



COUNCIL MINUTES

November 28, 2000

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Dinner Meeting with the City Council of the Chandler City Council at Michael Monti's, 1233 South Alma School Road, on November 28, 2000 at 6:00 p.m.

MESA COUNCIL PRESENT	MESA STAFF PRESENT	CHANDLER COUNCIL PRESENT	CHANDLER STAFF PRESENT
Keno Hawker	Mike Hutchinson	Jay Tibshraney	Lloyd Harrell
Jim Davidson	Debra Dollar	Boyd Dunn	Patrick McDermott
Bill Jaffa	Paul Wenbert	Dean Anderson	Patrice Kraus
Dennis Kavanaugh	Jeff Martin	Patti Bruno	Carolyn Dunn
Pat Pomeroy	Tom Remes	Lowell Huggins	Brian Bosshardt
Claudia Walters	Barbara Jones	Donna Wallace	
Mike Whalen	Jack Freidline	Phillip Westbrooks	
	Wayne Balmer		STAFF ABSENT
			Donna Dreska

1. Welcome, Introductions and Participants Areas of Interest.

Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker welcomed everyone to the meeting and requested that those in attendance introduce themselves and also provide some background information and outline any special interests they may have.

Issues including the requirement for a general plan update, regional planning, transportation, public safety, quality of life, growth and development, electric deregulation and neighborhoods were mentioned by one or more individuals as their primary focus areas.

2. Synopsis of Community Activities by Respective Mayors.

Mayor Hawker announced that once again the J. Sewart Johnson, Jr. bronze statues are currently located throughout Mesa's downtown area for everyone's enjoyment from now until March of 2001 and commented on the positive input the City has received from citizens regarding the sculpture exhibit.

Mayor Hawker stated that in 2002, Mesa citizens will have a world class Aquatics Center and added that in 2004 a Performing Arts Center will open that will serve the needs of citizens far into the future. Mayor Hawker informed those present that funding for these facilities will be generated as a result of the 1/2-cent sales tax increase authorized by Mesa voters in 1998 and emphasized that the Mesa City Council is committed to insuring that these facilities are built and operated in a first class manner. Mayor Hawker also pointed out the likelihood that private dollars will be invested in the downtown area as a result of the development of these facilities.

Chandler Mayor Jay Tibshraney commented on the City's adjusted impact fees that have enabled Chandler to provide better customer service, specifically in the public safety area. Mayor Tibshraney pointed out the fact that Chandler's recent crime statistics indicate a decrease in criminal activities and said that the Police Department has recently attained accreditation. Mayor Tibshraney announced that Chandler's new regional mall will open next year, discussed the opening of the Price Freeway into the central Chandler area and noted that the City of Chandler is planning a major event when this freeway access occurs. Mayor Tibshraney commented on efforts expended to promote residential development in the downtown area, and also spoke of a joint venture wherein Chandler donated land to a private developer for the development of a 36-hole golf course. Mayor Tibshraney emphasized that the project did not involve any taxpayer monies.

3. Discuss Updates to Mesa, Chandler and MAG Transportation Planning Documents.

Mayor Hawker discussed the possibility of presenting a proposal to the voters in 2002 or 2004 of a sales tax increase to fund transit and freeway maintenance costs and emphasized the importance of strategic transportation planning over the next twenty years. Mayor Hawker commented that the City of Mesa is currently in a positive position relative to future freeway development and pointed out that Mesa will now focus its economic development efforts on transitioning from a retail structure to an employment base. Mayor Hawker stated that it is evident that the City of Chandler is currently concentrating its efforts on retail.

Mayor Tibshraney stated that the City of Chandler is in the process of updating the City's transportation plans, which includes citizen surveys and conducting numerous public meetings beginning January 2001. Mayor Tibshraney stressed the importance of considering and pursuing a high capacity transit system and added the opinion that the surrounding areas should line up their corridors to create an interconnection between cities. Mayor Tibshraney emphasized the importance on conducting a study of this issue as quickly as possible, based on the fact that Phoenix and Tempe currently have plans in place for the development of a light rail system.

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin discussed the feasibility of a commuter rail system versus light rail and commented that the commuter rail system is faster than light rail. Mr. Martin suggested that the RPTA be requested to conduct a study relative to this issue.

4. Discuss updates to Mesa and Chandler General Plans.

Development Services Manager Jack Friedline stated that based on the Growing Smarter legislation, Council is required to adopt a General Plan and submit the final adopted plan to Mesa voters for approval at a City election. Mr. Freidline commented that as a result of this requirement, Mesa has chosen to simultaneously update their transportation, parks and recreation, economic development and general plans. Mr. Freidline outlined the Mesa 2025 – Shared Vision, a Joint Master Planning Committee comprised of thirty citizens from throughout the community who are charged with the responsibility of

guiding the plan updates and ultimately providing recommendations to the Mesa City Council. Mr. Friedline stated that the process will include conducting six public workshops, one in each Council district, to obtain feedback from citizens relative to their vision of Mesa's future. Mr. Friedline discussed additional workshops for the gathering and summarizing of information in order to attain the goal of developing one abbreviated document that outlines the direction in which Mesa will be proceed over the next twenty-five years.

Mayor Hawker stated that a follow-up to the Mesa 2025-Shared Vision is the fact that this plan provides an excellent opportunity to outline Mesa's future and stressed the importance of developing a financial plan that will accurately project and address the needs of the community based on their input.

Discussion ensued relative to the required timing for the election as outlined in the legislation.

Vice Mayor Davidson stated the opinion that it may be beneficial for surrounding cities such as Chandler to participate in Mesa's General Plan update process and stressed the importance of consistency and continuity.

Chandler Vice Mayor Boyd Dunn concurred with Vice Mayor Davidson's comments on the importance of maintaining consistency among surrounding cities relative to planning issues, especially on city borders.

Vice Mayor Davidson reiterated the need for a regional approach to the development of cities' general plans and inquired as to whether the Grower Smarter legislation requires the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) or Regional Planning Transportation Authority (RPTA) to review/oversee the plans.

In response to Vice Mayor Davidson's remarks, Development Services Manager Jack Friedline indicated that the legislation does not reflect that type of direction or requirement.

Mayor Hawker commented on the positive timing that surrounds the relocation of the General Motors Proving Grounds given the fact that Mesa is in the process of developing its General Plan. Mayor Hawker spoke of GM's participation in this process and the challenges that lie ahead regarding the development of the 5,000 single owner acres. Mayor Hawker outlined the difficulties associated with working with the County regarding zoning issues.

Vice Mayor Davidson stated appreciation for Chandler's recent support at a Board of Supervisors' meeting regarding a contentious zoning case.

Discussion ensued relative to natural preservation issues in the development of general plans.

Mayor Tibshraney reported that County development issues impact the quality of life for city residents and said that examples such as the SanTan issue and Usery Pass emphasize that City Councils must continue to voice their concerns to the County.

5. Discuss Reuse of Williams Gateway Airport.

Neighborhood Services Manager Wayne Balmer stated that it has been 10 years since the closure of Williams Air Force Base and commented on the formation of Williams Gateway Airport Authority in 1994 as well as the development of the ASU East campus. Mr. Balmer discussed the significant changes

to the appearance of Williams Gateway that have occurred over the last two years, primarily based on the construction of a passenger terminal. Mr. Balmer said that plans exist for a Customs Office to be located on the base that would conveniently enable cargo and/or passengers to simultaneously proceed through immigration, agricultural inspections and customs. Mr. Balmer forecasted that in five years Williams Gateway will transport approximately 250,000 passengers a year and discussed the airport's significant potential. Mr. Balmer commented that based on the substantial amount of aircraft traffic noted at Sky Harbor Airport, Williams could serve as a reliever airport in the near future.

Mr. Balmer reported that all of the buildings located at Williams Gateway Airport are 100% leased and noted that ASU has formulated plans for a 5,000 student campus in the area that was previously considered the entrance to the base. Mr. Balmer advised that the golf course has been purchased and renovated by the Gila River Indian Community and noted that the course is now one of the few PGA golf courses designated to train golf pros in the United States.

Mr. Balmer commented that the Mesa City Council considers Williams Gateway Airport to be a significant economic development project that will provide positive impacts over the next fifty years. Mr. Balmer pointed out that the Mesa City Council allocates \$4 million dollars annually towards Williams Gateway Airport and said that this investment is an excellent opportunity to provide necessary infrastructure needs for the future.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Dinner Meeting between the Councils of the City of Mesa and the City of Chandler held on the 28th day of November, 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2000

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK