

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 16, 1998

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Special Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on July 16, 1998 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

Jim Davidson

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Pauline Backer
Wayne Balmer
Cindy Barris
Neal Beets
Denise Bleyle
Dan Brewer
Mike Claspell
Dennis Compton
Mark Coon
Gil Damiani
Carl Geis
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Harry Kent
Ron Krosting
Dorinda Larsen
Rich Lorig
Jeff Martin
Keith Nath
Eric Norenberg
Ellen Pence
Don Pfohl
David Plumb
Bryan Raines

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Andrea Rasizer
Tom Remes
Becky Richardson
Jenny Sheppard
Jan Siedler
Jan Strauss
Ursula Strehphans
Ron Von Burg
Mindy White
Paul Wilson
Larry Woolf

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark Bare
Charlie Deaton
Steve Farkquhar
Joanie Flatt
Ralph Pew
Robbie Sherwood
Peter Valenzuela
Marty Whalen
Others

Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Davidson from the meeting.

1. Adjournment and motion to convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Giles, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that the Council enter into an Executive Session and that the Special Session adjourn at 7:31 a.m.

Carried unanimously.

2. Executive Session.

- a. Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, or resignation of a public officer, appointee, or employee of the City (A.R.S. §38-431.03A(1)).
- b. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the City Attorney (A.R.S. §38-431.03A(3)).

At 7:31 a.m., the Council entered into an Executive Session for the purposes noted above.

3. Reconvene following Executive Session.

Mayor Brown reconvened the Special Session at 8:06 a.m.

4. Consider the following resolutions.

- a. Rescinding Resolution No. 7230; creating a Multipurpose Facilities District; and declaring an emergency - Resolution No. 7235.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Vice Mayor Giles, that Resolution No. 7235 be approved.

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried unanimously by those present and Resolution No. 7235 adopted.

- b. Rescinding Resolution No. 7231; and appointing two directors to the Board of Directors of the Rio Salado Crossing Multipurpose Facilities District - Resolution No. 7236.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Vice Mayor Giles, that Resolution No. 7236 be approved.

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried unanimously by those present and Resolution No. 7236 adopted.

Councilmember Jaffa spoke concerning the magnitude and potential economic opportunity provided by the Rio Salado Crossing project. Councilmember Jaffa explained that the approval of Resolution Nos. 7235 and 7236 allows the process to continue for possible referral of ballot propositions to voters at the upcoming November 3, 1998 General Election. Councilmember Jaffa commented that an emergency clause is appropriate, noting that if the City does not take advantage of the opportunity currently provided, the next potential date for consideration is in the year 2000, at which time such a proposal may no longer be feasible.

Councilmember Jaffa stated that Rio Salado Crossing represents a fleeting opportunity for the City to participate in a project that has the potential to enhance the stature of the City (jobs, revenue) and subsequently increase property value, generate additional upscale projects, and improve the quality of life for Mesa residents. Councilmember Jaffa indicated that the resolutions provide for the termination of the project should the City not obtain adequate information/satisfactory responses to questions, but expressed the opinion that the proposal deserves an opportunity to proceed in the meantime.

Councilmember Kavanaugh commended Mayor Brown for his leadership and stated the opinion that such action demonstrates vision rather than indecision. Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that Council will continue to exercise due diligence in considering the proposal. Councilmember Kavanaugh reported that the City has been reviewing the project for many months and that Council will continue working to ensure that a referral to the ballot represents the best possible proposal. Councilmember Kavanaugh indicated support for the elimination of jurisdictional issues as outlined in the resolutions.

Councilmember Hawker noted that Resolution Nos. 7235 and 7236 provide an opportunity for Queen Creek and Gilbert to participate in the District but said that other municipalities, such as the City of Tempe, are additionally invited to join.

In response to a question from Councilmember Hawker, City Attorney Neal Beets advised that the resolutions carry a sunset provision. Mr. Beets explained that under the provisions of the resolutions, only the Mesa electorate would be asked to approve an increase in sales tax (if referred by the City Council), but voters from Mesa, Queen Creek, and Gilbert would be asked by the District to authorize the sharing of State sales tax revenue that may be generated from the project. Mr. Beets clarified that Resolution Nos. 7235 and 7236 do not refer measures to the ballot but merely create the Multipurpose Facilities District.

Mayor Brown advised that the Mesa City Council has requested responses to an extensive number of questions pertaining to the Rio Salado Crossing project and is carefully considering the proposal. Mayor Brown commended Council for their efforts and expressed the opinion that steps undertaken by the City are appropriate in an effort to continue the process.

5. Adjournment.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Giles, seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy, that the Special Session adjourn at 8:22 a.m.

Carried unanimously.

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 Special Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 16th day of July 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1998

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK