

COUNCIL MINUTES

January 10, 1997

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 January 10, 1997, at 7:32 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Pat Gilbert
John Giles
Dennis Kavanaugh
Joan Payne
Wayne Pomeroy
Jim Stapley

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Pauline Backer
Wayne Balmer
Neal Beets
Beth Coon
Linda Crocker
John Gendron
Glenn Gorke
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Sharon Joyce
Harry Kent
Ron Krosting
Larry Lines
Jeff Martin
Tom Mattingly
Frank Mizner
Ruth Anne Norris
John Oliver

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Ellen Pence
Bill Petrie
Bryan Raines
Tom Remes
Denise Samuel
Trish Shaffstall
Debbie Vickman
Michael Whalen
Mindy White
Ralph Wisz
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Connors
Dan Nowicki
Others

1. Presentation of the Williams Area Transportation Study.

Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer explained that as part of the on-going planning efforts surrounding Williams Gateway Airport staff is examining future transportation needs. Mr. Balmer stated that Trish Shaffstall from the Williams Gateway Airport Authority would be introducing the presenter.

Ms. Shaffstall introduced Mike Connors, Project Manager from JHK & Associates. Mr. Connors stated that JHK & Associates are anticipating final adoption of the Williams Area Transportation Study by the Airport Authority Board and Maricopa County during the first quarter of 1997. Mr. Connors referred to overhead slides and discussed the impact of growth

over the next 20 years on employment, Arizona State University (ASU) programs, and various airport operations.

Mr. Connors stated that key issues regarding the study include: the construction of the San Tan Freeway, the Hawes interchange, the Queen Creek and Riggs Roads tie-in into interchanges on I-10, Williams Field Road from Williams to the San Tan, relocation of the airport terminal to the east side of the runway, the de-emphasizing of a section of Rittenhouse Road, and the extension of the transit system to Williams Gateway Airport.

Mr. Connors noted that the street system will be comprised of Mesa, Gilbert and Chandler plans and include a right-of-way, a bike lane, two-way turn lanes, and median spacing.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Gilbert, Mr. Connors explained that a rail line system would not create problems in relation to Rittenhouse Road.

Mayor Brown thanked Ms. Shaffstall and Mr. Connors for the report.

2. Discuss and consider proposed sign maintenance regulations.

City Plans Examiner Bill Petrie provided information pertaining to a study regarding sign maintenance and the removal of non-conforming signs in the City of Mesa. Mr. Petrie noted that neighboring cities are currently including provisions regarding the maintenance of new signage in their codes. Mr. Petrie indicated that staff has determined three alternatives regarding signage issues: 1) discuss with Mesa Town Center Corporation (MTCC), the Community Development and Planning Department and MegaCorp the voluntary compliance and modification of the signage ordinance; 2) address all signage, existing and new; and 3) do not initiate any changes to the ordinance and continue to operate on a complaint only basis.

Discussion ensued regarding grandfathering rights, placement of the cosmetic maintenance provision in the nuisance code, and the disrepair of existing signage.

Councilmember Giles noted the importance of maintaining signage and stated support for Alternative 2.

Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer stated that another option may be to use the first three items in Alternative 1 and combine them with Alternative 2.

Vice Mayor Gilbert stated the opinion that signage should be considered during the designing of streetscape projects.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Stapley, that Alternative 1 and 2 (see attached) of the proposed sign maintenance regulations proposed by staff be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES -	Brown-Gilbert-Giles-Kavanaugh-Pomeroy-Stapley
NAYS -	Payne
ABSENT-	None

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried by majority vote.

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

Councilmember Gibes informed Council that a meeting has been scheduled for Friday, January 10, 1997 at Fountain of the Sun to discuss the Red Mountain Freeway alignment.

City Manager Charles Luster stated that representatives from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will be present at the meeting to speak with homeowners regarding the Red Mountain Freeway alignment and the effects of the proposed alignment on the Fountain of the Sun subdivision.

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Mr. Luster advised that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Friday, January 17, 1997, 7:30 a.m. - Study Session

Friday, January 17, 1997, Transportation Committee Meeting - Immediately following the Study Session

Monday, January 20, 1997 - Martin Luther King/Civil Rights Holiday

Tuesday, January 21, 1997, 5:45 p.m. - Regular Council Meeting

5. Prescheduled public opinion appearances. (Maximum of three speakers for five minutes per speaker)

There were no pre-scheduled public opinion appearances.

6. Items from citizens present. (Maximum of three sneakers for five minutes per speaker)

There were no items from citizens present.

7. Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilmember Stapley, seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy, that the Study Session adjourn at 8:07 a.m.

Carried unanimously.

WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

Attachment

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 10th day of January, 1997. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 28th day of January 1997

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

ATTACHMENT

Page 3
COUNCIL REPORT

Alternatives

The Town Center obviously is the highest concentration of old signs within the city. Staff presents for consideration three possible alternatives for dealing with these signage issues.

Alternative #1: This alternative deals primarily with Town Center signage due to that being the area of most concern, however, the proposed code amendments for new sign installations would also apply to the entire city.

- * Code Compliance to actively enforce current code on the four existing damaged or dangerous signs and the eight possibly abandoned signs within the Town Center.
- * Work with the Town Center Corporation toward gaining voluntary improvement or removal of signs considered visual blight or in need of refurbishing.
- * Consider the use of CDBG funds to accomplish goals.
- * Amend Section 4-4-31 (I) and Section 4-4-34 of the sign code to include cosmetic and aesthetic maintenance concerns as conditions for approval of future sign permits. Existing signs would be grandfathered. These provisions would apply to all new signs installed throughout the city after the effective date of the ordinance (see "Attachment A" for possible ordinance language).

Alternative #2

- * Amend the nuisance ordinance to include signs in need of cosmetic maintenance or repair as public nuisances creating visual blight. This change, if placed within the sign ordinance, would not be effective on existing signs due to the grandfather rights associated with that code. This nuisance ordinance amendment could be enforced proactively or on a complaint only basis and would be applied to the entire city. See "Attachment B" for an example of a possible nuisance ordinance section dealing with visual blight.

Alternative #3

- * Continue current level of enforcement on a complaint basis with no code amendments.