

POLICE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 30, 1998

The Police Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on January 30, 1998 at 9:24 a.m.

COMMITTEE PRESENT

Claudia Walters, Chairman
John Giles
Wayne Pomeroy

COMMITTEE ABSENT

None

COUNCIL PRESENT

Dennis Kavanaugh

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Lin Adams
Neal Beats
Elbert Collier
Fred Conway
Linda Crocker
Luigi Digirolamo
Mike Hutchinson
Lars Jarvie
Barbara Jones
Ronald Poulin

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Bryan Raines
Jeff Welker
Mike Whalen
Others

1. Hear and consider a recommendation to acquire a modular live-fire tactical training house.

Police Chief Lars Jarvie briefly discussed the importance of acquiring a modular live-fire tactical training house to assist officers in improving their skills. Chief Jarvie emphasized that the proposed training house will be funded through asset forfeiture monies and said that the costs of the proposal will not impact the City. Chief Jarvie added that staff was present to address any questions the Board may pose relative to this issue.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Giles, to recommend to the Council that staff's recommendations relative to acquiring a modular live-fire tactical training house, be approved.

Committeemember Giles commented on the fact that an alternative option listed in the staff report is the utilization of the City of Scottsdale's live-fire tactical training facility. Committeemember Giles questioned the City of Scottsdale's policy of charging the City of Mesa for such use in view of the fact that Scottsdale utilizes City of Mesa training facilities free of charge.

Police Sergeant/Range Master Elbert Collier discussed the City of Scottsdale's policy of charging other agencies for the use of that City's facilities.

Sergeant Collier informed Committeemember Giles that the Mesa Police Department is currently considering a proposal relative to assessing costs to other agencies for the use of City facilities.

Committeemember Giles stated that he supports the motion but encouraged staff to pursue the assessment of costs to other agencies for the use of City of Mesa facilities.

Chairman Walters recommended that staff estimate all costs associated with allowing other agencies to utilize City facilities and develop a proposal to charge fees to cover same.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Walters thanked staff for their presentation.

2. Consider a proposal from KPMG Peat Marwick to conduct a management review of the Police Department.

City Manager Charles Luster advised that the firm of KPMG Peat Marwick was retained in response to direction from Mayor Brown relative to engaging the services of an accounting firm to initiate reviews within the Police Department to determine current levels of efficiency. Mr. Luster added that KPMG Peat Marwick is the City's outside auditor.

In response to a question from Chairman Walters, Police Chief Lars Jarvie indicated that a representative from KPMG Peat Marwick is not present at the meeting.

Chief Jarvie stated that he has had several conversations with members of the firm's staff relative to possible review areas within the Police Department, including: 1) assessing the appropriateness of the Mesa Police Department staffing in comparison to other similar agencies such as Phoenix, Scottsdale, Tempe, Glendale and Colorado Springs; 2) determining whether it would be more cost effective and beneficial for the City to expand its Holding Facility or to increase the facility's usage of the County Sheriff's facilities; 3) evaluating the operations of the Crime Laboratory and commenting on the efficiency and effectiveness of its management and the quality of their work; and 4) evaluating the operations of the Aviations Unit and commenting on the efficiency and effectiveness of its management, including per capita cost comparisons with the City of Phoenix.

In response to a question from Committeemember Giles relative to the fact that the proposed cost estimate does not include several key items, Mr. Luster stated that staff is aware of the omission and is pursuing this matter. Mr. Luster informed Committeemember Giles that specific costs will be determined prior to final approval.

Discussion ensued relative to the process to determine which areas would be reviewed; input from Mayor Brown, Mr. Luster and staff relative to key issues; the fact that neighbors have offered suggestions relative to the Holding Facility issue, including the use of alternative sites; the possibility of establishing a smaller holding facility and conducting video arraignments; and the fact that KPMG Peat Marwick will include Holding Facility siting recommendations as part of the overall review/reporting process.

It was moved by Committeemember Pomeroy, seconded by Committeemember Giles, to recommend to the Council that the proposal from KPMG Peat Marwick to conduct a management review of the Police Department, be approved.

Chairman Walters spoke in support of utilizing the firm of KPMG Peat Marwick for the outlined purposes and emphasized the importance of posing unbiased questions and ensuring neighborhood involvement in the Holding Facility/siting issue. Chairman Walters also encouraged staff to consider the overall siting of both current and future City-wide facilities in unbuilt areas to limit neighborhood opposition.

Carried unanimously.

3. Hear an update on the DUI enforcement program.

Police Lieutenant Luigi Digirolamo provided the Committee with a brief overview of the 1997 East Valley DUI enforcement program and noted that 1997 was the 12th year of operation for the East Valley DUI taskforce. Lieutenant Digirolamo commented on the taskforce participants and stated that the overall goal of the taskforce is to reduce alcohol and drug-related collisions. Lieutenant Digirolamo explained that each night the taskforce targets a specific location within a different jurisdiction with DUI officers to locate impaired drivers.

Lieutenant Digirolamo highlighted data contained in a report to the Committee and that in 1997, the taskforce arrested 1,067 drivers, 358 of which were arrested in Mesa.

Discussion ensued relative to various statistics and the Mesa Police Department's select enforcement Motorcycle Squad.

Chairman Walters commended staff on their performance and for their input at the meeting.

4. Hear an update on Police Department building projects.

Assistant Police Chief Michael Whalen provided the Committee with a brief synopsis of the Police Department's building expansion project. Chief Whalen referred to site plan renderings displayed in the Council Chambers and highlighted a proposal to construct a 30,000 square foot expansion of the current Police Department Headquarters facility.

Chief Whalen stated that the proposed expansion would house the Department's Central Patrol Division; the Traffic Division; a number of investigators from the Criminal Investigations Division and would provide officers with direct access into the parking garage.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the plan will be presented to the Downtown Development Committee; a Police Department expansion in Burbank, California, which was recently toured by Mesa Police Department staff; the possibility of adding an additional story to the parking garage; scheduling; and the fact that although strong neighborhood opposition has been voiced relative to the proposed Holding Facility expansion, no opposition has been received to date pertaining to the proposed Police Department Headquarters expansion.

Chairman Walters thanked staff for their presentation.

5. Adjournment.

It was moved by Committeemember Giles, seconded by Committeemember Pomeroy, that the Police Committee meeting adjourn at 10:11 a.m.

Carried unanimously.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Police Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 30th day of January, 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1998

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK