

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 27, 2007

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 August 27, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Tom Rawles
Scott Somers
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the August 27, 2007 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: 4f (Griswold); 4h (Hawker); 7h (Griswold)

Items deleted from the consent agenda: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 8m

Items added to the consent agenda: None

2. Review items on the agenda for the September 4, 2007 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: None

Items deleted from the consent agenda: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 4a and 9b

Items added to the consent agenda: None

3. Hear an update and discuss drought conditions.

Water Resources Coordinator Kathryn Sorensen displayed a PowerPoint presentation (A copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) and offered a brief overview of current drought conditions in Arizona. She reported that according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the intensity of drought in the state is currently categorized between "abnormally dry" and "extreme." Ms. Sorensen explained that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts that Arizona will experience above-average temperatures and below average precipitation over the next year.

Ms. Sorensen indicated that the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) is predicting that for the 2007 water year, runoff from the Colorado River watershed into Lake Powell will be 68% of normal. She advised that Lake Powell and Lake Mead are both at approximately 50% capacity and noted that the Salt-Verde River Basin is experiencing the 17th driest runoff period in over 107 years. Ms. Sorensen commented that with regard to the Central Arizona Project (CAP), BOR is calculating a 15% chance of shortage on Colorado River rises by 2012, but said that the CAP calculates a similar shortage by 2016. She said, however, that even if there were a shortage on the Colorado River, it is not anticipated to impact Mesa's CAP supplies.

Ms. Sorensen further reported that relative to the Salt River Project (SRP), a worst-case scenario shows no SRP allocation cut for the City before 2010. She explained that the mix of groundwater and surface water may change, but would not affect the amount of water physically available. Ms. Sorensen noted that by the end of 2007, Mesa will have used nearly all of its New Conservation Space water, which is the water that the City received at the top of Roosevelt Dam during the 2005 runoff. She added that this water has been used since that time to offset more expensive CAP supplies.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that Mesa has more than 500,000 acre feet of groundwater allowance credits and over 400,000 acre feet of long-term storage credits.

Water Resources Specialist Colette Moore informed the Council that with regard to the City of Mesa's Drought Plan, staff continually monitors drought conditions and said that the Drought Team meets on a periodic basis to assess changing conditions and recommend action. She advised that in 2004, the City entered Stage 1 of its Drought Plan and exited the Plan in 2005 when the SRP reservoirs filled to 95% capacity. Ms. Moore noted that in April of this year, the Drought Team met and determined that there was no need to enter into Stage 1 of the Drought Plan. She added, however, that it is important to encourage Mesa's customers to conserve water and use it wisely. Ms. Moore highlighted a number of City-sponsored programs that have been implemented to promote efficient and wise water use.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the City of Mesa's annual water demands are approximately 100,000 acre feet per year; that the source of that water is not entirely derived from long-term storage credits; that it is important to maintain the City's well program; that the City's gallons per capita/day measurements with regard to single-family residential housing have been relatively flat and declining; and that with the implementation of the City's Drought Plan, it is anticipated that staff would encourage water conservation and, if necessary, impose mandatory restrictions.

Councilmember Somers stated that this November, the City is calling a Special Election to seek voter approval or disapproval of certain public expenditures with regard to the development of

Waveyard, a “water-themed park.” He inquired whether Mesa has a sufficient water supply to meet the needs of the development.

Ms. Sorensen responded that the Riverview Golf Course, which is currently located at the proposed Waveyard site, uses approximately 150 to 170 acre feet of water per year. She explained that Waveyard’s outdoor water usage is projected at 200 acre feet per year, which is not a significant increase. Ms. Sorensen expressed confidence that Mesa has an adequate water supply to accommodate the Waveyard development, regardless of current drought conditions.

Further discussion ensued relative to the fact that staff has met with the developers of the former General Motors Proving Ground to discuss options with regard to water usage at the site; the Gila River Indian Community Water Rights Settlement; and the Navajo Nation’s water needs.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the update.

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

Councilmember Somers: “Freedom Team Salute,” which recognized the City of Mesa for supporting its employees currently serving in the military; reported that August is “Drowning Prevention” Month

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, August 30, 2007 Study Session – Cancelled

Tuesday, September 4, 2007, TBA – Study Session

Tuesday, September 4, 2007, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, September 6, 2007, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Councilmember Rawles stated that this is Council Assistant Rod Ross’ last week at the City of Mesa. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Ross for his expertise and hard work and noted that he would be missed.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LINDA CROCKER, 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 27th day of August 2007. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

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