

# COUNCIL MINUTES

April 6, 2000

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 April 6, 2000 at 7:32 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

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

## COUNCIL ABSENT

None

## STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Wayne Balmer  
Neal Beets  
Brenda Black  
Denise Bleyle  
Dennis Compton  
Linda Crocker  
Stacey Damp  
Bob DeLeon  
Jerry Dillahey  
Kelly O'Neill  
Tony Felice  
Jack Friedline  
Michele Gormley  
Pat Granillo  
Gordon Haws  
Joe Holmwood  
Barbara Jones  
Mike Kalembert  
Wayne Korinek  
Dorinda Larsen  
Greg Marek  
Barbara Meyerson  
Frank Mizner  
Keith Nath

## STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Joe Padilla  
Terry Palmberg  
Ellen Pence  
Tye Perkins  
Bryan Raines  
Andrea Rasizer  
Tom Remes  
Becky Richardson  
Jenny Sheppard  
Mindy White  
Paul Wilson  
Others

## OTHERS PRESENT

Gene Ballentine  
Betty Beard  
Bill Burke  
Dian Gilmore  
Barrett Marson  
Peter Nobel  
Kathy Tolman  
Others

Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Jaffa from the beginning of the meeting. Councilmember Jaffa joined the meeting at 7:35 a.m.

### 1. Hear an update for Phase II of the Arizona Museum for Youth expansion.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson and Youth Museum Administrator Barbara Meyerson provided the Council with a brief update of this agenda item. Mr. Hutchinson advised that staff is proceeding forward with the proposed museum expansion and that project funding is available through various bonds, impact fees and the Quality of Life Sales Tax revenues. Ms. Meyerson commented that the Museum for Youth has developed a worldwide reputation as a children's museum, and in recent years

has modified its focus to include special activities and learning centers which are geared to preschool children. Ms. Meyerson noted that one of the highlights of the proposed expansion will be the creation of a special 3,000 square foot gallery entitled "Artville," which will be designed to introduce children between the ages of 3 and 5 to basic elements of art, color, shape and texture. Ms. Meyerson said that additional space for workshops and administrative offices will also be incorporated into the expansion.

Councilmember Davidson expressed appreciation to Ms. Meyerson and her staff for their efforts, but voiced concerns regarding the proposed expansion due to the City's current budget constraints as a result of the voter-defeated Parks & Recreation bond issues.

Councilmember Pomeroy spoke in support of the proposed expansion.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that "Artville" would be the first art-related program of its kind; the fact that the proposed construction schedule is estimated at approximately 12 months, and the fact that the museum will be closed during the construction phase and staff will relocate into temporary quarters.

Councilmember Hawker suggested that the museum staff consider entering into an intergovernmental agreement with other Valley cities to share in the cost of maintaining the Museum for Youth.

Ms. Meyerson discussed the proposed \$2.75 million budget for the expansion and the configuration of the facility.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jaffa, Ms. Meyerson clarified that although funds were allotted to initiate the planning and design phase of the expansion, Council approval is required for completion of the final design and construction phase.

Councilmember Jaffa concurred with the opinions expressed by Councilmember Davidson.

Councilmember Kavanaugh reminded the Council that funding for the Museum for Youth expansion was approved by the voters as part of the Quality of Life Sales Tax increase and urged the Council to allow the project to proceed forward without delay.

In response to concerns expressed by Vice Mayor Giles regarding Council approval of such a costly project, Mr. Hutchinson recommended that the Council revisit this matter pending completion of the annual budget process.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh, Mr. Hutchinson clarified that bond funds have been specifically approved for the museum expansion.

Major Brown thanked everyone for their input.

2. Hear an update on the "Simply Citrus" special event.

Special Events Coordinator Kelly O'Neill referred to graphics displayed in the Council Chambers and provided a brief overview of this agenda item. Ms. O'Neill advised that the event, which is slated for November 3 through 5, 2000, will consist of various venues or "groves" including the Lemon Grove, Orange Grove and Lime Grove, which will provide age-specific activities. Ms. O'Neill explained

that other anticipated events include a 15-K and 5-K run, a family bike ride, a dance for seniors, fireworks, laser shows and also an assortment of food booths and beer gardens.

Councilmember Pomeroy expressed support for the Simply Citrus event and thanked staff for their hard work.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed closure of Center Street, event sponsors, the availability of parking, and patron access to the Center Street Post Office.

Councilmember Davidson, Vice Mayor Giles and Councilmember Jaffa commended staff for their ongoing efforts in this regard and requested additional input relative to the rescheduling of various events from Sunday to Saturday to accommodate a larger percentage of Mesa residents.

Mayor Brown thanked Ms. O'Neill for her presentation.

3. Hear an update on the photo safety program.

Police Commander Mike Kalember and Bill Burke, a representative of Lockheed Martin, addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Commander Kalember explained that the Police Department has recently acquired five new photo radar vans, which are currently being appropriately equipped and will be operational within one to two weeks. Commander Kalember added that 17 out of the proposed 18 red-light camera intersections have been completed.

Councilmember Hawker stated that although he favors the use of red-light camera intersections more than the photo radar vans, he expressed the opinion that overall, the photo safety program is an effective use of Police Department resources and an effective red-light runner deterrent.

In response to a question from Councilmember Hawker, Commander Kalember discussed the configuration of the red-light camera intersections.

Mr. Burke clarified that as a result of the implementation of the photo safety program in 1997, there has been an approximate 30% decrease in violations issued at red-light camera intersections and an approximate 50% decrease in violations per hour issued by photo radar vans.

Councilmember Davidson stated that the purpose of the photo safety program is to alter driving behaviors and is not meant to be a revenue generator for the City.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Giles, Mr. Burke explained that the red-light cameras are functional 24-hours a day, and the operators of the photo radar van cameras are in service during normal commuter hours (5:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.).

Councilmember Jaffa spoke in support of the photo safety program and requested that staff provide the Police Committee with a more comprehensive update regarding this issue. Councilmember Jaffa also expressed concerns regarding the technology that is currently utilized and stressed the importance of researching alternative methods.

In response to a question from Mayor Brown, Mr. Burke emphasized that it is the intent of Lockheed Martin to install red-light camera enforcement at intersections that meet a minimum criterion of 18 violations per day.

Mayor Brown thanked everyone for their presentation.

4. Hear an update on the status of the census count in Mesa.

Special Assistant to the City Manager Jenny Sheppard provided the Council with a brief update of this agenda item. Ms. Sheppard explained that information has been disseminated to Mesa's business community, churches, senior centers, schools and social service agencies in an effort to encourage residents to participate in the Census process. Ms. Sheppard advised that Mesa's current initial mail-in response rate is 51%, with a proposed target rate of 65%. Ms. Sheppard stated that Census forms in English and Spanish are available at the Municipal Building and libraries and added forms are also obtainable via the Internet. Ms. Sheppard provided the viewing audience with the City's web site address and the phone number of the local Census office.

Councilmember Pomeroy emphasized the importance of Mesa's citizens completing and returning their Census forms.

In response to a question from Mayor Brown, Ms. Sheppard clarified that Census Enumerators will visit residents' homes to obtain the necessary information if the forms are not returned to the Census office.

Councilmember Davidson concurred with Councilmember Pomeroy's remarks and noted that an accurate Census count will ensure that Mesa receives its fair share of State and Federal revenues.

Councilmember Jaffa expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts in this matter.

Vice Mayor Giles urged staff to increase the utilization of Mesa Channel 11 regarding the dissemination of Census information to the public.

Mayor Brown thanked Ms. Sheppard for her presentation.

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

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

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, April 13, 2000, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, April 13, 2000, TBA – Police Committee Meeting

Monday, April 17, 2000, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances. (Maximum of three speakers for three minutes per speaker).

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

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WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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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 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2000

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK