



# COUNCIL MINUTES

January 30, 2001

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Briefing with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community at the Rendezvous Center, Superstition South, 201 N. Center Street on January 30, 2001 at 5:00 p.m.

## MESA COUNCIL PRESENT

Keno Hawker  
Jim Davidson  
Bill Jaffa  
Dennis Kavanaugh  
Pat Pomeroy  
Claudia Walters  
Mike Whalen

## MESA STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Kevin Adam  
Debra Dollar  
Jack Friedline  
Barbara Jones  
Tony Malaj  
Jeff Martin  
Keith Nath  
Ellen Pence  
Paul Wenbert

## SALT RIVER PIMA- MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRESENT

Tom Largo

## SALT RIVER PIMA- MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY STAFF PRESENT

David Easchief  
Steve Parker

## OTHERS PRESENT

Betty Beard, Arizona Republic  
Joe Dixon, Corp of Engineers  
John Drake, Corp of Engineers  
Larry Landry, Landry, Moran & Creedon, Inc.  
Barrett Marson, Tribune  
James Ogsbury, Jones Walker  
Jerry Petrie  
Ruth Villalobos, Corp of Engineers  
Lan Weber, TetraTech

### 1. Welcome and Introductions.

Mayor Hawker welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined various projects where there had been extensive interaction and involvement between the City of Mesa and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

### 2. Presentation and discussion on the Va Shly'ay Akimel Restoration Project Preplanning Study.

Mayor Hawker indicated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the current progress of this project and obtain input from the Corp of Engineers in the manner in which to proceed. Mayor Hawker stated his appreciation for the schematics that have been prepared for this meeting to access the structural work that has already been completed and determine the next steps to be taken for completion of the project. Mayor Hawker requested that the Corp of Engineers provide a briefing on the Federal process involved in this project.

3. Briefing by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Federal process.

In response to Mayor Hawker's request Corp of Engineers Ruth Villalobos began her briefing by providing her work history and educational background which included the announcement that her current title is Chief of the Planning Division. Ms. Villalobos stated that she has been in this position for the last two months and previously held a position in Environmental Resources Branch for the Corp. Ms. Villalobos pointed out that her career with the Corp, which began twenty-six years ago involved meetings where discussions took place relative to the Rio Salado vision.

Ms. Villalobos provided the status of the project which has involved meetings between the Corp and Mesa staff for the development of a 905-P which is a section of the Water Resource Development Acts that provides the ability to conduct a recognizance study of a project that is funded at 30% Federal cost. Ms. Villalobos stated that this seven to ten page document outlines the purpose and objectives for the study. Ms. Villalobos indicated that subsequent to the approval of the 905-P by staffs the document would be forwarded to the Corp's Division Office Headquarters in Washington or their Division Office in San Francisco. Ms. Villalobos informed those present once the Corp receive their approval, the next step involves a feasibility study. Ms. Villalobos pointed out that a feasibility study couldn't be conducted until the completion of the document that provides the general timeline (36 months schedule in this case). The next step in the project would be the development of a Project Management Plan where Ms. Villalobos indicated that the plan specifically reflects staff's vision for the Salt River and a joint agreement regarding those details. Ms. Villalobos stated that once the Project Management Plan is completed the parties will sign a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement which is a legal document between the Federal Government and the non-Federal sponsors which outlines the roles and responsibilities of each entity. Ms. Villalobos pointed out that this document includes a financial commitment by each sponsor.

Ms. Villalobos informed those present that during the feasibility study timeline there will also be numerous technical studies performed and as these studies proceed, quarterly meetings will take scheduled involving an executive management staff and two or three individuals from each sponsor. Ms. Villalobos said that upon completion of the feasibility study the study would be returned to Congress and authorization provided from the Water Resources Development Act which usually occurs every two years. Ms. Villalobos pointed out that this authorization (bills or acts) allow the project to go forward into the construction phase. Ms. Villalobos indicated that every year the Corp returns to Congress for appropriations similar to the transactions by the City Councils in their budget process.

In response to Mayor Hawker's inquiry relative to match funding, Ms. Villalobos stated that the cost for feasibility studies are often shared. Ms. Villalobos indicated that the first phase recognizance stage is at Federal expense and subsequently 50/50 cost sharing for the feasibility study.

Mayor Hawker thanked Ms. Villalobos for the update and the outlined progression of the federal process.

Lan Weber a representative of Tetra Tech stated that she is part of the team involved in developing the preliminary concept for the project. Ms. Weber indicated that currently the Salt River portrays an industrialized appearance and that the river should be a major resource and provide individual's some enjoyment. In the utilization of the schematics Ms. Weber referred to their evaluation of the river as an opportunity constraint

analysis. Ms. Weber stated that the analysis involves the river's physical characteristics, the plot plan, wide or shallow, and the sand physical features such as the sand gravel mine. Mr. Weber informed those present that although these may be considered constraints they can also be opportunities.

Ms. Weber through the utilization of the illustrations, continued to outline the current appearance of the river and banks while providing future possibilities which include the development of wetlands, fishery habitats, plant vegetation and recreational facilities. Ms. Weber emphasized that the Federal objective for this project is flood control, erosion control, Eco-system restoration and provide for some passive recreation area.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Jaffa, Ms. Weber stated that water features similar to that of Tempe could be created dependent of the significance of the water supply. Ms. Weber pointed out that there is a very limited water supply.

Ms. Villalobos indicated that the general policy for recreation for Federal projects do not include the creation of lakes for recreation unless they happen to be a natural impoundment. Ms. Villalobos stated that the City could proceed with the water features without the participation of the Corp and thus would not be part of the Cost Share Agreement. Ms. Villalobos pointed out that the length of the river enables the City to provide a significant amount of diversity and stressed the importance of setting priorities a construction schedule and the amount of monies the City wants to commit.

Mayor Hawker thanked the speakers for their excellent presentations and stressed the fact that these discussions are subject to appropriations which commences with the President's fund request to Congress. Mayor Hawker stated that prior to the President's budget request the Corp will establish and approve capability for the project and the amount the Corp could expend in a fiscal year. Mayor Hawker indicated that the optimum situation would be a budget request was granted for this project and that the budget request would match the capability. Mayor Hawker stated to stay abreast of the Corp's budget capability and subsequently secure the support of the Arizona Congressional Delegation.

Mayor Hawker also pointed out the fact that the Indian Community owns the vast majority of all the land and the City of Mesa will serve as a supportive role in this progression of this project.

Mayor Hawker concluded by commenting that the Corp has been very responsive and stated his appreciation for the objectives update provided at this meeting. Mayor Hawker said that the City is looking forward to a long-term partnership with the Corp.

#### 4. Adjournment.

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.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 Joint Meeting of the City Council of Mesa and the City Council of Tempe held on the 30th day of January, 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2001

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK