

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 26, 2003

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 June 26, 2003 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

Mike Whalen

STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Whalen from the meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the June 30, 2003 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: 7l (Hawker), 9c (Walters)

Items placed on the consent agenda: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 13b (Thom)

2. Hear a status report on the activities of the Community Housing Task Force from Joe Udall, Committee Chair.

Mr. Udall addressed the Council and provided a brief overview of the activities of the Community Housing Task Force. He noted that the City Council organized the Task Force to review the City's housing stock and come up with an appropriate Housing Master Plan consistent with the framework of the General Plan that has already been adopted. He highlighted the contents of a PowerPoint presentation and noted that the Task Force is comprised of 14 members and added that their different points of view have "come through" in an effective way and he is optimistic that they will be able to come up with a Housing Plan that will work for the City.

Discussion ensued relative to the project schedule, the Task Force's assessment and visioning meetings, the importance of focusing on revitalization and encouraging in-fill development, implementation, proposed open houses and planned tours.

Councilmember Walters confirmed that a separate Community Task Force is working on infill at the current time.

Mayor Hawker and the members of the Council thanked Mr. Udall for his update and continuing efforts in this regard.

3. Hear a presentation from representatives of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) and consider placing the proposed FY 2003-04 contract on the June 30th City Council Agenda.

Economic Development Director Dick Mulligan addressed the Council and referred to a hand out that was distributed to the members outlining the Office of Economic Development's (EDAB's) action plan that reflects the programs, goals/objectives and performance measures for the division. He added that staff has also submitted a budget summary for the Council's review. He noted that the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC) represents approximately 15% of the department's operating budget. He said that Mesa has been impacted by the economic downturn that occurred after September 11th, like every other community across the nation.

Linda Flick, Vice Chair of the Economic Development Advisory Board, stated that Mesa recognizes that alliances are the way to get things done; a strategy that was accepted by the Council in June of 2000, leveraging resources available through partnerships with GPEC and other regional agencies. She provided the Council with brief statistics relative to the successful undertakings that can be attributed to GPEC and said that EDAB supports GPEC and strongly urges the Council to approve the contract.

Mr. Rick Well, President of GPEC, advised that GPEC is committed through this coming year, as they have been in the past, to a clear focus on business development, marketing, and capturing and/or supporting mission critical improvements to ensure that the things that need to be done to change or enhance the regional and the communities get done. He added that they are focusing this year on capturing higher wage opportunities and, with leadership working together, have identified four major cluster industry segments that are important for the regional to grow: 1) Advance business services; 2) Aerospace/Aviation-related activities; 3) Bio-industries/Bio-services; 4) High technology electronics and 4) Software. Mr. Well also discussed the organization's focus on effective execution and expanded upon their "sales trips" and near term opportunities from California. He commented on marketing efforts, current and proposed, and efforts to combat the state's "water drought" myth. He emphasized that GPEC focuses on measurable results and noted that GPEC's budget for the current year is \$3.8 million. He added that the organization is doing everything it can to reduce costs and put more of the resources directly into marketing and business development.

In response to a request from Councilmember Kavanaugh, Mr. Well provided an overview of GPEC's operations and noted that GPEC exists to promote the region, create new business opportunities and generate economic growth.

Additional discussion ensued relative to economic advantages associated with Williams Gateway Airport and the importance of fostering that; "regionalism;" concerns expressed by Councilmember Thom regarding Mesa's unsuccessful efforts to "land a major corporation;" Councilmember Thom's opinion that Mesa is not getting the "bang for the buck" that they should and her recommendation that

they spend at least part of the money that has been going to GPEC on economic development efforts at Williams Gateway Airport.

There being no additional comments from the Council, Mayor Hawker thanked Mr. Well, the members of EDAB and staff for their input.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that this item would be placed on the agenda of Monday evening's Regular Council Meeting for Council action.

4. Appointment to boards and committees.

Mayor Hawker recommended the following appointments to Boards and Committees:

Greater Phoenix Economic Council Board of Directors

Gary Smith, Jack Sellers and Deb Duvall.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendations and the appointments be confirmed.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Board of Adjustment meeting held June 10, 2003.
- b. Historic Preservation Committee meeting held May 8, 2003.
- c. Police Committee meeting held June 12, 2003.
- d. Building Code Adoption Public Forum held June 12, 2003.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

The following members of the Council provided brief updates on various meetings/conferences they attended as follows:

Mayor Hawker: MAG Regional Council Meeting

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh: Ride Along with Community Action Team (CAT) Officer, Dobson Substation

Councilmember Thom: Groundbreaking at Veterinary Hospital on Country Club; Save the Families Organization; Valley Hotel and Resort Association Annual Meeting

Councilmember Griswold: Joint Meeting with Gilbert Unified School District Governing Board

Councilmember Walters: Mesa Grande Meeting

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, June 30, 2003, 2:00 p.m. – Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, June 30, 2003, TBA – Study Session

Monday, June 30, 2003, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, July 3, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, July 3, 2003, 9:00 a.m. – General Development Committee

8. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Items from citizens present.

First speaker Sheila Mitten:

I'm speaking for our family today. We invested in Mesa children this month with our \$1,000 donation, which enables children at two Mesa elementary schools to participate in quality after school programs \$500 to two schools. We ask the City Manager to match our \$1,000 donation and invite Mesa Police and Fire Departments to match our donation to Mesa elementary school children for after school programs on site. Donations can be made directly to the Mesa elementary school of your choice or to scholarships in the Mesa Park & Recreation Department. The City of Mesa has a grant writer. A grant for transportation could be written which would enable funding for a bus that could transport children to the Boys & Girls Club. I have authorization to read a letter from Ramon Elias, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club.

"To whom it may concern: The Boys & Girls Clubs of the East Valley Grant Woods Branch at one time had seven school buses to the club with over 700 children who would get an opportunity to participate in our program daily. This past year only three schools bussed to the club with 100 children coming to the club. Now for this coming year only one school will be bussed. We understand the difficult times schools are having financially. During these hard economic times we must not forget our children. They need more than ever a place where they can be safe and discover all the wonderful talents they possess. Sincerely, Ramon Elias."

The second letter I have to read today is from Red Bird Elementary School Principal Nicholas Parker.

"To whom it may concern: Sheila Mitten came into my office to offer a donation of \$500 from herself and her husband, Steve. Steve and Sheila have a passionate desire to help children to participate in wholesome activities. There are wonderful programs in existence but with rising costs of transportation many of the students from the Red Bird Elementary School area are

unable to participate. With this donation 62 or more students that have been unable to participate in the past will be able to starting in August of this year. This money will scholarship these students into the after school activities on our campus so that transportation will not be a factor. These activities include Pom and Cheer, Basketball, Jump Rope Club, Boredom Busters, and Kids Corner. This will be 62 less children wandering the streets looking for less desirable activities. This will be 62 more children picking up necessary skills to make better decisions and children building the confidence necessary to stand on their own. Sincerely, Principal Nicholas Parker of Red Bird Elementary School.”

Additionally the other school donation we made will help 200 children in an after school-tutoring program. In a letter dated January 4, 1999 sent to me Dr. Debra Duvall wrote:

“Recent nationwide studies have shown the youngsters who have contact with adults and are engaged in productive activities are less likely to engage in self-destructive or anti-social behaviors.”

We encourage you to invest in more after school programs on Mesa school sites in the current budget. Thank you. And we’d also like to thank Councilman Jones, the Mayor, and Councilman Thom for recently attending the fundraiser at the Boys and Girls Club. We’d like to publicly thank Councilmember Griswold and Thom for their stand on the utility rate increase and we’d like to say that we do think that the budget passed on Monday will be one of the worst decisions ever made by this Council and will effect not only 4,000 city employees but will effect our entire population.

Second speaker Mary Hartle-Smith

I’m Mary Hartle-Smith. I am Co-Chair of the Transit Committee for the National Federation of the Blind of Arizona East Valley Chapter and I wanted to speak just briefly on the Enabling Transportation Contract. I would like to say that we support strongly the Enabling Transportation Program and the expansion of the program. We understand the desire to decrease some of the use of Dial-A-Ride and move it over to Enabling Transportation so that people who are more ambulatory and who could use cabs or volunteer drivers could do so and allow Dial-A-Ride to be used by people who need accessible vans and that sort of thing. One concern we have is the amount of money that would be available per person that is per person with a disability or senior for allocation each month to obtain transportation and we’re concerned that the contract that is under consideration doesn’t go far enough allowing people to really make a transition from Dial-A-Ride to Enabling Transportation. So we’d like to see the amount of money expanded so that... you know in this past fiscal year a person for instance could get \$40 worth of cab coupons and now I guess that maybe it’s going to be raised another \$10 or \$20 or something. We’d like to see it raised even further because a \$10 cab ride only gets you three or four miles and three or four miles really isn’t very far. So we’d like to ask you to consider that. That’s all I have to say. The only other thing I guess I’d like to say is that we are finding some problems with getting assistance or accommodations in filling out applications for the ET Program. Some of us who do not read or have difficulty writing or filling out forms cannot apply for the program if we don’t have somebody that can provide that accommodation. We need the ET Program to help with that accommodation for their ADA responsibility. Thank you.

10. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:58 a.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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 26^h day of June 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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