



COUNCIL MINUTES

December 18, 2000

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 December 18, 2000, at 4:15 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Neal Beets
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the December 18, 2000 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed by Council and staff with no formal action taken. There was specific discussion relative to the following agenda items:

Vice Mayor Davidson declared potential conflicts of interest on agenda items 3k (Customer Information System, Associated Project Reserves, Consulting Services and Database Software as requested by the CIS Executive Committee), 5b (Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Superstition Heights Street Lighting Improvement District and the City of Mesa for the operation and maintenance of street lighting facilities), and 5c (Authorizing the City Manager to execute an intergovernmental Agreement between the Signal Butte Manor II Street Lighting Improvement District and the City of Mesa for the operation and maintenance of street lighting facilities), and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in these items.

Councilmember Walters stated that regarding item 4e, although she previously indicated opposition to prohibiting rollerbladers from the pedestrian overlay areas, she has since changed her position.

8.1. Consider the following item from the Transportation Committee:

- a. Consider recommending Alternate A regarding the landscaping/art work for the U.S. 60 expansion, (to limit increases in landscaping densities to traffic interchanges while maintaining the densities along the freeway main line segments and to concentrate the

enhanced wall treatments along the main line segments between the traffic interchanges) at an approximate cost of \$2.4 million be approved.

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin and City Engineer Keith Nath displayed graphics in the Council Chambers and spoke regarding this agenda item. Mr. Martin and Mr. Nath provided information regarding the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) landscaping and wall treatment standards along valley freeways and also the process of developing the proposed U.S. 60 enhancements through meetings with ADOT, Denver artist Carolyn Braaksma and homeowners along the freeway corridor. Mr. Nath also discussed the landscaping and wall treatment enhancements proposed in Alternatives A and B including plant densities and placement, art work designs and placement, wall color and the cost of each alternative.

2. Discuss and consider a report on the findings of the E-Street Task Force pertaining to telecommunication infrastructure issues.

Vice Mayor Davidson declared a potential conflict of interest on this item and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in this item.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised the Council that the E-Streets Task Force had prepared a very comprehensive report of findings pertaining to telecommunication infrastructure issues. Mr. Hutchinson introduced Management Services Manager Dan Brewer, Chairman of the E-Streets Task Force, who provided a brief overview of their report.

Mr. Brewer referred to graphics displayed in the Council Chambers and to a comprehensive written report of findings provided to the Council (See Attachment). Mr. Brewer advised the Council that the commission of the task force was to prepare the community for living and earning a living in a network world, promote interconnection of Mesa businesses, residents and public institutions, strengthen the City government's ability to respond to citizens' needs for information and services and address the issues related to right-of-ways and aesthetics associated with right-of-ways. Mr. Brewer reported that the task force included three teams, a Community Net Subteam chaired by Economic Development Director Dick Mulligan, an Institutional Network Subteam chaired by Special Assistant to the City Manager Jenny Sheppard and a Cost Recovery and Aesthetics Subteam chaired by Development Services Administrator Jeff Welker.

Mr. Brewer reported on numerous issues including findings relative to the community's infrastructure and service availability, the location of fiber optic lines in the community, assessment of the community's readiness to live and work in a network world, assessment of the City's governmental network, the effect of above ground equipment shelters on streetscape aesthetics, cost recovery for street degradation and plan review, permits and inspections, and cost recovery for rights-of-way acquisition and maintenance. Mr. Brewer further reported on the task force's recommendations for immediate, near-term and long-range action relative to these issues.

Mr. Brewer's summary of the task force's recommendations included:

- Wire downtown.
- Invest in economic development areas where needed by installing telecommunications infrastructure.

- Continue the practice of acquiring low cost infrastructure through the licensing process.
- Establish joint trenching policies and practices.
- Authorize Phase II of the connecting Mesa project.
- Install conduit for City government use based on obvious need.
- Commission the development of a detailed master plan for city government telecommunications infrastructure.
- Update City policy and practices related to right-of-ways, cost recovery, and streetscape aesthetics issues.

Mr. Brewer advised the Council that the task force had spent considerable time with these issues and stated the opinion that the community would be positively impacted by them.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, Mr. Brewer confirmed that one of the task force's recommendations was to commission Connecting Communities, Inc. to conduct Phase II of the Connecting Communities Process to develop action plans on how to encourage citizens and various business sectors to be more fully prepared for living in a networked world, at the cost of \$18,000 plus per diem expenses.

Additional discussion ensued regarding the proposed purpose and role of Connecting Communities, Inc.

Mayor Hawker expressed his appreciation to everyone who participated in the task force and complimented the members on their thorough report and presentation.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker regarding the City's underground electrical wiring, Mr. Brewer advised that communication conduit could be placed next to the electrical system without interference.

Councilmember Kavanaugh also complimented the task force on their comprehensive approach and report and stated the opinion that communications infrastructure is just as important as other types of utilities. Councilmember Kavanaugh voiced support for the task force's recommendations.

Councilmember Jaffa concurred with the comments of the previous speakers and expressed concerns regarding investing in wire technology prior to conducting a thorough study of this area. Councilmember Jaffa also commented on the importance of assessing impact and right-of-way fees.

Councilmember Waiters complimented the task force and expressed appreciation to the numerous people in the community who devoted time to the project.

In response to a question from Councilmember Walters regarding the task force's recommended postponement of the street degradation cost recovery plan and street cut moratorium policy, Mr. Brewer advised that legality issues had to be addressed first. Mr. Brewer added that he believed a uniform policy regarding recovery fees would be adopted by area cities in the future.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy, that the recommendations of the E-Streets Task Force pertaining to telecommunication infrastructure issues be approved.

Mr. Brewer responded to concerns expressed by Councilmember Jaffa regarding wire vs. wireless technology and stated that this issue would be addressed in the proposed consulting study.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Hawker-Jaffa-Kavanaugh-Pomeroy-Walters-Whalen
NAYS - None
ABSTAIN - Davidson

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those voting.

3. Hear an evaluation and consider recommendations on the Simply Citrus! and A Merry Main Street events.

Mayor Hawker stated that due to time constraints, this agenda item will be discussed at a future meeting.

4. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees

- a. Design Review Board meeting held December 6.
- b. Economic Development Advisory Board meeting held October 24.
- c. Library Advisory Board meeting held December 5.
- d. Police Committee meeting held November 9.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

There were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, December 21, 2000, 7:30 a.m. - Study Session

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

- a. Hear from Charles Crismon regarding the remodeling of the new Crismon Baby Boutique located at 1455 East University.

Charles Crismon distributed a packet of materials to each Councilmember and City Manager Mike Hutchinson and stated that the packets provided a chronology of events associated with relocation of the Crismon Baby Boutique from 55 E. Main Street to 1455 E. University Drive. Mr. Crismon stated that his wife, Lesa Crismon, was also present in the audience. Mr. Crismon explained that the business was forced to relocate due to the upcoming construction of the new Arts and Entertainment Center. Mr. Crismon discussed problems and delays they had encountered in being allowed to occupy the building they had purchased and renovated at 1455 E. University.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mr. Crismon for his comments.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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 18th day of December, 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

Attachment
pjt

DATE: December 7, 2000

TO: Mesa City Council

THROUGH: Mike Hutchinson, City Manager

FROM: Dan Brewer, Management Services Manager, Chair of E-Streets Task Force

SUBJECT: Assessment of the Community and City Government's Telecommunications Infrastructures and Right-Of-Way Maintenance Cost And Aesthetic Issues Citywide

Purpose

This report and accompanying attachments are intended to brief the Council on the findings of the E-Streets Task Force and to make recommendations for immediate, near-term and long-range action.

The attachments are the product of six months of work by Mesa residents, business owners, City staff, and telecommunications experts hired to assist the City in gathering and interpreting data related to interrelated telecommunication infrastructure issues.

Recommendations

The E-Streets Task Force Steering Team forwards the following recommendations to the Council for its consideration:

Immediate *Mart* within the next 60 days) Actions To Be Undertaken

Community Network

- Invest in designated economic development areas by installing empty conduit when the City, another agency, or a private sector service provider opens the ground for a project and/or use our waste water system for installation of telecommunications' infrastructure when it is determined that private sector service providers will not install infrastructure in the near term for lack of customers.
- Wire Downtown - seek a return on our past investment in conduit downtown and promote economic development by identifying, through the RFP process, a service provider(s) that will partner with the City to provide "advanced" (minimum - 200K in both ways) telecommunications service at low cost in the City of Mesa electric service area utilizing the Electric Department's conduit and other existing infrastructure.
- Negotiating for low cost construction of telecommunications' infrastructure during the licensing process.
- Commission Connecting Communities, Inc. to conduct Phase 2 of the Connecting Communities Process to develop action plans on how to encourage citizens and various business sectors to be more fully prepared for living in a networked world.

Government Network

- install conduit where there is an obvious need to install conduit for government use when the City, another agency, or a private sector service provider opens the ground for a project.
- Negotiating for low cost construction of telecommunications' infrastructure during the licensing process.
- Commission the development of a Master Plan for the City's internal communications network.

Near Term (start within this fiscal year) Actions To Be Undertaken

Government Network

- Begin the systematic upgrade and expansion of the I-Net based upon Council approval of the internal communications network Master Plan and estimated budget.

Rights-Of-Way-Aesthetics

- Based upon Council approval regulate for height, location, and placement of Above Ground Equipment Shelters, "AGES", in public R/W & easements on both commercial & residential property.

Cost Recovery

- Based upon Council approval implement a Direct Cost Fee Schedule for plan review, permits and inspections.

Longer Term (not until next fiscal year or beyond) Action

Community Network

- Promote the construction of a telecom Hotel.
- Put the City's building permit process on-line.

Cost Recovery

- Adopt a "Street degradation cost recovery" fee schedule and "street cut" moratorium policy.
- Adopt a right-of-way acquisition & maintenance "cost recovery" fee schedule.

Background

Beginning in the late 1990s, communities throughout the U.S. have been faced with the opportunity to respond to fundamental changes in the way business is conducted and people communicate information. That change is the advent of E-commerce. In order to take full advantage of E-commerce, communities must have the infrastructure to transmit electronic information at high speeds via secure settings.

Discussion

Development of appropriate infrastructure to enable Mesa residents and businesses, as well as City government, to have access to E-commerce is a high priority for Mesa's City Council and City Manager.

This report is the conclusion of six months of work by Mesa residents, business owners, and City staff to examine a number of interrelated issues regarding development of this infrastructure:

Infrastructure for the community: What are the major needs, what is the current status of infrastructure development, and what are options for City government to be involved in developing infrastructure that will attract new economy businesses and provide fast, reliable, and secure broadband access for existing businesses and residents?

Infrastructure for City of Mesa government operations: What are the major needs, what is the current status of infrastructure development, and what are possible ways to develop and manage this infrastructure?

Issues related to recoupment of costs: What is reasonable for the City of Mesa to charge to parties that wish to use its rights of ways to site infrastructure, and what policies are needed to minimize negative aesthetic impact?

The process used to develop the findings and recommendations in this report includes fact-finding, assessment, and recommendation development by three separate subgroups. Each subgroup received support from a nationally recognized consultant expert. Following individual subgroup work, the chairs of those subgroups and the E-streets Task Force Chair reviewed the total package and devised the recommendations contained in the body of this Report.

The recommendations contained in the report are, we believe, responsive to City Management's and City Council's overriding concern that Mesa City Government must act swiftly and strategically to the development of community infrastructure that will encourage the location and retention of New Economy businesses. Additionally, the Report contains recommendations regarding how the City might develop an institutional fiber optic network, recoup municipal costs related to the use of City rights of way for placement of E-commerce infrastructure, and address aesthetic issues in municipal rights of way.

Individual reports of the subgroups, along with consultant materials, and lists of individuals involved in this effort are attached.

We look forward to City Management and City Council's review of the findings and recommendations contained in the report.

Alternatives (Related to the Community's Infrastructure)

As the *nation's information-age* economy expands, advanced telecommunications will increase in importance and should help to retain business and assist economic development efforts.

Should the City have an active role in development of the community telecommunications' infrastructure? If not, the default alternative is a governance role. If so, how will the integrated telecommunications' infrastructure be developed?

Governance Alternative

The City's role would be limited to fulfilling its telecommunications' governance responsibilities to ensure that service providers comply with local ordinances, state and federal statutes.

Private Development Only Alternative

Under this alternative, the City's role would be to promote the advancement of telecommunications by private enterprise.

Public Development Alternative

The City's role under this alternative would be to develop an integrated citywide telecommunications' infrastructure by itself or with other public organizations such as neighboring cities, public utilities, and other public organizations.

Public/Private Partnership Alternative

The City would form a public/private partnership to develop the integrated telecommunications' infrastructure under this alternative. This alternative would provide good returns, risks, and control would be shared between public and private enterprise. This alternative provides the best use of competencies and resources.

We recommend the Public/Private Partnership Alternative.

Financial Impact of Immediate Actions To Be Undertaken

Community Network

- Invest in designated economic development areas by installing empty conduit when the City, another agency, or a private sector service provider opens the ground for a project or uses our waste water system for installation of telecommunications' infrastructure when it is determined that private sector service providers will not install infrastructure in the near term for lack of customers.

Estimated cost of one 1 1/2" conduit per mile of trench opened for another purpose = \$7,900.

- **Wire Downtown** - seek a return on our past investment in conduit downtown and promote economic development by identifying, through the RFP process, a service provider(s) that will partner with the City to provide "advanced" (minimum - 200K in both ways) telecommunications' service at low cost in the City of Mesa electric service area utilizing the Electric Department's conduit and other existing infrastructure.

Estimated cost of one fiber strand per mile = \$317.

- Negotiate low cost construction of telecommunications' infrastructure during the licensing process.
Cost unknown.
- Commission Connecting Communities, Inc. to conduct Phase 2 of the Connecting Communities Process to develop action plans on how to encourage citizens and various business sectors to be more fully prepared for living in a networked world.
Actual Cost for Phase 2 consulting = \$18,000 + per diem expenses.

Government Network

- Install conduit based upon obvious need until a master plan is formulated when the City, another agency, or a private sector service provider opens the ground for a project.

Estimated cost of one 1 1/2" conduit per mile of trench opened for another purpose = \$7,800.

- Negotiate low cost construction of telecommunications' infrastructure during the licensing process.
Cost unknown.
- Commission the development of a Master Plan for the City's internal communications network.
Estimated consulting cost for development of a Master Plan = \$50,000 - \$70,000.

Staff Originator

City Manager