



COUNCIL MINUTES

September 5, 2013

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 September 5, 2013 at 7:32 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Scott Smith
Alex Finter
Christopher Glover
Dennis Kavanaugh
Dave Richins

COUNCIL ABSENT

Scott Somers

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Dee Ann Mickelsen

Mayor Smith excused Councilmember Somers from the entire meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the September 9, 2013 Regular Council meeting.

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

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

2. Hold interviews for four District 5 candidates.

Mayor Smith stated that the Council will enter into Executive Session to discuss the interview process for the four District 5 candidates.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Glover, that the Council adjourn the Study Session at 8:05 a.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Mayor Smith declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

(At 8:22 a.m., the Council adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the Study Session.)

Mayor Smith stated that the four District 5 finalists, which include Debra Duvall, David Luna, Kevin Ruegg and Kathleen Rahn, have not only had successful professional careers, but also been outstanding community leaders for many years. He invited the candidates to introduce themselves, after which time the Council would pose questions to them.

The candidates offered a series of comments and opinions including, but not limited to, the following:

David Luna:

- He stated that he considered himself to be “a good listener” and would research an issue in order to understand a Councilmember’s opposing view. He noted that with respect to any matter, the ultimate goal of the City Council was to reach “the most viable solution” for the betterment of the community.
- He remarked that concerning various issues, each Councilmember has “a voice” with regard to his or her opinion. He suggested, however, that it was more important for those individuals to consider “the overall vision” of certain matters that impact the entire community, as well as the fact that the City Council must abide by many state and federal laws.
- As an educator, he was pleased that the City Council has brought five colleges to central Mesa. He said that he would hope that similar educational opportunities could expand into District 5.
- He expressed support for the public safety bond questions that are included on the ballot for the November 5, 2013 Bond Election.
- In his opinion, the number one priority for the City is to encourage economic development in an effort to promote businesses to locate to Mesa, re-use the numerous “empty buildings” that currently exists in Mesa and create a thriving community.

Kevin Ruegg:

- She stressed the importance of the City Council “staying on course” with their Strategic Plan, especially with respect to seeking out higher education and economic development opportunities.
- She indicated that as a Councilmember, she would endeavor to be “open and available” not only to the residents of District 5, but also to citizens throughout Mesa.
- She commented that the City Council’s primary responsibility to Mesa residents is the City of Mesa. She stated the opinion that “sometimes it is more politics that invites people to speak on issues that are beyond their control.”
- As a relative newcomer to Mesa, she voiced concern with respect to “all the empty buildings” in the community and said that she would like new businesses and their employees to fill those spaces.
- She stated that the arts are essential components of a thriving and vibrant community. She pointed out that the Mesa Arts Center not only brings people to the community, but is also an important economic driver for the City.

Kathleen Rahn:

- She commented that she would reach out to District 5 residents through various means, such as social media, pancake breakfasts and attending events in the community to meet with citizens on a face-to-face basis.
- She acknowledged the efforts of the City Council for “focusing on the needs of the Mesa community.”
- She stated that Falcon Field Airport, which is located in District 5, is an important economic development component in the community. She stressed the importance of

the City “balancing” its efforts to ensure that vacant land in the area is not designated for residential development. She added that “the long-term health” of the airport and the entire Falcon Field area must be considered.

- She noted that the City of Mesa should not forget that “it has a considerable population that lives in poverty.” She said that in the short term, it was imperative that the City address how to engage more of Mesa’s students to remain in school and complete their high school education.
- She remarked that the City should have an overall vision of what “Mesa looks like and how it functions.” She said that such a vision should not only be a “consensus” of the City Council, but also the citizens of Mesa.

Debra Duvall:

- She commented that with respect to District 5, it was essential to “find a balance” in order to preserve the desert, develop safe and stable neighborhoods, create jobs and establish “open lines of communication” with the community leaders in the area.
- She explained that there are many issues “outside the borders” of Mesa that impact the work of the City Council. She suggested that it was appropriate for the City Council to “take a leadership role” with regard to those matters.
- She said that with respect to the upcoming bond election, Mesa voters should have the opportunity to “have their say” concerning the manner in which the City finances and applies for loans to cover the types of expenses that cannot be handled in the short term.
- She noted that a key attribute of a successful Councilmember is to work with City staff to “seek their pros and cons” with regard to a variety of issues that the Council will consider.
- She advised that County islands in District 5 and elsewhere create “a lack of continuity and to bring them into Mesa would be better.”

The four candidates made brief closing statements.

Mayor Smith thanked the candidates for taking the time to participate in today’s interviews. He noted that the Council will take the matter under advisement and make their final decision at the September 12, 2013 Study Session.

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

3-a. Human Relations Advisory Board meeting held May 22, 2013.

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

Mayor Smith declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

There were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, September 9, 2013, 3:30 p.m. – Community & Cultural Development Committee

Monday, September 9, 2013, TBA – Study Session

Monday, September 9, 2013, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

6. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Councilmember Glover, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that the Council adjourn the Study Session at 9:30 a.m. and enter into Executive Session.

Mayor Smith declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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 (Note: This item was discussed when the Council entered into Executive Session at 8:05 a.m.)
2. City Manager Review

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Executive Session adjourned at 10:44 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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 5th 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