

## COUNCIL MINUTES

March 15, 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 March 15, 2007 at 7:30 a.m.

### COUNCIL PRESENT

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

### COUNCIL ABSENT

Kyle Jones

### OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

(Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Jones from the entire meeting.)

#### 1. Review items on the agenda for the March 19, 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: 9e (Hawker)

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

Items added to the consent agenda: None

#### 2. Hear a presentation and discuss the "Management Review of the Mesa Police Department" performed by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF).

Police Chief George Gascon introduced Assistant Police Chief David Zielonka and Assistant Police Chief Les Portee, who were prepared to address the Council regarding this agenda item.

Chief Gascon referred to the "Management Review of the Mesa Police Department," copies of which were distributed to the Council, and provided a brief overview of the document. He explained that the report addresses a variety of topics including Business Processes, Homeland Security, Administrative Reporting System, Disciplinary Process, and Off-Duty Employment pursuits. Chief Gascon noted that in addition, the report highlights issues such as Use of Force, Reporting of Personnel Complaints, Overtime Reporting, Holding Facilities, Handling of Personnel Complaints, Training and Hiring, and Risk Management Assistance.

Chief Gascon reported that of the 139 recommendations made by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), the Police Department has already responded to a number of issues that include, but are not limited to, a revised Air Taser policy, overtime, arrest procedures, and upgrading certain civilian employees to the role of Commanding Officer in the areas of information technology and fiscal operations. He also stated that staff has established appropriate timelines within which additional functions would be performed and noted that other functions addressed by PERF would require future funding.

Councilmember Griswold expressed appreciation to Chief Gascon and his staff for their efforts and hard work to respond to many of PERF's recommendations in a timely and proactive manner.

Discussion ensued relative to the Police Department's records management and information technology system; the importance of the Department fostering a mentoring program in order to replace its top management personnel, many of whom will retire within the next few years; that it would be appropriate to decentralize Police operations so that such services are brought closer to Mesa neighborhoods; and that staff morale continues to improve.

Chief Gascon further spoke regarding the proliferation of halfway houses in Mesa and explained that an estimated 60% of the newly released Department of Corrections (DOC) prisoners are sent to such facilities in the City. He commented that his Department intends to target prisoners before their release from the prison system and added that generally within 72 hours of release from incarceration, these individuals will commit their first crime.

Chief Gascon informed the Council that it is the goal of the Police Department to reduce Part I Crimes (i.e., homicides, rapes, aggravated assaults) by 15% this year. He explained that statistically speaking, Mesa has approximately 51 Part I Crimes per 1,000 residents (as compared to 34 Part I Crimes per 1,000 in Los Angeles). Chief Gascon added that in 2005 and 2006, many crimes such as aggravated assaults were significantly underreported and said that staff is working to remedy that situation.

Vice Mayor Walters indicated that Phoenix recently passed an ordinance with regard to limiting the use of "private prisons" or halfway houses to commercial and industrial zones within their community. She requested that staff provide the Council with a copy of the ordinance at a future Study Session. Vice Mayor Walters also suggested that Mesa ask other communities to identify their halfway houses for DOC so that Mesa does not "bear the burden" of providing such housing for the vast majority of individuals who are released from the State prison system.

Additional discussion ensued relative to possible funding sources for the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program, including the hiring of retired police officers or utilizing current police officers on an overtime basis.

Mayor Hawker thanked Chief Gascon for the presentation.

3. Hear a presentation and discuss the Series 2007 General Obligation Bonds, Utility Systems Revenue Bonds and Street & Highway User Revenue Bonds (Related to Agenda Items 8d, 8e and 8f on the March 19, 2007 Council Agenda.).

Capital Improvement Project Administrator Anthony Araza addressed the Council and introduced Larry Given, of Peacock, Hislop, Staley and Given, Inc., the City's financial advisor, and Keith Hoskins, an attorney with Gust Rosenfeld, the City's bond counsel.

Mr. Araza referred to a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) and provided a brief overview of the City of Mesa Series 2007 bond sale. He explained that staff recommends that the Council order the sale of \$66,810,000 of Utility Systems Revenue Bonds (Electric, Gas, Water and Wastewater Programs), \$10,675,000 of Highway User Revenue Bonds (HURF), and \$15,915,000 of General Obligation Bonds (G.O.), for a total of \$93,400,000.

Mr. Araza commented that it is anticipated that the Series 2007 bond sale will most likely be the City's last HURF bond sale as Mesa moves away from issuing new debt for street capital projects. He advised that the G.O. bond sale includes only Public Safety and storm sewer bond projects. Mr. Araza commented that of the \$15,915,000 Series 2007 G.O. bond sale, approximately \$9 million would be used to fund the construction of the Technical Services Building and an additional \$5.26 million is required to be sold in the Series 2008 bond sale to complete the construction of the facility. He further stated that with regard to the construction of the new City Court Building, \$2.6 million of the Series 2007 G.O. bond sale would be used to complete its design and begin construction. Mr. Araza added that it would be necessary to sell an additional \$29.4 million in G.O. bonds in the Series 2008 and 2009 sales in order to complete the project.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker concerning whether the bond proceeds would provide sufficient funds to complete the construction of the City Court Building, Mr. Araza clarified that staff has met with the Construction Manager at Risk contractor and designer for the project and said that a "cap amount" has been designated under which the facility would be designed and constructed.

City Manager Christopher Brady clarified that in previous discussions with the Council regarding the City Court Building, staff was directed that when the project reached the design phase, the matter would be brought back to the Audit & Finance Committee to ensure that the proposed funding is within budget. He added that staff would provide the Council an update relative to the potential sale of the Department of Economic Security (DES) building, which is adjacent to the site of the future City Court Building.

Mr. Araza noted that the City Court Building and the Technical Services Building are projects co-funded with Quality of Life (QOL) monies and other revenue sources. He stated that today's presentation represents only the G.O. bond portion of such funding.

Mayor Hawker stressed the fact that Mesa voters previously approved all of the above-mentioned bonds and said that the bond issuances are within the current budget forecast projections for debt service expenditures.

Mr. Given advised that the bond market "is in good shape" and stated that he is hopeful it would remain at that level in the coming weeks when his firm receives competitive bids.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff and Mr. Given for the presentation.

4. Hear a presentation and discuss the Solid Waste Management Program.

Mr. Brady stated that he was pleased to announce that Willie Black has been selected as the new Solid Waste Management Department Director.

Deputy City Manager Jack Friedline introduced Marketing and Education Coordinator Mariano Reyes, Operations Research Analyst Ray Froehlich and Mr. Black, who were prepared to address the Council relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Friedline displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) and reported that the mission of the Solid Waste Management Department is to provide excellence in the delivery of Solid Waste services to Mesa's residents, businesses and visitors. He briefly reviewed various Solid Waste programs and services including, but not limited to, curbside collection service, frontload trash and recycling bin service, roll-off service and green waste disposal, household hazardous waste collection events, and Clean Sweep/Green Sweep. Mr. Friedline also discussed the Solid Waste budget and a series of landfill fees, a green waste processing fee, and recycling revenues.

Mr. Reyes referred to the PowerPoint and offered an extensive statistical analysis of Mesa's Curbside Collection Program (utilizing FY 2005/06 data.) He explained that blue barrel collection resulted in 32,869 tons of materials, which assisted staff in diverting over 18% of the total waste stream out of the landfill and into a recycling facility. Mr. Reyes noted that the green barrel program currently has over 33,000 customers, continues to grow, and operates at full cost recovery. He also stated that in the spring of 2006, the Department began the "Sort Your Stuff" campaign, which was designed to reeducate residents with regard to the issue of recycling. He reported that since the campaign started, recycling tonnage has increased 6% over the previous year and added that staff is currently in the final phase of the program, which has focused on east Mesa.

Mr. Reyes further spoke regarding the Clean Sweep/Green Sweep Program, which has been available on a limited basis this year. He said that 55% of the containers are allocated to the Building Stronger Neighborhoods Program and added that the remaining 45% are available for neighborhood clean-ups. Mr. Reyes also offered a brief overview of a variety of customer service statistics, such as call volume, one-time service requests, and a random phone survey.

Vice Mayor Walters commented that the Clean Sweep/Green Sweep Program is one of the most popular within the community. She expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts and hard work in implementing such a successful program.

Mr. Froehlich reported that last year, staff made a presentation to the Council with regard to a benchmarking process for residential trash and recycle collection using a cost model developed by the City of Phoenix. He explained that Phoenix's goal in using this model was to provide a standardized service level at an acceptable cost to the customer and also offer an incentive for staff to contain costs and improve efficiencies.

Mr. Froehlich advised that Phoenix used the cost model to calculate the direct costs for residential trash and recycling and periodically accept bids from private contractors in selected bid areas. He stated that the private contractor's bids were compared against the Phoenix

calculated average and commented that if Phoenix's average was lower than the private bids, the City would provide the service. He added that if any of the bids were below the Phoenix average, Phoenix would contract out to the lowest bidder.

Mr. Froehlich further reported that Mesa's goal for establishing the benchmark is to track Solid Waste's actual average cost per household per month and to review Mesa's costs over time benchmarking to the Phoenix model. He explained that the Phoenix criteria was applied to Mesa's residential trash and recycle collection process, and the results were reviewed by the City of Mesa Auditor to determine that all cost figures were accurately obtained from the appropriate sources and that estimates and assumptions were reasonable and appropriate in accordance with the requirements of the Phoenix model.

Mr. Froehlich also provided a comparative analysis of the average cost per household per month for trash and recycle collection for FY 2005/06 for Phoenix and Mesa. (See Attachment 1.) He noted that Mesa's projected average cost of \$4.94 was reduced to an actual cost of \$4.83 due to the implementation of various identifiable cost saving measures. He said that such measures included changing the collection days of some residents to more efficiently balance the number of recycle trucks that go out each day, and also the City utilizing disposal sites in east Mesa which saved drivers time and mileage. Mr. Froehlich added that various other processes were not attributable to any single operational change.

Discussion ensued relative to a study conducted by staff that determined 25% of the material placed in black barrels could have been recycled under Mesa's recycling program; that since the recycling reeducation campaign, that number has decreased to 12%; and the fact that shredded paper can be bagged and tied in a clear plastic bag and placed in the blue barrel for recycling.

Mr. Black provided a short synopsis of the City's landfill capacity and reported that Mesa currently has four landfill contracts. He explained that the Salt River Landfill is expected to be at capacity by 2017 without the use of bioreactor technology. He noted that such technology rapidly degrades organic waste by adding liquid and air to enhance the microbial process. Mr. Black stated that in FY 2005/06, Mesa took over 235,000 tons of material to that landfill. He added that Mesa's other landfill contracts include Allied Landfill in Apache Junction, Cactus Transfer Station, and Waste Management Transfer Station.

Mr. Black also highlighted a series of new and upcoming issues that the Solid Waste Department must address which include: 2007 diesel engine emission standards; amending Mesa's current contracts with Waste Management and Allied Waste; and the reintroduction of the in-home recycling container as part of staff's effort to increase the City's recycling diversion rate.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation.

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

Councilmember Whalen announced the birth of his son, John Michael Whalen, who was born on March 14, 2007.

Vice Mayor Walters: Elected Vice Chairman of the Community and Economic Development Steering Committee for the National League of Cities.

Councilmember Griswold: Russian Philharmonic Orchestra Performance; East Valley Neighborhood Crime Summit; Tonto National Forest Meeting; Mesa General Hospital Board Meeting.

Mayor Hawker: Meeting in Washington, D.C. with Senators McCain and Kyl and Representatives Mitchell and Flake regarding illegal immigration issues.

6 Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, March 19, 2007, 3:30 p.m. – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Meeting

Monday, March 19, 2007, TBA – Study Session

Monday, March 19, 2007, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, March 22, 2007, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, March 29, 2007, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Mr. Brady also stated that on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., a retirement party would be held for Assistant Police Chief G.T. Fowler.

Councilmember Somers stated that he would not be in attendance at the March 29<sup>th</sup> Study Session because he is scheduled to defend his dissertation.

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

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 9:12 a.m.

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KENO HAWKER, 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 the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2007. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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