and that in 1998 his family voted to increase taxes for the City of Mesa to hire 120 police officers, and he was one of those officers hired under the quality of life tax. He pointed out that over the last ten years the Police Department has done a great job of combating and reducing crime to record lows in order to keep the community safe, even as the number of sworn officers has diminished. He stated the opinion that the City has recovered from the recession, however, the Police Department has not, since the budget and personnel continues to diminish and the City continues to grow. He noted that violent crime and the number of calls for

service is increasing. He added that the police department no longer has the resources or budget to continue providing the service they have always provided. He remarked that in the next five years approximately 60% of the sworn officers are eligible for retirement and currently the Police Department has 28 recruits graduating from the police academy, however, not all will complete field training and will not have officer status for an additional five months. He pointed out that Mesa is nationally recognized for their training, equipment, and crime fighting abilities. He said that the problems can simply be resolved with investing more into Public Safety. He emphasized that the police department is in need of an increased budget and at the very least, do not reduce from the current budget. He concluded by saying that the MPA asks for your support and help to keep Mesa safe.

Phillip Austin, representing the East Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, explained their collaboration with the City and that they promote the economic development of small businesses. He stated that as they are working hard to promote more businesses and growth to the economic activity that the relationship with the Police Department is important to assist in deterring crime. He urged Council to do everything they can to find funds to increase the Public Safety budget.

Augie Gastelum, a Mesa resident, stated that last year as a community they pushed for Public Safety to be prioritized and unfortunately the effort failed. He added that his family has grown and that he is focused on how the decisions made currently will affect his children 10 to 20 years from now. He encouraged Council to prioritize Public Safety in the current budget.

City Manager Christopher Brady explained that Public Safety continues to be a priority to the point where even in this difficult budget the City added another \$9 million to Public Safety and that does not include the \$5 million that the City added for radios and records management systems.

Mayor Giles added that all departments were asked to make budget cuts. He noted that the Council will be advocates to find the additional funding the City needs to respond to the challenges of growth that the community is experiencing.

Mayor Giles express his support and appreciation to the Public Safety departments as they are doing more with less.

There being no additional public comment, the Mayor declared the public hearing closed.

1-b. A resolution approving the budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2018. – Resolution No. 10981.

It was moved by Councilmember Glover, seconded by Vice Mayor Luna, that Resolution No. 10981 be adopted.

Mayor Giles declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Special Session adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 5th day of June, 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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