

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 21, 2002

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Special Council Meeting in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on November 21, 2002 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Hawker
Dennis Kavanaugh
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Janie Thom
Mike Whalen
Claudia Walters

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

1. Consider the City Manager's recommendation to appoint Dennis L. Donna as Police Chief.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson reported that Police Chief Jan Strauss will be retiring from the City on November 30, 2002. He stated that after an extensive nationwide recruitment process, it is his recommendation that Assistant Police Chief Dennis L. Donna be appointed as the new Police Chief for the City of Mesa.

It was moved by Councilmember Griswold, seconded by Councilmember Whalen, that the recommendation to appoint Dennis L. Donna as the Police Chief for the City of Mesa, be approved.

Councilmember Whalen expressed support for the motion and commented that he had the pleasure to work with Chief Donna for many years. He stated that Chief Donna will bring strong leadership skills, as well as integrity to the position of Police Chief.

Councilmember Walters advised that although there were many outstanding candidates vying for the position of Police Chief, it was the opinion of the Council that Chief Donna was the most appropriate candidate to lead the Mesa Police Department into the future. She added that she looks forward to the Police Department's continued excellence under the leadership of Chief Donna.

Mayor Hawker voiced support for the motion and commented that it is an honor to have Chief Donna as the City's new Police Chief. He also noted that during the candidates' interview process, he was impressed by Chief Donna's vision to establish more effective lines of communication throughout the entire department.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh concurred with the comments of the other Councilmembers and added that he is supportive of Chief Donna's commitment to implement a higher degree of community policing.

Councilmember Jones stated that in reviewing the various candidates' applications, the Council felt it was imperative that the individual who was ultimately selected as Police Chief would possess strong leadership qualities, garner the respect of fellow officers and employees, and would endeavor to eliminate internal conflicts within the Police Department. He advised that it was the consensus of the Council that Chief Donna was the best candidate to meet those challenges.

Councilmember Griswold expressed support for the motion and added that he looks forward to a positive and rewarding working relationship with Chief Donna.

Carried unanimously.

Mayor Hawker, on behalf of the entire Council, congratulated Chief Donna on his appointment.

Chief Donna addressed the Council and stated that it is an honor to be selected as Police Chief for the City of Mesa and to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of Mesa in this capacity. He thanked his family and colleagues for their support, and also acknowledged City Manager Mike Hutchinson and the City Council for entrusting him with this important position.

2. Discuss and consider increasing the City Attorney's salary to \$131,972.00, effective November 25, 2002.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson reported that City Attorney Debbie Spinner has been employed by the City for a period of one year, and that traditionally at this time, the Council may consider approving an increase in her salary if it is deemed appropriate. He stated that it is his recommendation to increase the City Attorney's salary to \$131,972.00, which represents a 3% increase, effective November 25, 2002.

Mayor Hawker expressed support for the City Manager's recommendation and commented that Ms. Spinner has encountered many challenges during her first year as City Attorney. He noted that with reference to Mesa's proposed multipurpose facility, Ms. Spinner drafted documentation which has become a model for other municipalities throughout the Valley. Mayor Hawker also commended Deputy City Attorney Joe Padilla for assisting Ms. Spinner to make a smooth transition to the City of Mesa.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh voiced support for the recommendation. He noted that Ms. Spinner leads a team of hard working and dedicated staff members and that she has also provided sound legal advice to the Council on many occasions.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that the recommendation to increase the City Attorney's salary to \$131,972.00 effective November 25, 2002, be approved.

Councilmember Griswold said that although he is generally not supportive of salary increases during budget shortfalls, in his opinion, it is appropriate to increase the City Attorney's salary in

order to raise it to a comparable level with the salaries of the City Attorneys in other Valley communities.

Councilmember Walters concurred with the comments of the other Councilmembers and expressed appreciation to Ms. Spinner for her efforts and hard work on a variety of complicated and complex legal issues during the past year.

Councilmember Whalen voiced support for the motion and added that he has been impressed with Ms. Spinner's ability to find a balance between her position with the City and her family life as well.

Councilmember Thom expressed support for the motion and voiced appreciation to Ms. Spinner for presenting a positive image of the City Attorney's Office to the community.

Councilmember Jones noted that as a new Councilmember, he has appreciated Ms. Spinner's efforts to familiarize him with a variety of legal issues.

Carried unanimously.

3. Consider the City Manager's recommendation to appoint Debra Dollar as Interim Community Services Manager.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson explained that Community Services Manager Wayne Korinek will be retiring from the City effective November 30, 2002, and that he has recommended that Deputy City Manager Debra Dollar assume his responsibilities as Interim Community Services Manager. He noted that in addition to her regular duties, she will oversee the Arts and Cultural Division as the Interim Manager.

It was moved by Councilmember Jones, seconded by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, that the recommendation to appoint Debra Dollar as Interim Community Services Manager, be approved.

Councilmember Griswold commended Ms. Dollar for her willingness to take on additional responsibilities within the organization and noted that she is setting a good example for other City employees to follow.

Carried unanimously.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Special Council Meeting adjourned at 8:00 a.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

Special Council Meeting
November 21, 2002
Page 4

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Special Council Meeting of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 21st day of November 2002. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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