

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 6, 1997

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Policy Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on February 6, 1997 at 4:02 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Pat Gilbert
John Giles
Dennis Kavanaugh
Joan Payne
Wayne Pomeroy
Jim Stapley

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Ed Archibald
Wayne Balmer
Cindy Barris
Neal Beets
Dan Brewer
Diane Gardner
Mike Hutchinson
Lars Jarvie
Barbara Jones
Harry Kent
Karen Kille
Tom Mattingly
John Oliver
Ellen Pence
Bryan Raines
Tom Remes
Becky Richardson
Denise Samuel
Mindy White

OTHERS PRESENT

Dan Nowicki
Tom Verploegen
Marilynn Wennerstrom

Vice Mayor Gilbert was excused from the beginning of the meeting. Vice Mayor Gilbert arrived at 4:08 p.m.

1. Update on Main Library expansion plans.

Assistant City Manager Mike Hutchinson reported that advertisements for bids concerning the Main Library expansion project are scheduled to be issued this month, followed by an anticipated bid award in approximately sixty days. Mr. Hutchinson stated that minimal disruption of library service is expected during expansion. Mr. Hutchinson noted that staffing costs to operate the expanded Library are estimated at \$200,000 for Fiscal Year 1997-98 (three months) but will increase to \$800,000 per year thereafter.

Library Director Vince Anderson said that final plans for the project have been completed. Mr. Anderson advised that City personnel currently housed on the Library's second floor are

scheduled to move to the Mesa City Plaza building in May 1997, and Library construction is expected to begin in June 1997. Mr. Anderson estimated that 12 to 16 months will be required to complete the expansion and remodel.

Mr. Anderson delineated anticipated staffing and equipment/furniture costs and spoke concerning the recommended utilization of Library bond funds to assist in completing the project.

Discussion ensued regarding the \$1 million in Library bond funds expended to date to relocate non-library City personnel to the Mesa City Plaza building, proposed computer equipment for patron use, funding for books and other Library media, and additional priority projects for the Library, such as security service and expanded hours of operation. Councilmember Pomeroy suggested that funds be included in the upcoming budget to staff the Mesa History Room.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Anderson for the update.

2. Hear and discuss a report concerning Y2K.

Management Services Manager Dan Brewer utilized slides and provided background information concerning problems presented by computer systems and applications that track dates using two digits to represent the year and the potential effects on the City, particularly in reference to the mainframe computer, when 1999 ends and the Year 2000 begins. Mr. Brewer noted that less than 36 months remain before systems may begin to collapse or produce unreadable/unusable material.

Mr. Brewer spoke regarding the City's need to revise or rewrite various programs and the resulting impact on the Information Services Division. Mr. Brewer outlined steps underway to address the situation, including the reassignment of staff and a moratorium on maintenance to the existing mainframe with the exception of specific ongoing programs. Mr. Brewer commented that the amount of time needed to correct problems is dependent upon the complexity of programs and usage of dates.

In response to a question from Councilmember Giles, Mr. Brewer advised that the City has the expertise in-house to revise/rewrite programs but does not currently have the total necessary manpower.

Information Services Director Karen Kille stated that the industry standard used in reference to applications that are not Year 2000 is 3 to 5 days, and based on an average of 3.5 days, 100 man-years will be needed to change the City's programs. Ms. Kille noted that aside from the City's mainframe applications, approximately 1,000 workstations throughout the City additionally need to be replaced or significantly modified. Ms. Kille said that an estimated \$15 million will be expended over the next few years to address the Year 2000 situation.

Mayor Brown expressed appreciation for the report and encouraged staff in their efforts.

3. Discuss and consider a survey concerning the changes to the Main Street and behind Main Street parking.

Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer advised that at the direction of Council this past year, the parking time permitted on Main Street was changed from two hours to one hour and was increased in lots behind Main Street from two hours to three hours. Mr. Balmer stated that in response to a request from Council for a six-month evaluation, a survey was recently conducted to assess the effects of the changes.

Mr. Balmer noted that a total of 15 responses (9 percent) were received out of the 161 surveys mailed. Mr. Balmer reported that the majority of the individuals responding believed the change was positive but did not have a major impact on their business.

Tom Verploegen, Executive Director of the Mesa Town Center Corporation, suggested that the current parking times remain but recommended improved signage to direct patrons to the three-hour parking in lots behind Main Street.

Discussion ensued concerning the implications of the 9 percent response rate, the locations of the businesses surveyed, proposed improvements to the Colonnade area, and the usage of parking "spot" signs to denote three-hour parking.

Council thanked Mr. Balmer and Mr. Verploegen for the information.

4. Discuss and consider possible changes to the signage required by the smoking regulations.

City Manager Charles Luster stated that in response to the comments expressed by Sean Lake at the February 3, 1997 Study Session concerning signage required by the City's smoking regulations, staff has prepared signs illustrating the verbiage and minimum 3" letter height. Mr. Luster spoke regarding ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) requirements and requested direction from Council concerning signage modifications, noting that changes would necessitate a new ordinance. Mr. Luster indicated that 3" letters were specified in the original Proposition 200 and the subsequent initiative filed by Kat Gallant.

Mayor Brown expressed the opinion that lettering size should not have been specified in the ordinance adopted by Council.

Councilmember Stapley commented that the lettering size presently required under the smoking regulations results in signs that are inappropriate and too large for many locations. Councilmember Stapley spoke in favor of smaller lettering but stated concern relative to continual modification of regulations.

In response to a question from Councilmember Payne, City Attorney Neal Beets clarified that if Council amends the letter height at this time and the initiative proposed by Ms. Gallant is subsequently approved by voters at the 1998 Primary Election, lettering size would revert back to the 3" height requirement.

Mr. Beets outlined the verbiage specified for signs in designated smoking and nonsmoking areas and commented that the type of sign prepared by staff for demonstration purposes will not be required on all businesses within Mesa.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Gilbert, Mr. Beets stated the opinion that braille will not be necessary on signs. Mr. Beets noted the ability of many visually impaired individuals to read 3" lettering.

Mayor Brown, Vice Mayor Gilbert, and Councilmember Payne indicated a reluctance to amend the ordinance outlining the City's smoking regulations.

Mr. Luster advised that active enforcement of the new regulations has been delayed to allow the printing and distribution of a revised brochure.

Councilmember Giles stated the opinion that the 3" lettering is excessive and impractical. Councilmember Giles recommended that the ordinance be modified.

Councilmember Kavanaugh said that he would not oppose consideration of an amendment to reduce the minimum requirement but commented that it is not a priority issue.

Councilmember Pomeroy suggested that a revision to the ordinance governing the smoking regulations be postponed to determine any additional modifications that may be necessary. Vice Mayor Gilbert indicated agreement with Councilmember Pomeroy.

Councilmember Giles reiterated his opinion that the 3" lettering is inappropriate and recommended that the ordinance be amended prior to businesses expending funds for signage in accordance with the current smoking regulations.

5. Discuss and consider Mayor and Council benefits.

Executive Assistant Ellen Pence advised that staff periodically surveys surrounding communities to determine compensation and benefits provided to members of Council. Ms. Pence presented the results of the most recently conducted survey, noting the Town of Gilbert's salary increases to become effective in June 1997.

Mayor Brown and members of Council expressed concern relative to proposing salary adjustments for themselves.

Discussion ensued pertaining to Charter provisions governing increases in compensation. Mayor Brown requested that Mr. Beets submit a legal opinion concerning the effective dates of any changes in compensation.

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Mr. Luster advised that the February 7, 1997 Study Session has been canceled. Mr. Luster stated that the next Study Session will be held on Friday, February 14.

7. Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilmember Stapley, seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy, that the Policy Session adjourn at 5:20 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Policy Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 6th day of February 1997. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 25th day February, 1997

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK