

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 25, 1999

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 March 25, 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
Neal Beets
Denise Bleyle
Jamie Brennen
Steve Burg
Linda Crocker
Jack Friedline
John Geier
Barbara Jones
Wayne Korinek
Dorinda Larsen
Jeff Martin
Frank Mizner
Eric Norenberg
Terri Palmberg
Ellen Pence
David Plumb

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Bryan Raines
Jenny Sheppard
Jan Strauss
Bob White
Mindy White
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Garlyn Bergdale
Robert Brinton
Bob Crow
Richard Davis
Kathie Lee
Robbie Sherwood
Others

(Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Jaffa from the beginning of the meeting.)

1. Hear a presentation on the final route for the SRP Receiving Substation 18 (RS 18) project.

Kathie Lee, Senior Government Representative for Salt River Project (SRP), addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Ms. Lee clarified that a presentation on the final route for the SRP Receiving Substation 18 (RS 18) project will occur in approximately one month and said that the purpose of the current presentation is to provide the Council with an overview of the project and to review the proposed routes.

Ms. Lee advised that Planning Director Frank Mizner and other members of the community have assisted SRP in their efforts to locate a site for the receiving station and a route for the lines leading into the station. Ms. Lee stated that Garlyn Bergdale, a representative of Dames & Moore, is present in the audience and will provide the Council with an update on the work that is being performed relative to the public process to site the station, the environmental studies and assessments and line routes that are currently under consideration.

Ms. Lee discussed the importance of the substation to allow SRP to construct and bring a 500 kV source into the East Valley. Ms. Lee added that SRP also requires a 230 kV source to the City's local network and a 69 kV service to the City's customer load. Ms. Lee commented that 12 kV distribution facilities are also part of the proposal. Ms. Lee noted that the substation will serve the entire East Valley and reported that the specific

boundaries are from Power Road to Barclay and from Baseline to Ray Road. Ms. Lee said that SRP's initial plan is to bring in the existing 500 kV line and to construct a new 230 kV line to San Tan at Warner and Val Vista. Ms. Lee discussed timing and said that the 69 kV drop to the 12 kV distribution substation will occur in the year 2001; the 500 kV drop into the 230 kV transmission station will also occur in 2001; and the 230 kV drop to the 69 kV receiving station will occur between 2005 and 2010. Ms. Lee advised that SRP will develop the preliminary design and specifications for the project and will perform the actual construction of the substation.

Mr. Bergdale, representing Dames & Moore, referred to presentation boards displayed in the Council Chambers outlining the proposed routes, and discussed the composition of a 16-member community working group, which has been meeting with SRP in an effort to provide input and assist the company in locating an appropriate site for the proposed substation. Mr. Bergdale added that SRP has also scheduled three public meetings to solicit citizen input relative to the project and has mailed newsletters to approximately 16,000 people.

Discussion ensued relative to the actual siting process, the fact that the originally selected eight final alternative locations have been reduced to three, and impact assessments.

(Councilmember Jaffa joined the meeting at 7:40 a.m.)

In response to a question from Councilmember Davidson, City Attorney Neal Beets stated the opinion that in view of the fact that a potential conflict of interest exists based on Councilmember Davidson's employment with SRP, it would be inappropriate for Councilmember Davidson to discuss this issue in any manner with concerned citizens and/or neighbors within the community who may be affected by the project.

Councilmember Davidson indicated that he has a potential conflict of interest in connection with the matter currently under discussion which he wanted reflected in the minutes of the meeting and because of such conflict, he would refrain from discussing and/or participating in any manner in connection with same.

Mayor Brown commented on the fact that the proposal represents a significant expansion project and stated that despite the fact that developers will benefit from the infrastructure, siting is a problem and will affect a number of Mesa's citizens.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the City of Apache Junction has expressed concerns regarding the proposal and its effect on future planning and the significant costs associated with burying electrical lines.

In response to a request from Mayor Brown, Planning Director Frank Mizner provided a brief overview of the area surrounding the site for the proposed substation. Mr. Mizner commended SRP on their extensive public outreach program and noted that the actual installation will not occur for approximately two years.

Councilmember Jaffa expressed concern regarding the fact that 230 kV lines currently exist in Mesa and the aesthetic and environmental impacts on the City should the requested additional parallel lines be constructed.

Mayor Brown recommended that Councilmember Jaffa, who serves as Chairman of the Utility Committee, place this item on the agenda of a future Committee meeting for the purpose of addressing the concerns that have been expressed at this meeting. Ms. Lee indicated that representatives from both SRP and Dames & Moore would be willing to appear before the Utility Committee to address this issue.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the Arizona State Power Plant & Transmission Line Siting Committee, which represents cities and towns, is the entity that reviews SRP's recommendations and selects the location for the project, the importance of receiving Council input relative to this matter and the fact that

the Council's view of this matter will be forwarded to the Siting Committee, the importance of receiving input from the Utility Committee on this issue, a request from Mayor Brown for additional information relative to the advantages and disadvantages of parallel lines and the fact that SRP will present an overview of the proposal to the Town of Gilbert on Tuesday, March 30, 1999.

Mayor Brown thanked Ms. Lee and Mr. Bergdale for their presentations.

2. Further discussion and consideration of a proposal for Mesa's signature event.

Assistant to the City Manager Ellen Pence advised that in response to Council direction, an event team, composed of Mr. Bob Crow, of World Fit Productions, a professional event management team, employees in the City Manager's Office, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Division, the Redevelopment Office, and representatives from the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, Mesa Town Center Corporation and Tribune Newspapers, has been actively working on finalizing plans for a signature event in Mesa. Ms. Pence introduced the members of the team to the Council and expressed appreciation to all of the team members for their extensive efforts to select an appropriate signature event for Mesa.

Ms. Pence noted that the Council report that was submitted for review contains a profile of the type of event the team is recommending for Mesa. Ms. Pence said that it is the consensus of the team that the event be multi-faceted and contain numerous components, ranging from a hot air 'Balloon Glow' and fireworks to very creative, interactive games, international foods, and local and national entertainment. Ms. Pence advised that three separate stages would be required for the extensive performances and added that the site for the event would be the grounds of the Mesa Community Center. Ms. Pence also stated that the event would require the closure of Center Street and a portion of First Street.

Ms. Pence informed the Council that since developing this report earlier in the week, staff and the members of the event team arrived at the conclusion that in order to develop and implement a successful, first-class signature event, a minimum of one year preparation time is required. Ms. Pence added that a number of on-going events occur during the mid-October to mid-November timeframe, which was the originally proposed date for the debut of the signature event, and highlighted the various planned events.

Ms. Pence recommended that the implementation of a major signature event for Mesa not occur during the current year and that it be postponed until the year 2000. Ms. Pence added that the event team would prefer the extension in order to provide them an opportunity to review and consider alternative event proposals. Ms. Pence also said that a scaled-down event could possibly be held this year should that be the desire of the Council but stressed the importance of postponing the implementation of a major event until the team has had sufficient time to explore all alternatives and develop an appropriate gala signature event proposal for the City of Mesa.

Mayor Brown expressed the opinion that a six-month time frame to develop and implement a major signature event appears inadequate and said that he supports Ms. Pence's recommendations relative to postponing the implementation at this time. Mayor Brown stressed the importance of ensuring that the debut event is extremely successful and cautioned against proceeding before all of the alternatives have been considered and all of the plans adequately administered.

Councilmember Pomeroy commented that he supports postponing the event as recommended but added that he would prefer to schedule a 'scaled-down, millenium celebration.' Councilmember Pomeroy added that the full-scale extravaganza could then be scheduled for a later time.

In response to a question from Councilmember Pomeroy, Ms. Pence advised that the team determined that the fall is the most appealing time of year in which to hold the event.

Mayor Brown reiterated the importance of ensuring that the selected signature event is successful and said that should it become necessary, thought may be given to preempting a number of the planned on-going events which may conflict with event scheduling. Mayor Brown added that should this occur, staff would assist the proponents of those events in locating alternative sites.

Ms. Pence informed the Council that the entire Community Center has been reserved from October 2000 through the next ensuing five years.

Councilmember Davidson expressed the opinion that major events are built over time and should be initiated as soon as possible. Councilmember Davidson also stated concern relative to the suggestion that scheduled events may be preempted by the City and noted that a number of organizations have historically utilized the Community Center for their events. Mayor Brown commented that this issue will be discussed by the members of the Council once a final event has been determined.

Vice Mayor Giles concurred with Councilmember Davidson's remarks relative to the fact that successful major events are built over time and added that Mesa's event will hopefully improve and expand over the years. Vice Mayor Giles commented on the fact that the City of Mesa lacks a 'town square' site upon which to hold such functions and recommended that the selected urban planner for the downtown area be directed to site a location for such a facility. Vice Mayor Giles also suggested that the event team consider scheduling a variety of spring events, including a parade.

Councilmember Jaffa spoke in support of delaying the implementation of the event at this time and agreed that the urban planner should be requested to provide recommendations relative to possible sites for holding functions such as the signature event in the downtown area.

Councilmember Davidson recommended that the event team consider incorporating a minor 5k bicycling race into their proposal. Mayor Brown stated the opinion that the event should focus on the community and should benefit Mesa's citizens rather than athletes from around the country.

Ms. Pence stated that the event team will continue their efforts relative to this important matter and present recommendations to the Council at a future meeting.

Mayor Brown thanked Ms. Pence and the members of the event team for their efforts.

(Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Kavanaugh from the remainder of the meeting.)

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

- a. Historic Preservation Committee meeting held March 11, 1999.
- b. Housing and Human Services Advisory Board meeting held February 24, 1999.
- c. Parks and Recreation Board meeting held March 11, 1999.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Giles, seconded by Councilmember Davidson, that receipt of the above listed minutes be acknowledged.

AYES - Brown-Davidson-Giles-Hawker-Jaffa-Pomeroy
NAYS - None
ABSENT - Kavanaugh

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

Councilmember Hawker provided an update on a recent Williams Gateway Airport Board of Director's meeting he attended in place of Mayor Brown. Councilmember Hawker complimented the Airport Authority on their efforts to solicit input from airport critics on possible improvements/asures to address mutual concerns.

Mayor Brown expressed concerns relative to the status of hiring a coordinator to work with the community to solicit and address citizens' concerns. Mayor Brown stressed the importance of directing staff to proceed immediately with plans to engage the services of a public relations consultant to assist the City in this important matter.

Councilmember Davidson expressed the opinion that the language used at the various public forums is extremely technical and should be simplified to enable average citizens to understand the presentations on airport redevelopment.

Councilmember Pomeroy advised that the MAG Human Services Advisory Committee has drafted domestic violence regulations. Councilmember Pomeroy noted that over 100 individuals were involved in the drafting of the 41 regulations and said that he attended a public hearing at which the draft was discussed.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Charles Luster advised that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, April 1, 1999, 7:30 a.m. – Council Study Session

In response to a request from Councilmember Hawker that a meeting be scheduled to address questions regarding the Rio Salado Crossing Memorandum of Understanding and whether the Council is required to approve and/or adopt same, Mayor Brown directed staff to schedule an Executive Session for the purpose of obtaining legal advice from the City Attorney on this matter.

Councilmember Davidson noted that on April 1, 1999, the consulting firm of BRW will begin the concept design for the Town Center, with the assistance of LDR. Councilmember Davidson added that on April 8th and 9th, Mr. Alan Jacobs, a nationally renowned town center redeveloper, will be in Mesa and suggested that the various members of the Council may wish to meet with him to discuss both the urban and concept plans for the Town Center area.

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances (there will be a maximum of three speakers for three minutes per speaker).

Mayor Brown advised that there were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Items from citizens present. (Maximum of three speakers for three minutes per speaker).

Mayor Brown advised that there were no items from citizens present.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:53 a.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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 25th day of March, 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