

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 6, 1996

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 6, 1996 at 7:36 A.M.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Willie Wong
Jerry Boyd
Pat Gilbert
T. Farrell Jensen
Dale Johnson
Jim Stapley

COUNCIL ABSENT

Joan Payne

COUNCIL-ELECT PRESENT

Mayor-Elect Wayne Brown
John Giles
Dennis Kavanaugh

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Steve Baker
Kathy Barrett
Cindy Barris
Neal Beets
Linn Brown
Rick Clore
Fred Conway
Mark Coon
Tim Dougherty
Greg Fowler
John Geier
Brian Hall
Tyrone Howard
Mike Hutchinson
Lars Jarvie
Barbara Jones
Bob Jorgensen
Jon Kokanovich
Jerry Kos
Dorinda Larson
Rich Lorig
Jan Nelson
Dave Nichols
Joe Noce
Eric Norenberg

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Ruth Anne Norris
John Oliver
Ellen Pence
Don Pfohl
Shirley Pichoff
Charlotte Quintana
Bryan Raines
Leon Rawlings
Jackie Redpath
Harold Reeb
Donna Salemi
Sharon Seekins
John Smoyer
Jan Strauss
Jerry Thacker
Jaime Warner
Roger Weber
Mike Whalen
Paul Wilson

OTHER PRESENT

Robert Brinton
Dan Nowicki
Others

(Budget Review Session Items 1 through 7 were discussed at the May 3, 1996 Budget Review Session.)

Mayor Wong excused Councilmember Payne from the meeting.

8. Fire Department - John Oliver.

- a. Fire Prevention and Control Program #6300
Prevention Facilities and Equipment Bonds #9600

Fire Chief John Oliver distributed an organizational chart for the Fire Department and introduced Division Chiefs Dave Nichols, Paul Wilson, and John Geier and other members of the Department present at the meeting. Chief Oliver reviewed primary goals of the Fire Department and advised that the Department's average response time for calls is less than four minutes. Chief Oliver provided statistical information pertaining to call volumes, noting that the Department responded to 33,586 emergency calls during the past year and that an increase of approximately 7.5% is expected for the coming year. Chief Oliver referred to a map illustrating existing and future fire station locations.

Chief Oliver presented an overview of the Fire Department's FY 1996-97 budget proposal, emphasizing six priorities: a) continuation of the optically controlled traffic signal preemption system, b) procurement of five replacement pumpers and one replacement air/light unit, c) relocation of Fire Station #12 (spring of 1997), d) improvements to Fire Station #3, e) acquisition of land for fire stations in northeast and southeast areas, and f) microwave communications equipment installations at Fire Stations #2, #3, #4, #11, and #13.

Chief Oliver outlined capital priorities for the Fire Bond Program #9600, which for FY 1995-96 include two replacement pumpers, a southeast Police/Fire substation, and land acquisition in the northeast area, and for FY 1996-97 include Opticom intersection controllers, three replacement pumpers, one air/light replacement unit, improvements to Fire Station #3, land acquisition in the southeast area, and microwave communications equipment installations.

Discussion ensued concerning the disposition of replaced vehicles, an unfunded supplemental request for a fire protection engineer to interface with industries having complex manufacturing processes, continuous improvement efforts, the impact of Proposition 200, and operations at Williams Gateway Airport. Councilmember Boyd commented that perhaps additional consideration should be given to hiring a fire protection engineer.

In response to questions from Councilmember Gilbert, Chief Oliver indicated that two part-time clerical positions have been included in the budget for the upcoming year but noted the need for additional firefighters. Councilmember Gilbert expressed concern relative to the Department's ability to maintain response times with no increase in the overall number of firefighters.

Mayor-Elect Brown suggested that staff explore the use of a consulting firm to provide the services needed of a fire protection engineer.

Council commended the Fire Department for their work.

9. Police Department - Lars Jarvie.

- a. Law Enforcement Program #6100
Law Enforcement Bonds #9650

Police Chief Lars Jarvie introduced Assistant Police Chiefs Mike Whalen, Fred Conway, and Jan Strauss and other members of the Department present at the meeting. Chief Jarvie provided background information concerning the Police Department, noting the Department's goal and mission statement, full-service capabilities, and efforts to maintain accreditation. Chief Jarvie stated that the Department has requested additional personnel but has taken steps to improve efficiency, including the use of civilians/volunteers, pen-based notebook computers, an aviation unit, and access to an automated fingerprint system.

Chief Jarvie reported that calls for service continue to increase and indicated that supplemental budget requests for the upcoming year relate to maintaining the Department's average response time of 3.6 minutes and increasing the amount of time officers spend on proactive measures. Chief Jarvie spoke concerning attrition rates and stated that a total of 85 new positions have been requested in the FY 1996-97 budget, 50 of which will be assigned to Patrol, 21 to Administrative Services, and 14 to Special Operations. Chief Jarvie advised that a majority of the Patrol positions pertain to the opening of a new station in the Superstition Springs area. Chief Jarvie added that grant monies from the Universal Cops program will be used to help fund officers.

Chief Jarvie stated that two components of the bond program include the new 800 MHZ communications system and the acquisition of land for a new northeast station.

Assistant Police Chief Mike Whalen presented overheads pertaining to the Patrol Bureau. Chief Whalen provided statistical data concerning calls for service, priority level calls, response times, and workload assessment. Chief Whalen reviewed current officer availability, noting the division of time among calls for service and administrative and proactive efforts. Chief Whalen estimated an increase from 20% to 21% (October 1996 to October 1997) in the proactive allocation, given the requested new personnel. Chief Whalen identified by title the 41 sworn positions and 9 civilian positions for the Patrol Bureau included in the FY 1996-97 budget.

Assistant Police Chief Jan Strauss outlined the budget request for Criminal Investigations and Community Policing, stating the need for a crime analyst, administrative aids for the Victims Assistance program, detectives/sergeant for property and robbery detail and Crime Prevention, and officers from the Universal Cops program to work on the City's various crime-free programs. Chief Strauss commented concerning current workloads and reviewed proactive efforts currently underway.

Assistant Police Chief Fred Conway delineated operations included in the Administrative Services Bureau and personnel requested to support existing programs and the new Superstition Springs division, including public safety dispatchers and 911 operators, identification supervisors, a photo technician, a fingerprint technician, an evidence custodian, a senior criminalist, and crime lab technicians. Chief Conway spoke regarding the Department's computer aided dispatch (CAD) system, automated fingerprint identification system, pen-based laptop computers, land acquisition, 800 MHz communications system, and the provision of dispatch services for Gilbert and the Apache Junction Fire District.

Staff responded to questions from Council relative to training, laptop computers/report writing, dispatch services, community policing, the GREAT program, and photo radar.

Council expressed appreciation to the Police Department for their efforts.

10. Break.

At 10:20 a.m. Mayor Wong called for a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 10:30 a.m.

11. City Court - Harold Reeb.

a. Judicial Program #5300

Presiding City Magistrate Harold Reeb provided background information concerning the City Court, noting the division of operations into three areas: Customer Service, Court Services, and Collections. Judge Reeb advised that the Court handled approximately 54,000 cases last year, representing a 14% increase over the previous year.

Judge Reeb introduced Court Administrator Kathy Barrett and thanked her for her assistance.

Judge Reeb reviewed the FY 1996-97 City Court budget request and advised that much of the increase can be attributed to new construction. Judge Reeb spoke concerning the anticipated impact of various Police Department operations, including the pilot photo radar program.

In response to questions from Council, City Manager Charles Luster outlined anticipated time frames for expansion of the Court building.

Discussion ensued pertaining to security, staffing, responsibilities of pro tem judges, an unfunded request relating to a jury notification system, and fines/forfeitures.

Council commended the City Court for their efforts.

12. City Attorney/City Prosecutor - Neal Beets.

a. Legal Program #5400

City Attorney Neal Beets presented an overview of the FY 1996-97 budget request for the City Attorney/City Prosecutor, noting an increase of approximately 6.6% over last year's budget. Mr. Beets identified current staffing levels and stated that three new positions have been included in the budget for the upcoming year: a Prosecutor III and secretary for the Prosecutor's Office, and a receptionist for the City Attorney's Office. Mr. Beets anticipated that the Prosecutor III will be responsible for cases involving gang activity and domestic violence and will serve as a trainer/mentor for less experienced prosecutors.

Mr. Beets reviewed projected increases in insurance premiums and a capital request to replace an automobile.

Council and staff spoke concerning contracts for public defenders, litigation, and the selection of outside firms to represent the City on various cases.

Mayor Wong thanked Mr. Beets for the information.

(Mayor Wong excused Councilmember Gilbert at 11:10 a.m. for the remainder of the meeting.)

13. General Services Department - Rich Lorig.

- a. General Services Program #5800
- b. Fleet Support Services Program #8900
- c. Warehouse Program

General Services Manager Rich Lorig introduced members of the Department present at the meeting. Mr. Lorig stated that the General Services Department is divided into three programs: General Services, Fleet Support, and the Warehouse. Mr. Lorig advised that the General Services Department provides services to other City departments and noted that operating expenses are relatively low because costs are charged back to the departments using such services.

Mr. Lorig reviewed the FY 1996-97 proposed budget for the General Services Department. Mr. Lorig reported that major capital expenditures include communications equipment and replacement vehicles. Mr. Lorig said that funds have been included for Warehouse computer equipment and three new employees: two mechanics and one mail services worker.

Brief discussion ensued concerning the continued conversion of vehicles to compressed natural gas (CNG).

Mayor Wong expressed appreciation to Mr. Lorig for the presentation.

14. Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Robert Brinton, Executive Director of the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, presented an overview of the estimated final FY 1995-96 budget and anticipated FY 1996-97 budget for the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Brinton reported that Mesa has realized an increase in average hotel room rates for two consecutive years and that the trend is expected to continue through 1996. Mr. Brinton advised that a study is currently underway to determine the type of hotel development most appropriate for Mesa and should be available in approximately six months.

Mr. Brinton spoke in reference to the hospitality industry in Mesa; marketing efforts, including a new brochure, on-line visitors guide through the Internet, and a golf package offering 90-day advance bookings; a significant change to the budget through the new bed tax formula approved by voters at the March 26, 1996 Primary/Special Election; and funds contributed by the Bureau to the new Cubs stadium.

At the request of Council, Mr. Brinton noted responses from individuals/groups given the lack of a Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Day in Mesa and the new smoking measure recently approved by voters.

Mayor Wong thanked Mr. Brinton and the Convention and Visitors Bureau for their efforts.

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Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

WILLIE WONG, 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 6th day of May, 1996. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 30th day of May, 1996

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK