

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 6, 2003

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 6, 2003 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Dennis Kavanaugh
Janie Thom
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner

1. City Attorney's Office.

City Attorney Debbie Spinner introduced staff members present at the meeting and provided a synopsis of the proposed budgets for her office and the City Prosecutor's Office. She explained that historically, her office's entire budget was derived from the General Fund, but now it also receives funding from the Liability Loss Fund. Ms. Spinner reported that the proposed FY 2003/04 budget is \$4,038,170 (General Fund) and \$3,713,000 (Liability Loss Fund) and that \$5,645,253 (General Fund) and \$3,887,321 (Liability Loss Fund) have been allocated for the FY 2004/05 budget. She also provided a financial analysis of the Department's funded and unfunded BARs. Ms. Spinner further highlighted a series of significant impacts to her office including, but not limited to, the reduction in personal services of \$359,441; a change in the "restore to competency" statute; community prosecution; a reduction in grant funding; and an increase in the demand for legal services.

2. City Court.

Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer outlined the proposed budgets for FY 2003/04 and FY 2004/05 for the City Court, which are projected at \$5,880,655 and \$5,976,906, respectively. He reported that the percentage of the Department's budget which remains unfunded as a percentage of the total budget is 2.8%, with 4.5% of the Department's FTEs being unfunded. Magistrate Switzer added that the Court would continue to address efficient and effective customer service as one of its top priorities.

3. General Services.

General Services Manager Rich Lorig provided an overview of the proposed budgets for FY 2003/04 and FY 2004/05 for the General Services Department and introduced personnel present at the meeting. He explained that the Department consists of diverse divisions which provide a variety of services to other City departments including Communications, Human Resources, Materials Management, Fleet Support Services, Information Services, Mail Services, and Printing and Graphics Services. He highlighted a number of significant impacts to the Department for the next two fiscal years including, but not limited to, the following: deferred communications and information technology purchases will negatively impact all City divisions; a reduction of funding for employee training and education leads to decreased productivity and difficulty in achieving/retaining professional certifications; deferral of funding to upgrade City buildings impacts public safety; and deferred vehicle replacement results in increased maintenance costs and greater "downtime."

4. Community Services.

Deputy City Manager Debbi Dollar introduced staff members present at the meeting and discussed the proposed budgets for FY 2003/04 and FY 2004/05 for the Community Services Division. She commented that the Department consists of four general areas including the Arts and Cultural Division, the Library Division, the Mesa Centennial Center, and the Parks and Recreation Division. Ms. Dollar provided a financial analysis of the Department's funded and unfunded BARs and stated that the percentage of the Department's budget which remains unfunded as a percentage of the total budget is 8.7%, with 7.8% of the Department's FTE's being unfunded. She also spoke regarding key issues facing the Department including funding shortfalls and restrictions of funding sources; facilities development; facilities maintenance; library collections; capital improvements; and resource deficiencies.

(At 10:00 a.m., Mayor Hawker called for a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 10:25 a.m.)

5. Neighborhood Services.

Neighborhood Services Manager Bryan Raines introduced staff members present at the meeting and provided a synopsis of the functions of the Neighborhood Services Department. He reported that the proposed budget for FY 2003/04 is \$24,567,333 and that \$27,869,815 has been allocated for the proposed FY 2004/05 budget. Mr. Raines also detailed the foregoing significant impacts for the Department: vacancies in key positions will continue to challenge staff; the City's allocation to the Public Sculpture Program has been suspended; the Department's General Fund budget allocation is 19% lower than FY 2001/02 levels; holiday lighting on the trees and light poles in the Town Center area has been eliminated; and funding reductions for programs throughout the City, such as green/clean sweep and speed humps, could impact Neighborhood Outreach and Code Compliance activities.

6. Development Services.

Development Services Manager Jack Friedline addressed the Council and said that the Development Services Department is comprised of numerous divisions including Development Services Administration, Real Estate Services, Falcon Field Airport, Environmental Programs, Solid Waste, Planning, Building Safety, Engineering, Transportation, and Facilities Maintenance. He outlined the overall strategic plan goals for each division. Mr. Friedline

provided a brief overview of the FY 2003/04 proposed budget and FY 2004/05 proposed budget of \$74,040,060 and \$75,333,937, respectively. He also discussed significant impacts in each of the divisions including, but not limited to, the following: a reduction in funding for Pinal County Water Farm improvements; a reduction in staff levels will challenge staff's ability to maintain current service levels; a reduction in funding capital equipment has created a largely aged inventory prone to increased breakdowns; a reduction in the frequency of Household Hazardous Waste events from six to one event per year; a reduction in staff and funding for contract services will result in less resources available for hangar inspection and preventative maintenance at Falcon Field; a reduction in staff has resulted in more in-house engineering design and contract administration; and a reduction in funding has resulted in only 50% of routine street maintenance occurring for the next two years.

Mayor Hawker expressed appreciation to staff for their informative presentations.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Budget Session adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

KENO HAWKER, 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 6th day of May 2003. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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