



COUNCIL MINUTES

September 12, 2013

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 September 12, 2013 at 7:34 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Scott Smith
Alex Finter
Christopher Glover
Dennis Kavanaugh
Dave Richins
Scott Somers*

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Dee Ann Mickelsen

(*Councilmember Somers participated in the meeting through the use of telephonic equipment.)

1. Take action on the following appointment:

1-a. Appointment of District 5 Councilmember.

Mayor Smith stated that the purpose of the meeting was for the Council to appoint a District 5 Councilmember to replace Councilwoman Dina Higgins, who resigned in August. He suggested that the Council adjourn the Study Session and enter into Executive Session to discuss the matter. (See Item 2.)

(Mayor Smith reconvened the Study Session at 8:06 a.m.)

Mayor Smith commented that the Council's efforts to select a new District 5 Councilmember have not only been extremely rewarding, but also very frustrating. He noted that the City received 21 applications for the position and said that it was challenging to whittle down that number to the four finalists who were interviewed by the Council last Thursday. He further remarked that the four finalists were all outstanding candidates and added that it was unfortunate that there was only one vacant Council seat instead of four.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Finter, seconded by Councilmember Glover, that David Luna be appointed as District 5 Councilmember.

Councilmember Kavanaugh acknowledged that the four finalists were a remarkable and stellar group of candidates. He pointed out that they have all had distinguished careers and been dedicated volunteers in the community for many years.

Councilmember Kavanaugh voiced support for the motion and welcomed Mr. Luna to “the fun world of having patience, a sense of humor and a thick skin.” He said that he was aware of Mr. Luna’s excellent interpersonal skills and commented that “he does not shy away from controversial or difficult issues.” He also noted that in 2012, Mr. Luna was named Mesa’s Citizen of the Year and reiterated that it was an honor to support the recommendation.

Vice Mayor Finter recalled that when he retired from the Mesa Fire Department some years ago, he served on the Human Relations Advisory Board with Mr. Luna. He explained that during his tenure on the Board, he learned from Mr. Luna about the importance of people having diverse opinions, engaging in spirited discussions, and being able to leave at the end of the meeting with the understanding that everyone was working to make the right decision and maintain a level of continuity. He stated that those experiences were the basis for his decision in this regard. He also stressed the fact that all four candidates were “top notch individuals” and thanked them for their willingness to serve not only the residents of District 5, but also the community as a whole.

Councilmember Glover concurred with the comments of his fellow Councilmembers and confirmed that it was a very difficult process for the Council to narrow down the list of candidates. He acknowledged that the four finalists have been involved in the community for decades and were great assets to the City of Mesa. He also welcomed Mr. Luna and said that he would be a wonderful addition to the Council, a dedicated representative for District 5, and provide outreach to the entire community. He thanked all of the finalists for participating in this process.

Councilmember Somers commented that he would like to see all four candidates run for office in District 5 in 2014 so that the voters would understand how difficult it has been for the Council to make this decision. He stated the opinion that Mr. Luna “would do a fantastic job” and noted that the Council could do no better than to appoint the person who was named Mesa’s Citizen of the Year.

Mayor Smith called for the vote.

Carried unanimously.

2. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Finter, seconded by Councilmember Glover, that the Council adjourn the Study Session at 7:35 a.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Carried unanimously.

2-a. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the City Attorney (A.R.S. §38-431.03A(3)) Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, salaries, discipline, dismissal, or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of the City. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A(1))

1. District 5 Councilmember selection.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Special Council Meeting adjourned at 8:16 a.m.

SCOTT SMITH, 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 Special Council Meeting of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona held on the 12th day of September, 2013. 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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