

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 16, 2002

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 May 16, 2002 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

(Mayor Hawker excused Vice Mayor Davidson from the beginning of the meeting.)

Items on the agenda were discussed out of order, but for purposes of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.

1. Review items on the agenda for the May 20, 2002 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff with no formal action taken. There was specific discussion relative to the following items:

Mayor Hawker declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda items 5a, 5k, 5l, 5n, 5o, 5p, and 7e and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in these items.

Mayor Hawker stated that 5m will be added to the consent agenda.

Councilmember Pomeroy declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 7e and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in this item.

Councilmember Jaffa declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda items 7e and 8b and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in these items.

2. Discuss and consider accepting the proposed Mesa Lutheran Revitalization Master Plan.

(Vice Mayor Davidson arrived at the meeting at 7:55 a.m.)

Neighborhood Services Manager Bryan Raines addressed the Council relative to this agenda item and introduced Neighborhood Planner Ben Patton, Associate Curator of the Southwest Museum Jerry Howard, Jim Gingerich, CEO of the Mesa Lutheran Medical Center, and Alan Parker, a resident in the area.

Mr. Patton provided the Council with a brief overview of the Mesa Lutheran Neighborhood Revitalization Master Plan. He stated the fact that the Plan was initiated as an outgrowth of the City's Pilot Opportunity Zone; that it was designed to evaluate the neighborhood for its feasibility as a redevelopment area, but when it was determined that the potential for redevelopment in the area was tenuous, a revitalization planning process was undertaken; that the purpose of the Plan was to create a vision for the neighborhood; that the vision was facilitated by a "Planning Team" comprised of neighborhood representatives, business leaders, Banner Health System representatives and City staff; that the Planning Team focused on establishing methods through which the medical and institutional themes in the neighborhood may be fully articulated, and that the development of the Mesa Grande archaeological site was highlighted as a potential destination amenity and a point of pride within the neighborhood.

Mr. Patton advised that the Brown Road/Date corridor has been a significant challenge to the Plan due to the large number of vehicles that it carries and also that it essentially separates the neighborhood from the Mesa Lutheran Medical Center. He also stated that a primary goal of the Plan is to establish greater connectivity between the residents, the hospital and the potential for a museum at the Mesa Grande site. Mr. Patton added that due to the hospital's recent expansion, the issue of parking has become a significant concern to area residents.

Mr. Patton commented that with the assistance of various City divisions, the Neighborhood Services Administration staff completed a draft version of the Plan in December of 2001, revisions to the document were subsequently made, and in March 2002, the Planning & Zoning Board unanimously approved the Plan. He said that staff is recommending Council acceptance of the Plan, as opposed to approval, which will allow the City of Mesa to recognize its first neighborhood planning project without having to prescribe land use policies for the area.

Mr. Parker expressed appreciation to City staff, Mr. Gingerich, the business community and the surrounding neighborhood residents for their efforts and hard work to create an innovative and exciting neighborhood revitalization master plan.

Mr. Gingerich addressed the Council and reported that the inception of the Opportunity Zone project was the catalyst for Banner Health System to make a series of cosmetic upgrades to the Mesa Lutheran Medical Center including a new exterior, the replacement of windows, updated signage, fencing and landscaping. He explained that as a result of the renovations to the facility, Banner has also encouraged businesses and medical offices in the surrounding area to reinvest in their places of business to further enhance the appearance of the neighborhood. Mr. Gingerich stressed that Banner is eager to continue its partnership with the City of Mesa and also stated that in response to the concerns of the area residents, the corporation would like to work in conjunction with the City to provide a joint parking venue to accommodate visitors to both the medical center and the Mesa Grande archaeological site. He concluded his remarks by urging the Council to support the recommendations of staff.

Mr. Howard provided the Council with a brief historical overview of the Mesa Grande archaeological site and reported that the current planning process incorporates all of the necessary elements of the ruin's development. He commented that the site's development will not only be a point of pride for the neighborhood, but it will also be a cultural and economic enhancement to the City as well.

Councilmember Kavanaugh expressed support for staff's recommendations and stated that the neighborhood revitalization master plan addresses the concerns of the area residents, the business community, and the City's museum staff.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that the Mesa Lutheran Neighborhood Revitalization Master Plan, be accepted.

Councilmember Walters commended Banner Health System for its reinvestment in the Mesa Lutheran Medical Center and also thanked everyone who participated in the master plan process.

Councilmember Pomeroy expressed support for the motion and concurred with the comments of the other Councilmembers.

Discussion ensued relative to the possible location for a shared parking facility; efforts being made to deter vandalism at the archaeological site, and potential sites for a future apartment complex in the area.

Councilmember Whalen and Councilmember Jaffa also voiced support for the motion.

Carried unanimously.

3. Discuss and consider Phase 1 of the Pilot Opportunity Zone in northwest Mesa.

Neighborhood Services Manager Bryan Raines and Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Tanya Collins addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Ms. Collins reported that since April 5, 2001, the residents of the Pilot Opportunity Zone in northwest Mesa have been working on various teams and subcommittees in an effort to establish a series of long-range proposals for neighborhood improvement after the completion of the first phase of work in the area. She explained that after a year of meeting with the subcommittees, canvassing the neighborhoods, evaluating the needs of the community and conducting a number of small revitalization projects in the area, the residents have formulated eight recommendations, and that the purpose of today's presentation is to seek Council conceptual approval of the proposals.

Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Deanna Villanueva outlined Proposals 1-3 from the Beautification Team/Subcommittee; David Richens, Citizens Committee Chairman of the Physical Development Team/Parks Subcommittee, presented Proposal 4; Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Mike Renshaw reviewed Proposals 5-7 of the Public Safety Team/Crime Subcommittee, and Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator Debbie Driscoll presented Proposal 8 of the Public Safety Team/Traffic Subcommittee. (See Attachment 1.)

Ms. Collins advised that pending Council approval of the proposals, the residents will proceed with the implementation of the various projects, and commented that in the fall of 2002, staff will provide the Council with an update on the progress of the neighborhood projects. She stated that work on Phase 2 of the Opportunity Zone, which will begin shortly, will focus on additional areas of interest that have been identified by the residents including youth involvement in the neighborhood; use of school facilities for neighborhood purposes; the faith community's participation in neighborhood issues; small business attraction, revitalization, and retention, and outreach to Hispanic residents in the Opportunity Zone. Ms. Collins added that subsequent to the Pilot Opportunity Zone "officially closing" in January 2003, the Council will be presented with an analysis of the program and the results achieved in the neighborhood and will also be provided with the opportunity to designate the next Opportunity Zone in Mesa.

Councilmember Walters thanked staff for their efforts and hard work in this regard, and acknowledged the residents of the Opportunity Zone for their vision and dedication to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood as well as the entire community. She also stated the opinion that although she supports the Council giving conceptual approval to the eight recommendations, it would be more appropriate to discuss the expenditure of money for the Opportunity Zone during the upcoming Budget Review Sessions.

Councilmember Walters requested that the City Attorney's Office conduct research with regard to whether the City can legally solicit additional criteria of Section 8 housing applicants which is not requested by the Federal government (i.e. applicants being required to obtain their own background checks).

Councilmember Kavanaugh acknowledged the efforts of City staff and the Opportunity Zone residents for their hard work. He voiced support for the proposals and noted that the residents, in conjunction with City staff, have identified "citizen driven" issues which, through their implementation, will improve the neighborhood and the City as a whole.

Mayor Hawker concurred with Councilmember Walters' comments that the proper forum in which to discuss the expenditure of funds for the Opportunity Zone is during the Budget Review Sessions.

Councilmember Jaffa concurred with the comments of the other Councilmembers.

It was moved by Councilmember Walters, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that the eight recommendations for Phase 1 of the Pilot Opportunity Zone in northwest Mesa, be conceptually approved.

Carried unanimously.

4. Appointments to boards and committees.

Mayor Hawker recommended the following appointments to Boards and Committees:

PARKS and RECREATION BOARD

Joseph Fu

HOUSING and HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Len Locke

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

Carried unanimously.

5. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Economic Development Advisory Board meeting held April 2, 2002.
- b. Museum and Cultural Advisory Board meeting held April 17, 2002.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Hawker reported on his recent attendance at a Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) meeting whereby the members of the Transportation Subcommittee voted to modify the composition of the committee from the original seven members to a 25-member board.

Vice Mayor Davidson stated that he and Councilmember Jaffa attended a meeting of the Friends of the Tonto in which alternatives were identified for an off-road bicycle trail through the Userly Mountain area which would not infringe on surrounding future residential developments. He also informed the Council that June 1, 2002 has been designated as National Trails Day, and said that it is anticipated that various events will take place at Userly Mountain Park to celebrate the occasion.

Councilmember Pomeroy informed the Council that he attended the Steering Committee meeting of the Mesa Gang Intervention Project (MGIP) and advised that Ray Rafford is retiring from the Committee and will no longer serve as the MGIP Chairman.

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Monday, May 20, 2002, 9:30 a.m. – Groundbreaking for the Mesa Arts Center

Monday, May 20, 2002, TBA – Study Session

Monday, May 20, 2002, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Budget Review Session

Thursday, May 23, 2002, 6:00 p.m. – Farewell Reception for Outgoing Councilmembers

Tuesday, May 28, 2002, 8:00 a.m. – Budget Review Session

Tuesday, May 28, 2002, 4:00 p.m. – Fire Committee Meeting

8. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

10. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:53 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 16th day of May 2002. 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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Attachment