

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 9, 1999

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Special Council Meeting in the upper level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on December 9, 1999 at 7:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Keno Hawker
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Bill Jaffa

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Neal Beets
Barbara Jones

1. Convene an executive session.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Giles, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that an Executive Session be convened at 7:01 a.m.

2. Executive session.

- a. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the City Attorney.
(A.R.S. 38-431.03A(3))
- b. Discussion or consultation with designated representatives of the City in order to consider the City's position and instruct the City's representative regarding negotiations for the purchase or lease of real property.
(A.R.S. 38-431.03A(7))

3. Reconvene following executive session.

The Special Council meeting reconvened at 7:45 a.m.

4. Receive the final report and recommendations from the Citizens Bond Review Committee – 2000.

Citizen Bond Review Committee Chairman C.K. Sato presented to the Council a brief synopsis of the above-agenda item.

Chairman Sato expressed appreciation on behalf of the entire Committee for the opportunity to participate in an extremely educational and valuable experience.

Chairman Sato also explained that the Committee recommended unanimously that the Council approve the proposed bond issues for \$415,125,000. Chairman Sato added that each of the presented items was approved with the exception of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Program.

Discussion ensued with regard to the proposed exceptions to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Program relative to the Park of the Canals in which funding was increased to further develop the area from an historical preservation standpoint; the fact that additional funding was earmarked for the expansion of the Mesa Southwest Museum; the fact that funding was deleted for the Hohokam Stadium; the fact that there was additional funding allocated for the Carson Junior High School swimming pool project and the construction of a new swimming pool at the George N. Smith Junior High School. (See Attachment.)

Councilmember Kavanaugh expressed appreciation to Chairman Sato for the Committee's accomplishments and diligence in this matter. Councilmember Kavanaugh also noted that advancing development for the rehabilitation of the Park of the Canals creates a unique opportunity for the City of Mesa in that when linked with the Mesa Grande Ruins, the two parks will be interconnected by means of a canal system.

Councilmember Kavanaugh spoke in favor of the proposed changes to the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Program recommended by the Committee.

Discussion ensued relative to the issuance of water bonds for percolation ponds; the potential of creating a riparian system with bicycle and hiking trails along the Queen Creek Wash in association with the Town of Gilbert; the possibility of fuel cell technology utilized as an emergency power source.

In response to a question from Councilmember Hawker, Assistant Fire Chief Paul Wilson clarified that relative to the construction of new fire stations, the City's Real Estate Services Department first acquires the land on which the proposed fire station sites will be constructed and that the structural design must be adapted subsequently to correspond to the site.

Councilmember Hawker expressed concern relative to the light rail transit system being incorporated into the proposed bond recommendations and questioned the possibility of acquiring alternative funding with reference to this matter.

Assistant to the City Manager Bryan Raines advised that the inclusion of the light rail transit system item into the bond review process was a means by which funds could be earmarked to enable the City to generate the initial design specifications for a possible future rail system. Mr. Raines added that it is the recommendation of staff to proceed forward with this proposed bond item; however, if the Council is not amenable to that suggestion, that funds could be allocated from the General Fund or allocated as a specific project.

Mayor Brown concurred with Councilmember Hawker that funding for the light rail transit system should not be included in the proposed bond recommendations.

Councilmember Hawker recommended that the Council eliminate the light rail transit system item from the proposed bond agenda and also added that the City's Real Estate Services Department should endeavor to acquire more appropriately configured sites for future fire stations to allow for a more standardized design model.

Councilmember Davidson concurred with Councilmember Hawker with regard to the elimination of the light rail transit system item from the bond recommendations. Councilmember Davidson emphasized, however, he is not in support of the creation of fire stations that resemble "cookie cutter" designs, but that he preferred designs with more diverse architectural style and design.

Vice Mayor Giles expressed gratitude to Mr. Sato and his Committee for their dedication and also expressed the opinion that the purpose of the Committee's formation was to demonstrate to the voters that the bond proposal issues were carefully reviewed by a group of independent citizens and not generated by City staff or by City Council.

Vice Mayor Giles concurred with Councilmember Hawker and Councilmember Davidson relative to the deletion of the light rail transit system from the Committee's proposed bond recommendations.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Giles, Mr. Raines noted that the purpose of placing the light rail transit system item on the bond agenda at this time is due to the fact that the bond issue runs until 2004.

(Councilmember Jaffa joined the Council Meeting at this time.)

Mayor Brown thanked the Committee for their work and gave special recognition to Eric Jackson and Pat Langdon.

5. Consider the following resolutions:

- a. Ordering and calling a Special Bond Election to be held in conjunction with the City of Mesa Primary Election on March 14, 2000.(With the exception of the light rail).

It was moved by Councilmember Hawker, seconded by Vice Mayor Giles, to order and call a Special Bond Election to be held on March 14, 2000.

Carried unanimously.

- b. Designing election dates and purposes of each election; designating the deadline for voter registration; designating the place and the last date for candidates to file nomination papers; and establishing polling places and the times that such polls will be open.

It was moved by Councilmember Hawker, seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy, that the recommendations of staff relative to designing election dates and purposes of each election, shall be approved.

Carried unanimously.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Special Council meeting adjourned at 7:44 a.m.

WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting to Convene an Executive Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 6th day of May 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK