

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 6, 1997

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, 1997 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Pat Gilbert
John Giles
Dennis Kavanaugh
Joan Payne
Wayne Pomeroy
Jim Stapley

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Linn Adams
Steve Baker
Wayne Balmer
Kathy Barrett
Cindy Barris
Neal Beets
John Brewer
Linn Brown
Dennis Donna
Wayne Evans
Greg Fowler
John Geier
Bill Haney
Mike Hutchinson
Lars Jarvie
Barbara Jones
Barry Jones
Mike Kalember
Karl Kohlhoff
Jon Kokanovich
Jerry Kos
Dorinda Larsen
Dave Nichols
Joe Noce
Eric Norenberg
John Oliver
Ellen Pence

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Ron Poulin
Charlotte Quintana
Bryan Raines
Leon Rawlings
Jackie Redpath
Harold Reeb
Tom Remes
Becky Richardson
Jan Strauss
Jamie Warner
Roger Weber
Mike Whalen
Burt Williams
Paul Wilson
Ralph Wisz
Brenda Yost
David Zielonka

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Brinton
Dennis Compton
Chris Moeser
Dave Muth
Homer Sarem
Others

(Budget Review Session Items 1 through 7 were discussed at the May 5, 1997 Budget Review Session.)

8. Fire Department - John Oliver.

- a. Fire Prevention and Control Program #6300
Prevention Facilities and Equipment Bonds #9600

Fire Chief John Oliver introduced the newly appointed Fire Chief Dennis Compton; Division Chiefs Paul Wilson, Dave Nichols, and John Geier; and other members of the Fire Department present at the meeting. Chief Oliver reviewed primary goals of the Fire Department and advised that the Department's average response time for calls is presently 3 minutes and 54 seconds. Chief Oliver provided statistical information pertaining to call volumes, noting that the Department responded to 34,489 emergency calls during the past year. Chief Oliver reported that all units now provide advanced life support (ALS) service.

Chief Oliver presented an overview of the Fire Department's FY1997-98 budget proposal. Chief Oliver noted a decrease of 3.8 percent in Fire Department Operations, due primarily to a decrease in capital expenses, and an overall increase of 4.5 percent in the Fire Department program. Chief Oliver outlined changes in funding levels for various Responsibility Centers within the Fire Department.

Chief Oliver highlighted seven priorities included in the proposed budget: a) addition of three fire engineers for Williams Gateway Airport, b) addition of one EMS educator, c) continuation of the optically controlled traffic signal preemption system to additional intersections, d) procurement of two replacement pumpers, e) improvements to Fire Station #2, 1105 East 2nd Avenue (concrete ramp replacement, female rest room, remodel), f) construction of infectious disease control enclosures at fire stations, and g) improvements to Fire Station #9, 7035 East Southern Avenue (expanded crew quarters for ladder company relocation).

Chief Oliver commented that the Fire Department continues to attempt to provide the highest level of service in the most cost-effective manner. Chief Oliver stated that rather than requesting additional full-time personnel, the Department has included approximately \$240,000 within the proposed budget for overtime, allowing flexibility in providing continuous personnel coverage at all stations.

Discussion ensued concerning the priorities identified by the Fire Department included in the proposed budget and the supplemental request for a community safety educator. Councilmember Giles spoke in favor of funding the request for the community safety educator, particularly given the importance of the role relative to the City's pool safety program.

Council commended the Fire Department for their work.

Chief Oliver thanked the Council and management for their support and leadership.

9. Police Department - Lars Jarvie.

- a. Law Enforcement Program #6100
Law Enforcement Bonds #9650

Police Chief Lars Jarvie introduced Assistant Police Chiefs Mike Whalen, Jan Strauss, and Fred Conway and other members of the Department present at the meeting. Chief Jarvie commended his staff for their efforts and expressed appreciation to the Council for their continuing support of the Police Department.

Chief Jarvie reported that calls for service increased approximately 3.3 percent overall during the past year but that Part I crimes decreased nearly 11 percent and average response time decreased from approximately 3.9 minutes in 1995 to 3.7 minutes in 1996. Chief Jarvie noted that the number of traffic accidents decreased approximately 5.5 percent when compared to the previous year.

Chief Jarvie outlined significant accomplishments commenced and/or completed during the past year, including the construction of a new Superstition Springs substation scheduled to open soon, activation of a new motorcycle squad, implementation of the photo radar program, and update to the Department's practical vision plan. Chief Jarvie spoke concerning 12 new officers requested for community policing activity, to be funded primarily by the federal government under the Cops Ahead program.

Assistant Police Chief Mike Whalen utilized overhead slides and presented additional statistical information pertaining to calls for service and number of crimes over the past five to ten years. Chief Whalen reported an increase of 12.6 percent in calls for service for the first quarter of 1997 when compared to the first quarter of 1996 and projected an overall increase for 1997 of approximately 8 percent.

Chief Whalen provided a breakdown of average officer availability for 1996, March 1997, and October 1997 (projected) as follows:

	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Calls for Service</u>	<u>Proactive</u>
1996	23%	64%	13%
March 1997	23%	63%	14%
October 1997	23%	54%	23%

Chief Whalen indicated that the number of patrol call takers is expected to increase from 242 (December 1996) to 281 (October 1997) due to the availability of officers hired during FY1994/1995 and FY1995/1996. Chief Whalen indicated that a goal of the Police Department is to achieve a 30-percent allocation of time dedicated to proactive measures. Chief Whalen related examples of high-crime areas where proactive measures have been and will continue to be concentrated.

Chief Whalen spoke concerning the patrol redistricting plan. Chief Whalen outlined a supplemental request for 24 additional patrol officers during FY1997/98 and an additional 24 officers during FY1998/99 (or 48 officers during FY1998/99).

In response to a question from Councilmember Stapley, Chief Jarvie advised that the first priority of the Police Department for the upcoming year is the addition of 12 community action officers and the second priority is the addition of 24 patrol officers as requested by Chief Whalen.

(Councilmember Kavanaugh left at 8:28 a.m. for the remainder of the meeting.)

Discussion ensued regarding the ability to utilize community action teams to augment the City's bicycle patrol, vandalism/attempted break-ins within the downtown area, and projected net revenue from the photo radar program.

Assistant Police Chief Jan Strauss presented statistical information pertaining to the Police Academy and the OJJDP program (designed for the prevention, intervention, and suppression of gangs). Chief Strauss provided an update concerning efforts of the Gang Prevention Steering Committee (including the PAY program, hotlines, paint-out program, and the Powell Community School) and identified recommendations to expand parenting, after-school, and mentoring programs.

Chief Strauss outlined accomplishments/activities during the past year within the Criminal Investigations Division, including the Center Against Family Violence and various proactive measures, such as the crime-free mini storage, hotel/motel, multi-housing, and mobile home (pilot) programs, Block Watch, and the DARE/GREAT programs.

Council and staff spoke briefly regarding the recruitment and training of officers. In response to a question from Councilmember Giles, Chief Jarvie clarified that the 19 new positions included in the Police Department budget represent 12 officers and 7 security personnel to be assigned to various City buildings.

Assistant Police Chief Fred Conway provided an update concerning the Administrative Services Bureau, comprised primarily of nonsworn personnel. Chief Conway spoke relative to communications (including the new CAD system), telecommunications, records, identification (AFIS), the crime lab, the new evidence facility, professional standards/accreditation, and the aviation program. Chief Conway noted recent awards won by staff members within the Telecommunications Division. Chief Conway outlined bond projects currently planned and/or underway.

Discussion ensued pertaining to the proposed security personnel for City facilities, the City's portion of funding for the Cops Ahead program, and increase in the Police Department budget to accommodate debt service and ISD automation costs.

Councilmember Gilbert suggested a change to the budget format given the magnitude and complexity of various departments such as the Police Department. Mayor Brown requested information pertaining to the ratio of Phoenix patrol officers to the total number of employees within the Phoenix Police Department.

Council expressed appreciation to the Police Department for their efforts.

11. City Court - Harold Reeb.

a. Judicial Program #5300

Presiding City Magistrate Harold Reeb introduced Court Administrator Kathy Barrett and thanked her for her assistance at the City Court.

Judge Reeb provided background information concerning the City Court and projects undertaken to improve efficiency, including the implementation of an 24-hour automated, interactive telephone response system, education and training to certify staff as civil traffic hearing officers, and increased flexibility in the Court calendar. Judge Reeb presented statistical information pertaining to citations/number of cases handled during the past year.

Judge Reeb advised that one additional magistrate position has been requested for the upcoming year.

Discussion ensued concerning procedural changes implemented to reduce civil traffic arraignments, magistrate responsibilities, replacement of a hearing officer, fines/forfeitures, and the supplemental request for a court specialist for the Collections Division.

Council commended the City Court for their efforts.

11. Break.

At 9:28 a.m. Mayor Brown called for a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:43 a.m.

12. City Attorney/City Prosecutor - Neal Beets.

a. Legal Program #5400

City Attorney Neal Beets noted anticipated savings of approximately \$500,000 within the current year's budget (despite the addition of a magistrate and assistant for the City Prosecutor's Office) and projected reductions in expenses for the upcoming year. Mr. Beets presented an overview of the FY1997/98 budget, including a request for four additional positions: contract attorney, litigation attorney, paralegal, and legal secretary. Mr. Beets utilized overhead slides providing a comparison of civil/criminal attorneys among Valley communities.

Council and staff spoke concerning risk management, the proposed increase in insurance deductibles (thereby reducing premiums), an anticipated reduction in the liability trust fund from approximately \$3.25 million to \$2.34 million, and a supplemental request for a vehicle.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Beets for the information.

(Councilmember Payne left at 10:00 a.m. for the remainder of the meeting.)

13. Utilities Department - Ralnh Wisz.

- a. Gas Program #8300
Gas Bonds #9300
- b. Water Program #8400
Water Bonds #9400
- c. Wastewater Program #8500
Wastewater Bonds #9500

Utilities Manager Ralph Wisz introduced Assistant Utilities Managers Karl Kohlhoff and Bill Haney, Acting Assistant Utilities Manager Burt Williams, and Utility Program Advisor Wayne Evans. Mr. Wisz reported that last year the City added 1,650 gas customers, 2,750 water customers, and 2,555 wastewater customers, for a total of 6,950 new customers. Mr. Wisz related steps implemented to improve service and increase productivity.

Mr. Wisz outlined the proposed FY1997/98 budget and advised that one additional position has been requested for the upcoming year. Mr. Wisz reviewed the capital and bond programs involving the planning, design, operation, and maintenance of utility systems.

Mr. Wisz noted three unfunded replacement requests which he believes are critical to the operation of the Utilities Department during the next year: a crew truck for Gas Construction, a backhoe, and a sewer cleaning truck. City Manager Charles Luster indicated that staff will further review the requests.

Discussion ensued concerning the payback of five years or less on natural gas installations, water supplies, bond projects, and supplemental requests.

Council expressed appreciation to Mr. Wisz and his staff for their work.

14. Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Robert Brinton, Executive Director of the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, introduced Dave Muth, President of the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Manager of the Mesa Pavilion Hilton, and Homer Sarem, General Manager of the Sheraton Mesa Hotel.

Mr. Muth presented statistical data and spoke regarding the partnership between the Convention and Visitors Bureau and private industry. Mr. Muth outlined accomplishments during the past year and the effects of the modification to the bed tax formula, the enactment of a Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday for City employees, and the modification by Council of Proposition 200. Mr. Muth spoke concerning a joint hospitality training program with Mesa Public Schools (MPS), development of a long-term plan for the hospitality industry in Mesa, and the development of a consortium to promote spring training and stadium funding.

Mr. Brinton outlined a draft of the FY1997/98 budget for the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Brinton noted opportunities for innovative marketing and efforts to promote tourism. Mr. Brinton advised that the results of a study will soon be available relative to a long-term tourism/hospitality plan for Mesa.

Discussion ensued concerning revenue generated by the Mesa area golf package, cooperative efforts between the City and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the new stadium, endeavors of the Maricopa County Sports Authority and Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC), and development within the Fiesta Quadrant and the downtown area.

Mayor Brown and Council commended the Convention and Visitors Bureau for their efforts.

15. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Budget Review Session adjourned at 11:34 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 Budget Review Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 6th day of May 1997. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 27th day of May 1997

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK