

# COUNCIL MINUTES

May 18, 2006

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 18, 2006 at 8:11 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker  
Rex Griswold  
Kyle Jones  
Tom Rawles  
Janie Thom  
Claudia Walters  
Mike Whalen

## COUNCIL ABSENT

None

## COUNCIL-ELECT PRESENT

Scott Somers

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Rawles from the meeting at 9:10 a.m. and Councilmember Whalen at 9:16 a.m.

### 1. Review items on the agenda for the May 22, 2006 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: 3, 7n, 7q, 9c (Hawker-Whalen); 7m (Griswold-Hawker); 7o (Hawker); 9a (Whalen); 9f (Griswold)

Items added to the consent agenda: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 8f, 9q

### 2. Hear an update and seek direction on the Downtown MCC campus regarding the location of the Fire Administration/Training Facility.

Deputy City Manager Debra Dollar advised that staff is present to seek direction relative to the design and location of the Fire Administration/Training Facility and its relationship to the Mesa Community College (MCC) Advanced Technology Building.

Town Center Development Director Shelly Allen displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) to provide an update regarding the downtown MCC campus and the location of the proposed Fire Administration/Training Facility. She reported that the City and MCC jointly hired a development firm that specializes in educational facilities to assist in the development of a vision map of the proposed campus. Ms. Allen noted that the City has a voter-approved bond authorization in the amount of \$6.8 million for the construction of a new Fire Administration facility. She said that an Emergency Operations

Center and an Incident Command training facility would jointly serve MCC and the Mesa Fire Department, and she reported that MCC plans to contribute \$2.1 million towards the construction of the joint training facility. Ms. Allen also noted that the Fire Department's training facility would be utilized by agencies from throughout the State and could serve as an economic generator for the City of Mesa. She added that staff plans to present a future General Plan Amendment for Council consideration which would allow a public facility with an office overlay. Ms. Allen advised that the Advanced Technology Building would be the future location of the Business Industry Institute and other private technology partners. She said that locating the Fire training facility and the Advanced Technology Building in close proximity to each other would enable joint use for training and would also enhance the technological, networking and security aspects. Ms. Allen further stated that the partners believe that the building design should be a joint effort, and she added that MCC has a \$10 million bond for construction of the Advanced Technology Building. She advised that staff was present to request Council direction regarding the proposed relocation of the Fire Administration Building.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the next phase of the project would include a site layout of the buildings and parking areas; that parking requirements have not yet been finalized; that the facility would focus on fire, emergency services and paramedic training; that the nursing training aspect is a topic of ongoing discussions; that an overlay exists between paramedic and nursing training which would provide economies of scale; that the nursing training facility may be located on the eastern portion of the campus; and that staff would provide additional information at a later date regarding the eastern section of the campus.

In response to a series of questions from Mayor Hawker, Ms. Allen advised that staff would be reviewing the pedestrian pathways and connections in the downtown area relative to parking facilities. She stated that financial modeling would be included in the next phase when a design firm prepares the architectural renderings.

Mr. Brady noted that the City has voter-approved bond authorization for the Fire Administration Building/Emergency Operations Center. He explained that MCC plans to leverage their funds by utilizing private partnerships, and he added that moving forward with the joint design phase would enable MCC to solicit additional private partners.

Further discussion ensued relative to the fact the Rendezvous Center would remain intact; that some MCC classes might be held in rooms at the Rendezvous Center; that MCC and City of Mesa librarians conduct ongoing discussions regarding areas in which they could collaborate; and that a study is being conducted to determine the need, if any, for additional library space.

Mr. Brady noted that libraries of the future would be different from libraries of today due to the fact that advances in technology could provide access to information and at the same time reduce the requirement for additional physical space.

Vice Mayor Walters summarized that the joint effort between the City and MCC would utilize City-owned land and MCC bond funds for construction of a facility to train City of Mesa Fire Department employees, employees of other fire agencies throughout the State, and MCC students. She added that the City and MCC are sharing the design costs.

In response to a question from Councilmember Thom, Mr. Brady explained that the City's bonds for the Fire Administration Building have been authorized by the voters but not yet sold.

Fire Chief Harry Beck advised that the Mesa Fire Department and other agencies throughout the State have a need for increased training in the areas of leadership and management, in addition to emergency operations, command center operations and paramedic training.

Additional discussion ensued relative to the fact that the overall design of the campus is in the beginning stage; that parking and transportation issues and the impact on neighborhoods would be addressed; and that the joint effort with MCC would provide the Fire Department with access to a research component.

Ms. Allen advised that staff is seeking Council direction relative to locating the Fire Administration Building on Center Street near the Centennial Center and adjacent to the Advanced Technology Building.

Mayor Hawker noted that the size of the Center Street location could prohibit future expansion. He suggested that a parking plan would assist the Council in determining the appropriate location of the buildings.

Further discussion ensued relative to the fact that the current proposal combines the Emergency Operations Center with the Fire Administration building; that parking is a major concern in the planning process; and that the planning process would determine the feasibility of combining the Emergency Operations Center with the Fire Administration building.

Councilmember Rawles noted that piecemeal decisions by the Council could preclude other viable alternatives, and he suggested that staff provide a more detailed plan for Council consideration.

Mr. Brady stated that staff could initiate a Master Plan process that includes pedestrian flow and parking and vehicle access.

Mayor Hawker noted that the consensus of the Council was that City staff and representatives of MCC should move forward to develop a Master Plan for Council consideration, and he added that the parcel on Center Street could be included in the plan.

3. Hear and discuss the results of the public hearing regarding the proposal from Pulice Construction to close McKellips Road in order to accommodate construction of the Red Mountain Freeway.

Transportation Director Jeff Kramer noted that at the April 27<sup>th</sup> Study Session, the Council considered a proposal from Pulice Construction regarding the closure of McKellips Road during the construction of the Red Mountain Freeway, and he added that staff was directed to solicit public input on the proposal. He displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) that provided an overview of the proposal, a summary of the pros and cons, and the results of the public outreach to area residents.

Mr. Kramer advised that the City would incur costs in the amount of \$35,000 for turn signal equipment that would be installed by Pulice Construction. He added that the City's labor costs for signal programming and timing is estimated at \$3,000, in addition to limited staff time related to review and approval of traffic control plans and monitoring traffic conditions. Mr. Kramer further advised that the agreement relative to the closure of McKellips Road proposed for Council approval includes the following:

- The City of Mesa would receive \$25,000 per month, plus permanent traffic control and monitoring improvements.
- Pulice Construction would have a clear construction zone, which would improve efficiency and quality.
- Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) would save money.
- Motorists would know what to expect during the construction of McKellips Road.

City Attorney Debbie Spinner advised that staff is requesting Council direction relative to placing a resolution on the May 26<sup>th</sup> Regular Council meeting agenda, which would authorize the City Manager to enter into the proposed agreement.

Councilmember Griswold encouraged staff to contact Rural Metro regarding their ability to service County islands in the area during the construction phase. He noted that a major concern of area residents was the ability to make a left turn onto McDowell, and he expressed the opinion that a temporary light system is required at Sossaman Road, 76<sup>th</sup> Street or 78<sup>th</sup> Street.

Mr. Kramer advised that the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) controls the McDowell intersection. He reported that the County authorized the City to conduct a "signal warrant" study, which is currently underway. Mr. Kramer added that motorists are currently experiencing problems attempting to turn left onto McDowell, and that the McKellips Road closure would merely exacerbate the situation. He further advised that when the "signal warrant" study and traffic counts are completed in approximately two weeks, staff would meet with MCDOT representatives to discuss the options available.

In response to comments by Councilmember Griswold, Mr. Kramer explained that staff has attempted to coordinate the various projects on McDowell in order to minimize the closures. He advised that staff would continue the dialogue with the County regarding the construction project.

Responding to a suggestion from Mayor Hawker that the Council delay consideration of the issue until the intersection study has been completed, Mr. Kramer advised that he did not have information regarding the impact of a delay on construction schedules.

Mayor Hawker expressed support for the proposed construction schedule.

Mr. Kramer reported that representatives of Pulice Construction just informed him that their company would install the traffic signal at their expense in order to resolve the problem.

Mayor Hawker noted that there appears to be agreement that installation of the traffic signal would resolve the problem, and he added that the consensus of the Council is that staff should move forward to place the resolution on the May 26<sup>th</sup> agenda.

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

Councilmember Griswold:	Opening of a new commercial center at the former Motorola location. Falcon Field Airport Alliance meeting. Groundbreaking ceremony for the Bass Pro Shop. ADOT meeting regarding the McKellips Road closure.
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Vice Mayor Walters: Gilbert Road opening north of the 202.  
Groundbreaking ceremony for the East Valley Institute of  
Technology health technology facility.

Councilmember Thom: Hosted a Diversity Dialogue program.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, May 22, 2006, 1:00 p.m. – Budget Hearing

Monday, May 22, 2006, TBA – Study Session

Monday, May 22, 2006, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session/Budget Hearing

Thursday, May 25, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, June 1, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Items from citizens present.

Sheila Mitton, 1615 West Pueblo Avenue, addressed the Council and thanked City staff and the citizens of Mesa for their efforts regarding the May 16<sup>th</sup> General Election.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:43 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 18<sup>th</sup> day of May 2006. 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