

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 7, 1999

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Budget Review Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 7, 1999 at 7:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Chris Albright
Lisa Andrews
Wayne Balmer
Cindy Barris
Randy Bee
Neal Beets
Karla Blackwelder
Denise Bleyle
Jerry Brouwer
Mike Claspell
Dennis Compton
Bob DeLeon
Wayne Evans
Jack Friedline
Carl Geis
Bill Haney
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Harry Kent
Peter Knudson
Ron Krosting

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Tom Mattingly
Frank Mizner
Jerry Paulus
Ellen Pence
Dave Plumb
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer
Jackie Redpath
Tom Remes
Ursula Strephans
Walter Switzer
Larry Talley
Doug Tessendorf
Jamie Warner
Jim Wright
Christine Zielonka

OTHERS PRESENT

Robbie Sherwood

1. Fire Department.

Chief Compton addressed the members of the Council relative to this agenda item. Chief Compton introduced the members of staff present at the meeting and highlighted an organizational breakdown of the Fire Department. Chief Compton briefly highlighted the major areas of the Fire Department's focus in the following areas: Community Services, Emergency Services, Support Services and Human and Medical Services.

Chief Compton presented the major budget items of the Community Services which primarily focuses on public education. Chief Compton discussed a variety of programs that are the subject of the current budget including the Risk Watch Program, which is an education program in partnership with the National Fire Protection Association. Chief Compton added that another significant element of the Community Services Department is a drowning prevention program. Chief Compton stated that the Students Against Destructive Decisions, which is a high school-based program to prevent students from drinking and driving, is also another area that is being addressed by the Fire Department. Chief Compton emphasized the importance of

Fire Prevention Week and also highlighted the Fire Department's desire to gain access to gated communities via a radio receiver mounted onto the gate to allow access in emergency situations. Chief Compton addressed the Council relative to the Connector program, a volunteer-based program created to assist needy citizens with immediate concerns such as food, shelter and transportation. Chief Compton noted that by simply dialing three digits, citizens can access the Fire Department for an immediate emergency response.

Chief Compton highlighted a brief overview of the Emergency Services agenda items relative to 911 calls, and the fact it is the goal of the Fire Department to respond to all emergency calls within three minutes. Chief Compton also discussed the anticipated completion of the new fire station in northeast Mesa and the addition of three emergency response units that will include an adaptive response engine company, which travels wherever necessary, a second adaptive response engine and Engine 216 at the new northeast Mesa fire station.

Chief Compton discussed Support Services which controls the maintenance of the fleet and ensures that equipment remains operational in any given situation or emergency so that the department can act in an effective and efficient manner. Chief Compton also commented on a new computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system and Automatic Vehicle Location system (AVL). Chief Compton noted it is the Fire Department's goal to build an interconnect system between the Phoenix CAD system and Mesa's CAD system. Chief Compton referred to trunked radio technology and an automated communications and training system, which consists of an interactive video and computer-based communications and training system, as well as a portable smoke detector which operates on a radio frequency.

Chief Compton outlined Human and Medical Services, which comprises emergency medical support, the personnel and safety section and the special operations and training division. Chief Compton stated the Fire Department is in need of a new training captain at the academy to accommodate the large number of new recruits. Chief Compton detailed that departmental communications is focusing on media relations, which not only is utilized as an interest program involving the media, but also is an important tool to convey fire prevention messages to the Fire Department's customer base. Chief Compton added that a newsletter called the Flashover was created and also that an internal service survey will be conducted within the Fire Department as well.

Chief Compton responded to questions from Council relative to the Fire Department's new administrative office, the cost of optical devices for gated community access during an emergency, and computer-based training (CBT).

Mayor Brown thanked Chief Compton and his staff for their presentation.

2. Break.

Mayor Brown declared a recess at 8:15 a.m. and the meeting reconvened at 8:30 a.m.

3. Police Department.

Police Chief Jan Strauss addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Chief Strauss introduced the members of staff present at the meeting and highlighted an organizational breakdown of the Police Department.

Chief Strauss noted that the law enforcement budget for 1999/2000 totals \$96,853,195 which represents an increase of \$8,582,195 or 9.72% over the 1998/1999 budget.

Discussion ensued relative to requested sworn and civilian positions for the upcoming year, fleet requirements and maintenance costs, the addition of a training academy to accommodate new officers, and proposed increases in overtime funds to meet the demands of the department.

Chief Strauss stated that it is the Police Department's highest priority to increase the patrol force to a level which will allow the officers to handle their current workload and still have proactive time to prevent crimes through community policing

Discussion ensued relative to the Police Department's ability to track sex offenders in the City of Mesa, the fact that currently a sex offender notification unit is manned by two detectives and the fact that three additional detectives and a sergeant are needed to efficiently and effectively track offenders.

Additional discussion ensued relative to the presence of police officers on high school campuses and the fact that the Police Department is also implementing a photo radar campaign to educate students relative to this issue.

Chief Strauss responded to questions from the Council with regard to the current status of recruiting 911 operators, the education and extensive training process and the fact a new dispatch system is in place.

Discussion ensued relative to the Police Department's goal to establish a full-time SWAT team in lieu of recent incidents around the country, and the fact that security issues in the City Plaza Building need to be addressed more extensively at future Council Study Sessions.

City Manager Charles Luster discussed a proposed pay increase of 5% for police officers through the rank of lieutenant and also a pay shift differential for police personnel in an effort to attract new recruits to the department.

Mayor Brown thanked Chief Strauss and her staff for their presentation.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Budget Review Session adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Budget Review Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 7th 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