

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 11, 1999

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Budget Review Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 11, 1999 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Keno Hawker
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Lisa Andrews
Wayne Balmer
Neal Beets
Jamie Brennen
Dan Brewer
Candace Cannistraro
Linda Crocker
Bob DeLeon
Jack Friedline
Carl Geis
John Geier
Penny Griffin
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Ken Jones
Mike Kalember
Wayne Korinek
Ron Krosting
Dorinda Larsen
Rich Lorig
Jeff Martin
Keith Nath

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Ellen Pence
Dave Plumb
Cliff Puckett
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer
Jackie Redpath
Tom Remes
Becky Richardson
Jan Strauss
Walter Switzer
Larry Talley
Jamie Warner
Kim West
Mindy White
Paul Wilson
Brenda Yost

OTHERS PRESENT

Teresa Brice-Heames
Barrett Marson
Robbie Sherwood
Others

Mayor Brown excused Vice Mayor Giles and Councilmember Jaffa from the beginning of the meeting. Vice Mayor Giles arrived at the meeting at 7:34 a.m. and Councilmember Jaffa arrived at the meeting at 7:41 a.m.

1. Miscellaneous Issues.

City Manager Charles Luster advised that items from the May 3, 1999 Council's supplemental list that needed to be addressed, including a number of bike paths along the canals.

Community Services Manager Wayne Korinek displayed maps in the Council Chambers and provided a brief overview on proposed phasing of multi-use pathway development currently being funded. Mr. Korinek stated that in the 1998 Election \$2.4 million was authorized by the voters for canal bank improvements, which are referred to as "multi-use" paths. Mr. Korinek stated that these "multi-use" paths were originally identified in the first phase and were to be funded in the upcoming fiscal year as Phase A which shows from Center to Eighth Street. (This area was designated as A & B on map.) Mr. Korinek stated that in the meantime they

had received a Federal grant in the amount of \$354,000 from QMAC which gave them \$1.2 million. Mr. Korinek stated the problem is that they can't expedite that funding until later in the fiscal year. Mr. Korinek stated the plan is to proceed with the first part of the first portion of Phase I with bidding in July; and coming back later in the fiscal year, and finishing all the way to Eighth Street. Mr. Korinek showed Council the affected streets on the map.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that a bike path master plan was adopted by the BC in 1997, the proposed route of the bike paths, staff's efforts to tie into existing widely used bicycle routes that may eventually line all of the canals throughout the City and efforts to locate bike systems in dense residential areas and areas where paths are used particularly for community purposes.

Mr. Korinek discussed staff's intention to go on to Phase I and to delay Phase II until later this month and bring back the first part of the first phase to the Council and bring the second part in later in the year once Federal funding problems has been rectified.

Vice Mayor Giles commented that an abundance of canal space exists and stated the opinion that funding should be allocated in a manner that will positively impact the largest number of canals. Vice Mayor Giles further commented that we have such a huge community and that it is unlikely that people from neighborhoods that aren't very closely joined to where we are planning these improvements will be able to use these improvements.

Discussion ensued relative to costs associated with lighting, staff's intention to meet with homeowners regarding the proposed canal lighting, improved lighting technology, and the fact that the lighting will enhance safety along the canal banks.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Giles, Transportation Director Ron Krosting informed Council discussions have occurred with ADOT relative to the concept of an underpass under McDowell Road that would parallel the freeway. Mr. Krosting added that last week ADOT estimated that the total cost for the underpass portion would be \$600,000. Mr. Krosting added that there were other improvements that were needed to take place with widening the Gilbert Road bridge over the freeway to accommodate horses, equestrians and bicycles adjacent to the undercrossing. Mr. Krosting commented that the total project cost to accommodate residents' request is approximately \$1.3 million. Mr. Krosting stated that it was staff's intent to go back to those homeowners who have horses and develop alternatives. Mayor Brown recommended that staff keep the neighbors apprised of the plans as they develop. Vice Mayor Giles expressed the opinion that allocating funds to preserve citizens' quality of life is appropriate.

Councilmember Davidson stated that he agreed with Vice Mayor Giles in regards to doing a lot to a small part of the canal versus a little for long stretches of the canal. Councilmember Davidson commented that his position with the canals is that it would be impossible to interconnect them all and make them into a long riding experience. Councilmember Davidson stated that he was thinking of them as being more like open space that weren't being taken advantage of and turning them around and making them into entryways to some of our key areas. Councilmember Davidson gave examples of taking advantage and keying canal beautification around key locations, like Hohokam Park and Red Mountain multi-generational areas. Councilmember Davidson stated his opinion that he thought that the bike routes along the streets are better than most cities. Councilmember Davidson stated he was looking at what Gilbert is doing to their laterals and some canals to the south and how they are doing a lot of multi-use in that area. Councilmember Davidson further stated he was looking at what Phoenix did along the Squaw Peak Freeway where they have done extensive canal work in that area for bike and running paths. Councilmember Davidson said that \$400,000 to \$500,000 per mile is more than he expected. Councilmember Davidson questioned the basis for these amounts and requested that when the map is put together that it show their conception of what the multi-use

canal is going to look like and the costs associated with it. Councilmember Davidson stated that he supported the development of open space areas as entryways into the City.

Mayor Brown suggested that Councilmember Davidson provide input relative to his opinion regarding more miles at less cost per mile rather than a few miles. Mayor Brown stated that if Council feels that \$400,000 to \$500,000 per mile is too much that maybe they should go back to the drawing board. Mayor Brown stated that to do one mile just to tie it in because that is the only money available from some sort of outside source was unacceptable.

Discussion ensued as to whether this concerned approval of Phase I or Phase II or if this just involved the general concept. Mr. Korinek commented that this discussion was about Phase I A&B both of which would be done in this fiscal year. Mr. Korinek commented that as Mike Hutchinson, Assistant City Manager indicated, the plan would be to bring back something probably next week and show the plans and the detail and discuss and decide whether to go forward with the bidding.

Mr. Luster asked Mayor Brown what kind of impact this proposed action has on the budget. Mayor Brown stated it had quite an impact when you are talking about \$500,000 per mile and do one mile and indicated that he would not support proceeding in this manner. Mr. Luster requested that staff come back with a complete display, but wanted to know what to do with the budget. Mayor Brown commented that it was obviously not the time to settle the details of it. Mayor Brown commented on the fact that the plans do not contain lighting and shrubbery and expressed the opinion that the proposal represents more like a park like plan than areas in which to ride bicycles. Mayor Brown stated that he would rather spend a half a million per mile and put underpasses underneath the cross streets and leave them dirt.

Councilmember Pomeroy stated that it was his understanding that money was available through the Quality of Life Tax and that they were proceeding forth. Councilmember Pomeroy asked how far that money would take them. Councilmember Davidson replied that it would take them from Center along Crosscut consolidated down to Lindsey unless the sales tax is altered. Councilmember Davidson continued to say that in the first phase, which is next year, would give them two miles. Councilmember Davidson stated that it would take them from Center along the canal to Eighth Street and added that this was the only thing that is being planned. Councilmember Pomeroy stated that they were proceeding forth with the bike paths and commented that it wasn't as fast as some would like. Councilmember Pomeroy stated he would like to review the plan prior to proceeding with this issue.

Mayor Brown stated that it is staff's intention to present the plan to the Council and solicit input and recommendations.

Councilmember Hawker discussed the importance of protecting the Crosscut Canal. Councilmember Hawker emphasized the importance of how the freeway is going to go through Lehi and how it will affect the Gilbert Road interchange with the Crosscut Canal. Councilmember Hawker stated the opinion that the Crosscut Canal would constitute an appropriate bike path and commented on the spectacular views. Councilmember Hawker commented that with the freeway going through, it could disrupt the path and might make it impossible to get from one side to another. Councilmember Hawker emphasized the importance when talking with ADOT to keep in mind interconnects. Councilmember Hawker stated he agreed with the concept of getting more miles out of it. Councilmember Hawker stated that he didn't know if they needed to be lit. Councilmember Hawker further suggested that they get some type of hard surface on part at least for joggers that want more stable surface than just gravel or the dirt that is on there now. Councilmember Hawker suggested that they phase it to where, if you wanted to later, you could add those improvements. Councilmember Hawker commented that he agreed with the Mayor in that he would like to open up a bunch of canal banks not just for bikers and joggers but for elementary school kids as well who walk to school in the morning and evening. Councilmember Hawker stated that he wasn't sure whether he wanted to put a lot more

money in the budget for it next year. Councilmember Hawker stated that he wanted to go ahead and start with some of the demonstration projects, bring them back and see what else can be reworked.

Mr. Korinek stated that staff has been working with ADOT. Discussion ensued relative to analyzing the freeway's path through Lehi and determining its effects on the Gilbert Road interchange/Crosscut Canal and stated that an equipment undercrossing for Salt River Project (SRP) vehicles will be constructed. Mr. Korinek added that the project would be designed so that it can be used for bicyclists and equestrians. Mr. Korinek stated that he had been working with Parks and Recreation to look at a trail system in the entire area up in the northeast and how to tie some of those canals together.

2. Direction/Input from the Council.

Councilmember Kavanaugh provided input relative to budget discussions over the last week and stated he supports staff's recommendation for the overall cost-of-living increase for City employees. Councilmember Kavanaugh added that he supports Mr. Luster's recommendations relative to Police Department Officers, Sergeants and Lieutenants including salary adjustments and shift differentials.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated support for the recommendations of the Citizen Advisory Board relative to all the recommendations. Councilmember Kavanaugh stated staff for Mesa Ruins may be boosted as recommended or at least above where they are at this point. Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that from the community development presentation he supported the addition of a GIS Engineering Technician staff person.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that with respect to the Fire Department's recommendations, the Exposure Management Package is one that is of interest to him and that he would like some additional information. Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that he concurred that this is a priority hopefully in this budget year and added that he needed some more information on that.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated in terms of the Police Department/City Manager's Department security issues he concurred with the Mayor on reviewing, as a Council current security measures and what additional recommendations should be reviewed.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that in terms of the Public Works Department's presentation he supported Sunday transit service for this coming year. Councilmember Kavanaugh recommended that staff pursue some type of pilot program because he thought the issue was important to our citizens.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that with respect to the other issues contained in the memo of supplemental items, he still supported reviewing funding for Neighborhood Economic Development Corporation (NEDCO). Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that he had been working with the Community Development Department and with the State infrastructure bank for a revolving loan fund for economic development assistance to entities in the community.

Vice Mayor Giles stated that on the first day the Council talked about the potential for some significant park acquisition as part of the State trust land negotiations that the City is involved in at the southeast part of our City and that he needed to be updated with regard to the potential of getting a larger than average piece of property for park development in that part of the City. Vice Mayor Giles also stated that on that day they also discussed incentives for redevelopment in older neighborhoods and that he made a note to try to learn more about that because he didn't recall that they had a great deal built into the budget for that type of incentive.

Vice Mayor Giles stated that he concurred with Councilmember Kavanaugh's comments regarding the bus service on Sunday. Vice Mayor Giles stated that discussions had occurred regarding a compromise in light of the fact that it might not be as popular initially on Sunday and to try to perhaps phase that in.

Vice Mayor Giles stated that with regard to the gated community emergency access. Vice Mayor Giles stated that the pass key system seems to be mandatory now and questioned the need to adopt an ordinance.

Vice Mayor Giles stated that with regard to the security officers in the City Plaza Building, he wasn't sure if there should be security at the Southwest Museum. Vice Mayor Giles noted that in comparing the two buildings, it would seem like more active security at the City Plaza Building would be appropriate than at the museum.

Vice Mayor Giles expressed some concerns with regard to the police budget and that he would like to see an increase in police presence on our school campuses, particularly the high school campuses.

Vice Mayor Giles stated that Mr. Kavanaugh expressed an idea during the police presentation with regard to increasing supervision of registered sex offenders in the community. Vice Mayor Giles stated that they have had some discussions with Mr. Kavanaugh and others as to the pros and cons of this. Vice Mayor Giles stated that he understood that this would be terribly expensive if sworn officers were used and that they would have to dedicate a tremendous amount of manpower to the issue. Vice Mayor Giles commented that there may be more cost effective ways to do this by using personnel other than sworn officers and the prototype that came to his mind is someone that has experience in being a bill collector. Vice Mayor Giles stated that he would like to see some increase funding in this area.

Vice Mayor Giles stated that he thought the 15 percent budget increase this year is larger than he would have earmarked for. Vice Mayor Giles stated that he thought that the Council needed before the budget system process begins to set a figure and ask our Museum and Cultural Advisory Board to stay within those parameters.

Vice Mayor Giles stated he would like to see the Council spend as much money as possible developing recreational use of our canal system and that he concurred with Mayor Brown's comment to have Mr. Luster do more with less. Vice Mayor Giles stated that he would like to see the Council put as much money into that as has been proposed and then some. Vice Mayor Giles stated that perhaps Mr. Luster could come back to the Council with some additional canals that can be done. Vice Mayor Giles commented that he wasn't sure that the lighting is that crucial of a need for that type of recreational use. Vice Mayor Giles stated that he echoed Councilmember Hawker's comments on the Crosscut canal. Vice Mayor Giles also stated that for the last few weeks the Council bemoaned the fact that some of the most beautiful parts of our City is the area that has the beautiful views of the Red Mountain. Vice Mayor Giles noted that it has been heavily industrialized and although it is good, it is also bad because the public is losing an opportunity to really enjoy the most beautiful part of our community. Vice Mayor Giles stated he would like to see the City develop Crosscut canal into some sort of trail system in order to recapture the public's opportunity to enjoy that area.

Councilmember Davidson stated that he supports Council's remarks with some exceptions. Councilmember Davidson stated the \$400,000 to \$500,000 per mile caught him off guard and that he didn't think they were talking about that large amount of money. Councilmember Davidson stated the challenge should be put on our Public Works staff and that they need to think differently. Councilmember Davidson commented that the Engineering staff should come up with some innovative ways redesign in order to reduce the price. Councilmember Davidson concurred with Councilmember Hawker regarding more entryways to the schools.

Councilmember Hawker stated that he supports Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer's recommendation relative to green belt areas. Councilmember Hawker stated that there was some discussion on Williams Gateway and that they are looking at a five or ten year planning period. Councilmember Hawker commented that more money should be put in with regard to the sex offender program. Councilmember Hawker stated they should staff that division and do it right. Councilmember Hawker stated he is glad to see the self-insurance fund report. Councilmember Hawker stated he wanted to encourage redevelopment.

Councilmember Pomeroy stated that he supported the improvement of the sex offender program. Councilmember Pomeroy commented that he didn't know of a need for transit service on Sunday and requested additional information before supporting or not supporting it. Councilmember Pomeroy stated that the Council needs more information on the sales tax and he would need more information for the "Growing Smarter" sales tax. Councilmember Pomeroy stated regarding the green belt, he suggested that the Council review the current rate structure of impact fees to determine if that needed to be put in the budget. Councilmember Pomeroy noted that a concept is needed and that information could come from the consultants that are making recommendations to the Council.

Councilmember Jaffa suggested that the Council review the current rate structure of impact fees. Councilmember Jaffa stated that perhaps the Council should consider the expansion of bus services if discussion is made regarding the quality of some of the shelters.

Mayor Brown thanked staff for the input.

Mr. Luster stated that tentative adoption of the budget will occur at the Monday, June 7, 1999 Regular Council Meeting and added that there will be a "Need to Know" Workshop, May 18, 1999 from 8:00 a.m. to noon.

3. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Budget Review Session adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

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 Budget Review Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 11th day of May 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK