

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 4, 2007

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 June 4, 2007 at 5:15 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Tom Rawles
Scott Somers
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the June 4, 2007 regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: 6c (Hawker-Whalen); 6d (Hawker); 10 (Walters)

Items deleted from the agenda: 7i

Items removed from the consent agenda: 8e, 8f and 9a

City Attorney Debbie Spinner advised that some minor changes were made to the Development Agreement (Agenda Item 10f) that reflect the intent of the parties and previous Council discussions. She outlined the following changes for the record:

- Page iii: A listing for "Exhibit C – Minimum Public Improvement" was inadvertently omitted and is now included.
- Page 3, Section 1. (c): In the definition of the agreement, the recitals, "Paragraphs A through K," was omitted and is now included.
- Page 8, under Section 1. (eee): The definition of term is changed from "effective date" to "Close of Escrow." The document begins with the Close of Escrow, all of the rebates begin

at the Close of Escrow, and the term of the Agreement begins at the Close of Escrow and terminates 24 years from that date.

- Page 16, Section 8.1: In reference to the sales tax rebate, language was included to clearly reflect the intent that all of the taxes generated by the City's golf course and park are excluded from the sales tax rebates. The "effective date" in the same paragraph was changed to the "Close of Escrow."
- Page 16, Section 8.1. (a): The "effective date" was changed to "Close of Escrow" regarding the rebate.
- Pages 17 and 18: References to the "effective date" have been changed to "Close of Escrow" in order to be consistent throughout the document.
- Page 30, Section 14.20: Two numbers were transposed. Section "8.7" has been changed to read "7.8."

Ms. Spinner stated that the information was provided to the City Clerk and the changes are reflected in the documents to be considered by the Council at the Regular Council meeting.

2. Discuss and provide direction on human services funding for FY 07/08.

City Manager Christopher Brady advised that this item is a follow up from the previous Study Session in order to enable Councilmember Jones to participate in this discussion.

City Attorney Debbie Spinner responded to a question from Mayor Hawker regarding a Councilmember's potential conflicts of interest concerning funding for particular entities by advising that the Councilmember should not participate in discussions regarding changes in funding for an entity with which he or she has a potential conflict. She confirmed that the Councilmember could vote on the entire tentative budget when the Council considers the issue at the Regular meeting.

Neighborhood Services Director Kari Kent said that the staff is requesting direction regarding the possibility of adding a three percent inflationary adjustment in the amount of \$23,000 to the Human Services budget and the manner in which that amount would be allocated. She stated that the alternatives include the following:

- Add an inflationary adjustment of three percent to the Human Services budget and allocate funds to two agencies not currently funded: the Teen Suicide Hotline and the Care Partnerships.
- Adjust the funding recommendation by three percent for each of the agencies currently budgeted for funding.
- Do not include an inflationary adjustment of three percent.

Mayor Hawker expressed opposition to providing a three percent inflationary adjustment to the Human Services budget. He noted that although the agencies perform valuable services, he prefers that the non-profit agencies increase their reliance on private funding. He added that he could not support adding an agency to the funding budget unless an existing agency was removed.

Ms. Spinner clarified that Councilmember Whalen can speak to any item in the Human Services budget that does not pose a potential conflict of interest, but she recommended that he declare a potential conflict of interest and refrain from voting on this agenda item. She confirmed that he could discuss the three percent inflationary adjustment as it applies to all of the agencies.

Councilmember Whalen declared a potential conflict of interest with respect to funding allocations to the following agencies: Pre-Hab of Arizona (now called A New Leaf) and the East Valley Child Crisis Center.

Councilmember Rawles stated that the issue before the Council is the proposal to provide an inflationary adjustment of three percent to the Human Services budget, and he added that he concurred with Mayor Hawker's opposition to increasing the budget.

Councilmember Jones expressed support for providing a three percent inflationary adjustment to the Human Services budget. He noted that reducing agency funding increases the City's costs to address other community problems.

Councilmember Whalen noted that the three percent adjustment could assist non-profit agencies that have difficulty retaining staff because of their inability to pay competitive wages. He added that a lack of funding for non-profit agencies results in increased Public Safety costs.

Vice Mayor Walters advised that in the past several years, the Council has made substantial cuts to non-profit agency funding and moved to a Public Safety model. She expressed support for the three percent inflationary adjustment to the agencies currently budgeted for funding.

Councilmember Griswold expressed support for the three percent adjustment as recommended by staff.

Councilmember Somers concurred with staff's recommendation for a three percent adjustment.

Mayor Hawker summarized that staff has direction to include in the budget a three percent inflationary adjustment for each of the agencies currently receiving funding.

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

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

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, June 5, 2007, 3:30 p.m. – General and Economic Development Committee

Thursday, June 7, 2007, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Mr. Brady announced that the Bass Pro Shop Grand Opening is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 6, 2007.

5. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

- a. Hear from Steve Collins regarding Fire Inspection fees.

Steve Collins, 1825 South Cholla, noted that several months ago he addressed the Council regarding Fire inspection fees and it was his understanding that the fees would be reevaluated. He outlined the fees charged by other jurisdictions, and he stated the opinion that categorizing group homes as "adult care facilities" was inappropriate. Mr. Collins requested that the Council reclassify group homes to a low risk category.

Mayor Hawker advised that Council reconsideration of the Fire inspection fees would require a request by the City Manager or other Councilmembers.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:40 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 4th day of June 2007. 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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