

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 2, 1996

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Policy Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on July 2, 1996 at 4:05 P.M.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Pat Gilbert
John Giles
T. Farrell Jensen
Dennis Kavanaugh
Jim Stapley

COUNCIL ABSENT

Joan Payne

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Wayne Balmer
Cindy Barris
Neal Beets
Mike Hutchinson
Lars Jarvie
Barbara Jones
Harry Kent
Wayne Korinek
Gregory Marek
Jeff Martin
Keith Nath
Ruth Anne Norris
John Oliver
Bryan Raines
Ross Renner
Kevin Snow
Mindy White

OTHERS PRESENT

Dan Nowicki
Ralph Pew

Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Payne from the meeting.

1. Discuss and consider doing a citizen attitude survey.

Mayor Brown noted the importance of citizen input relative to City operations and suggested a survey as a medium to solicit opinions from the community.

Councilmember Stapley spoke concerning costs/timing and commented that September 1996 may be an appropriate time to conduct a survey.

Councilmember Giles and Vice Mayor Gilbert stated support of a survey. Vice Mayor Gilbert requested an update pertaining to the City's application of the principles of total quality management (TQM).

Councilmember Jensen spoke in favor of an input survey to be conducted in September or October 1996.

City Manager Charles Luster advised that surveys have been utilized successfully by various City departments in the past. Mr. Luster recommended that a consultant be hired during the summer to assist with the survey and that the survey be conducted in October 1996.

Mayor Brown stated that it is the consensus of Council present to proceed with a citizen survey.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jensen, Mr. Luster said that he anticipates that the survey will solicit input pertaining to services currently provided by the City as well as services citizens would like added.

Vice Mayor Gilbert suggested that opinions be gathered concerning the manner in which services are presently provided.

2. Further discussion concerning the Voit redevelopment plan and the siting of various facilities.

Mayor Brown requested further discussion by Council regarding siting for three buildings in relation to the Voit proposal: a) the Mesa Arts Center; b) City Hall; and c) a performing arts center.

Mr. Luster spoke concerning the importance of facility locations as an element of the long-term plan for downtown development but advised that even if the City Hall site is chosen for a future performing arts center, remodeling of the building is needed at this time. Mr. Luster noted that the City's recently-renovated Rendezvous Center would be eliminated under the current Voit proposal.

Councilmember Kavanaugh, former member of the City's Museum and Cultural Advisory Board, commented that it would be more appropriate to relocate rather than remodel the Mesa Arts Center.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jensen, Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer reported that the Downtown Development Committee has estimated that \$25,000 will be needed to structurally evaluate the Mesa Arts Center. Mr. Balmer said that the cost to renovate the facility is unknown at this time.

Mayor Brown and Council expressed the opinion that remodeling the existing Mesa Arts Center would not prove cost-effective. Mayor Brown stated that it is the consensus of Council present to demolish the facility.

Mr. Luster requested input from Council concerning an alternative location for the Mesa Arts Center.

Councilmember Giles suggested that the \$25,000 estimated to evaluate the Mesa Arts Center be used to conduct a needs assessment in relation to a performing arts center.

Discussion ensued concerning capacity and purpose of a performing arts center, utilization of the current City Hall site as a location for a performing arts center versus a site adjacent to the conference center, proposed expansion of the conference center and construction of a second hotel, streetscape, financing, and time frame for development.

Vice Mayor Gilbert spoke in favor of a focused approach that would initially emphasize a performing arts center.

Mayor Brown expressed the opinion that a performing arts center is a priority of the community. Mayor Brown noted costs involved to remove both the Mesa Arts Center and City Hall simultaneously and commented that if the Mesa Arts Center location is used as the site for a performing arts center, the City Hall building can be utilized by staff for several additional years.

Councilmember Stapley commented that the current City Hall site would require construction of a parking garage whereas the existing Mesa Arts Center location would provide immediate parking.

Councilmember Giles summarized the consensus of Council to remove the existing Mesa Arts Center, establish the development of a performing arts center as a priority, and obtain expertise to assist in the siting of such a facility. Mr. Luster stated that the results of two previous studies could perhaps be used in conjunction with a needs assessment.

Vice Mayor Gilbert suggested that consideration be given to utilizing existing streets as part of the development plan. Mr. Luster recommended that the City attempt to retain the Rendezvous Center.

3. Further review of landscape plans for the McKellips Road project between Country Club Drive and Gilbert Road.

Senior Civil Engineer Ross Renner displayed a schematic of a typical sound wall and renderings of proposed landscape plans for the McKellips Road project between Country Club Drive and Gilbert Road. Mr. Renner indicated that the proposal includes tree pockets and planters.

Council and staff spoke concerning types of trees to be planted, the intent to construct sound walls only along existing residential property, use of color, rights-of-way, and costs.

Mayor Brown thanked staff for the update.

4. Discuss and consider entering into an agreement to evaluate the effects of Proposition 200 on business.

Mr. Luster advised that a proposal has been received through Clifford Harris, initiator of Proposition 200, for an agreement to evaluate the effects of Proposition 200 on businesses. Mr. Luster expressed the opinion that an evaluation system would prove beneficial.

Councilmember Jensen stated agreement and recommended that a study commence a minimum of six months following enforcement of Proposition 200.

Councilmember Kavanaugh commented that staff could immediately generate monthly reports comparing current sales tax revenue to last year's revenue for Class 6, 7, 11, and 12 establishments.

Mayor Brown and Councilmember Giles concurred with Councilmember Kavanaugh.

Mr. Luster noted that sales tax data cannot be divulged for specific businesses but can be categorized.

Mayor Brown stated that it is the consensus of Council present to proceed with an evaluation system.

5. Tour of the Police/Fire dispatch center.

(Following the Policy Session, the Council adjourned to tour the Police/Fire dispatch center.)

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

(There was no discussion on this item at this time.)

7. Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilmember Stapley, seconded by Councilmember Jensen, that the Policy Session adjourn at 5:15 P.M. to tour the Police/Fire dispatch center.

Carried unanimously.

WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Policy Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 2nd day of July 1996. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 15th day of July 1996

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK