

# COUNCIL MINUTES

March 20, 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 March 20, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

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

**COUNCIL ABSENT**

None

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

(Councilmember Jones arrived at the meeting at 4:03 p.m.)

1. Review items on the agenda for the March 20, 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: 9g (Griswold)

Items deleted from the consent agenda: 3b

Items removed from the consent agenda: 10.1a

2. Hear a presentation from the Development Services Department concerning the service impacts of potential budget reductions.

Development Services Manager Jack Friedline introduced Assistant Development Services Manager Jeff Martin and Senior Fiscal Analyst Pam Alexander who were prepared to assist him with the presentation.

Mr. Friedline displayed a PowerPoint presentation in the Council Chambers and provided an extensive overview of this agenda item. (The PowerPoint presentation is available for review in the City Clerk's Office.) He highlighted, among other things, the mission of the Development Services Department; the fact that it consists of eight divisions and an Administration section (Real Estate, Planning, Building Safety, Transportation, Facilities Maintenance, Environmental Management, Falcon Field and Engineering); and the FY 2006/07 adjusted budget, including the number of Full-Time Employees (FTEs), and the Department's operating funds and revenues.

Mr. Friedline further highlighted the duties/responsibilities of each division, a description of the proposed reductions, and the service impacts of those reductions. The proposals included the following:

- Reduction of 2 Contract Payment Specialists and 1 Special Projects Coordinator, for a cost savings of \$199,786. (Development Services Administration)
- Reduce landscape maintenance contracts at operating facilities by 50% and also reduce landscape maintenance to minimal levels only, for a proposed budget reduction of \$148,000. (Facilities Maintenance)
- Reduce the Household Hazardous Waste collection program from four times a year to two times a year, for a total cost savings of \$56,000. (Environmental Management)
- Reduction of 1 Geoprocessing Supervisor and 1 Engineering Tech II, for a cost savings of \$123,653. (Engineering)
- Reduction of 1 GIS Specialist, 1 GIS Supervisor and 2 part-time COEs, for a proposed budget reduction of \$257,191. (Planning)
- Reduction in consultant contract, for a cost savings of \$43,000. (Planning)
- Reduction of 1 Contract Payment Specialist, for a cost savings of \$65,766. (Real Estate)

Mr. Martin offered a short synopsis of the duties and responsibilities of the Transportation Division, which includes, but is not limited to, transportation planning, pavement management, asphalt repair, seal coats, concrete repair, streetlights and traffic studies, fixed route and para-transit planning and operations. He also reviewed the number of FTEs in the areas of Transit and Transportation Planning; the total proposed FY 2006/07 reductions relative to operating expenditures (Fixed Route Bus, Para-Transit, Support/Overhead, and Planning) as well as operating revenues (General Fund, Quality of Life, LTAF, and HURF).

Mr. Martin advised that if the property tax question were defeated, he anticipates a \$1 million budget reduction for senior Dial-A-Ride service (or 69% of the service). He stated that additionally, if a majority of Mesa voters do not support a sales tax increase, it would be necessary for the City to implement a 31% budget reduction for Senior Dial-A-Ride service, a 50% reduction in weekday service on Route #136-Gilbert Road, eliminate 50% of the weekday service after 6:00 p.m. on all transit routes, and half of the Saturday service on all routes.

Mr. Martin added that per the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), grant recipients must follow specific requirements in order to implement transit service reductions. He briefly reviewed the timetable proposed by staff to accommodate those requirements, including the public hearing process, Council consideration of the service reductions, and the implementation of said reductions.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that \$25.8 million of sales tax revenues to be allocated annually to street maintenance activities had not been identified on the proposed budget reduction list; that it is estimated that additional pavement overlays would cost \$4 million annually, expanded street maintenance activities (i.e., signage, storm drain, streetlight and traffic signal maintenance) would cost \$2 million annually; and that Mesa's matching funds requirement for new street construction, per Proposition 400, is estimated at \$251 million over 20 years.

Mr. Friedline concluded his presentation by recommending that the above-referenced budget reductions relative to Development Services Administration, Facilities Maintenance, Real Estate, and the Household Hazardous Waste Program be implemented. He noted, however, that if the City's current budget situation improves, he would ask that the Council reconsider the previously mentioned Planning, Engineering and Transit items.

Assistant Budget Director Chuck Odom provided a brief explanation of the process by which his office calculates the salary, pay range and associated benefits of City employees whose positions are included on the proposed reductions list.

Staff responded to a series of questions from the Council regarding the presentation.

a. Items from group representatives.

Mike Smith, 220 N. 22<sup>nd</sup> Place, a representative of the National Federation of the Blind, urged the Council to not reduce public transit service levels in the City of Mesa. He stated that such cutbacks would significantly impact disabled citizens who cannot drive and must rely on public transportation.

3. Hear a presentation from the Police Department concerning the service impacts of potential budget reductions.

City Manager Christopher Brady informed the Council that he intends to move forward with an organizational/structural review of the Mesa Police Department. He explained that such a review, in his opinion, would be timely due to the upcoming recruitment for a new Police Chief.

Vice Mayor Walters thanked Mr. Brady for proceeding with the organizational review of the Police Department. She noted that at the October 6, 2005 Council Retreat, Councilmember Whalen suggested, with Council concurrence, that a similar analysis of all City departments take place.

Interim Police Chief Greg Fowler and Police Fiscal Management Supervisor Lisa Andrews addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Chief Fowler displayed a PowerPoint presentation in the Council Chambers and provided an overview of potential budget reductions for FY 2006/07 in the Police Department. (The PowerPoint presentation is available for review in the City Clerk's Office.) He spoke regarding the reduction of 26 FTEs (14 Sworn, 12 Civilian) and the proposed reduction in operating funds (General Fund and Quality of Life). Chief Fowler also discussed reductions that have been implemented such as decreased services provided by the Municipal Security Unit (from 44 to 39); reducing the operating costs associated with the sale of a fixed-wing aircraft; and increasing revenue in the Photo Safety Program to "break even" with program costs.

Chief Fowler further stated that if the property tax question does not pass, the following services would be impacted:

- Reduce Animal Control Officer positions from 7 to 4.
- Reduce Municipal Security Officer positions from 39 to 34.
- Reduce Police Crime Free Activity by 66%.
- Increase School Resource Officer (SRO) contribution from the schools.

Chief Fowler also outlined the following proposed reductions in service if the sales tax increase did not pass:

- Eliminate Youth Services Coordinator, Youth Intervention Specialist, Event Coordinator, Management Assistant II and Administrative Assistant I.
- Reduce parking monitor positions from 3 to 2.

Discussion ensued relative to alternatives to the budget proposals such as the elimination of police officers from specialty units and a 33% reduction in Police Crime Free Activity; and the service impacts related to those alternatives.

a. Items from group representatives.

George Bowers, 6915 E. Guadalupe Road, Principal of Highland Junior High School, stressed the importance of the Police Department's SRO Program and stated that the program has brought a sense of safety and security to school administrators, teachers, students and their families. He urged the Council to consider making budget reductions in other areas and not impacting this valuable and essential program.

Dr. Michael Cowan, 63 E. Main Street, a representative of Mesa Public Schools, concurred with the comments of the previous speaker. He stated that School Resource Officers play a major role in preventing potentially challenging situations from occurring on school campuses. Dr. Cowan also requested that the Council approve funding for the SRO Program at the FY 2005/06 funding level at a minimum.

Councilmember Rawles suggested that it might be appropriate for landlords who are participating in Mesa's Crime Free program to charge their renters a nominal fee in order to provide a revenue source for the program.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation.

4. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- a. Human Services Advisory Board meeting held on January 26, 2006
- b. Museum and Cultural Advisory Board meeting held February 8, 2006
- c. Parks and Recreation Board meeting held February 9, 2006
- d. Board of Adjustment meeting held February 14, 2006
- e. Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on February 22, 2006

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Vice Mayor Walters announced that March 24, 2006 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mesa Library volunteers.

6 Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Thursday, March 23, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Wednesday, March 29, 2006, 8:00 a.m. – Study Session

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:40 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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 20th day of March 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

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