

COUNCIL MINUTES

March 29, 2001

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 March 29, 2001 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Neal Beets
Barbara Jones

(Vice Mayor Davidson excused Mayor Hawker from the beginning of the meeting. Mayor Hawker returned to the meeting at 7:55 a.m.)

1. Review items on the agenda for the April 2, 2001 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff with no formal action taken. There was specific discussion relative to the following items:

Vice Mayor Davidson declared that Mayor Hawker will have conflicts of interest on agenda items 4i (Turner Ranch Reservoir Disassembly, Removal and Disposal) and 4k (East Mesa Service Center Laundry Facility for the City of Mesa Fire Department) and said that he would refrain from discussion/participation in these items.

Vice Mayor Davidson declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 9.1 (Approving staff's recommendations relative to the establishment of a new City policy regarding joint/shared trenching for public utility providers be approved) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in this item.

Councilmember Jaffa declared a potential conflict of interest on agenda item 10a (Z00-65 North of the northwest corner of Sossaman Road and Germann Road) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in this item.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda items 7d and 7e will be removed from the consent agenda.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda item 10c will be added to the consent agenda.

2. Hear from Gus Nezer of the FAA regarding aircraft overflight issues.

Neighborhood Services Manager Wayne Balmer advised the Council that due to scheduling conflicts, Gus Nezer is unavailable to address the Council regarding this agenda item and that Gerald Pennington and Steve Weilig, representatives of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), will present an update regarding aircraft overflight issues.

Mr. Pennington referred to graphics displayed in the Council Chambers and provided brief historical background relative to this agenda item. Mr. Pennington explained that on October 5, 2000, the third runway at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport (PSHA) was open and that as a result of that event, the FAA updated all of the procedural documentation to reflect changes in the layout of the airport. Mr. Pennington stated that there were no route changes regarding arrival/departure procedures with the exception of the DRYHT, the departure procedure that most significantly impacts the City of Mesa. Mr. Pennington commented that modifications have been implemented to the DRYHT departure procedure to reflect the actual aircraft flight paths and that all other routes continue to follow the same flight path.

Mr. Pennington noted that all arrivals/departures at Sky Harbor are in an easterly or westerly direction and that various conditions dictate the process including wind patterns and also an agreement with the City of Phoenix to divide runway usage on an approximate 50% east and 50% west balance.

Discussion ensued relative to the 4 DME "gate" procedure, which was designed to extend flight paths farther to the east before turning north and south; the fact that the "gate" corresponds with the Pima/Price Roads interchange (Riverview Park in Mesa); the fact that the "gate" has not been moved further east into Mesa to alleviate aircraft overflights in Tempe and Scottsdale; the fact that the "gate" occurred as a result of an intergovernmental agreement between Phoenix and Tempe and that neither Mesa nor the FAA were asked to participate in the agreement negotiations, and the fact that it would be difficult to extend the current "gate" due to the area's topography.

Mr. Pennington spoke regarding current departure procedures.

Additional discussion ensued relative to the fact that the FAA and the Department of Transportation (DOT) are participating in a Congressionally-mandated program entitled Northwest 2000, which is being implemented to increase safety, to modify arrival and departure routes in critical traffic areas throughout the country (including Phoenix) and to reduce a significant amount of departure delays; the fact that the proposed changes are currently being evaluated through an Environmental Assessment (EA); the fact that the EA will be released for public review and comment April 9 - May 23, 2001; the fact that notification of availability for this document will be published in local newspapers, and documents will be available at local libraries; the fact that public informational workshops will be conducted during the week of April 23-26, 2001; the fact that actual locations, dates and times for such workshops will be published in the local newspapers, and also no public meetings in Mesa have been scheduled due to the fact no procedural changes will be implemented within the boundaries of the City.

Mr. Pennington displayed additional graphics relative to the Albuquerque Center's airspace (which encompasses PSHA), military operating areas, orbit areas, refueling tracks, various ground tracks, crossover and conflict points and tracks of en route traffic.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Davidson regarding complaints from Mesa residents relative to changes in altitude and increased noise, Mr. Pennington clarified that the volume of air traffic at PSHA and Williams Gateway Airport (WGA) has significantly increased, there is greater jet flight traffic and a

marked increase in aviation growth within the Valley. Mr. Pennington added, however, that while Phoenix, Tempe and Scottsdale may exert pressure to adjust flight approach patterns into PSHA, the FAA must adhere to specific regulations regarding the implementation of safe and appropriate aircraft landings and takeoffs.

Mr. Pennington spoke further regarding the implementation of noise mitigation measures by the FAA.

Vice Mayor Davidson expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Councilmember Jaffa thanked Mr. Pennington for his presentation and encouraged the FAA to continue to offer assistance to WGA in its pursuit to become a reliever airport for PSHA.

(Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Jaffa from the remainder of the meeting.)

Mr. Pennington expressed his willingness to meet with community groups in Mesa who have voiced concerns regarding aircraft overflight issues.

In response to a question from Councilmember Walters, Mr. Pennington advised that with greater technological advances, aircraft manufacturers will have the capacity to significantly diminish engine noise.

Councilmember Walters expressed the opinion that although Mesa's residents recognize the fact they must bear a portion of the burden regarding increased aircraft noise, it is imperative that it not be a disproportionate share. Councilmember Walters also thanked Mr. Pennington for his input.

Mr. Balmer advised the Council that staff is preparing a letter for the City Manager's signature relative to this matter and added that staff will be in attendance at the public informational workshops.

Mayor Hawker thanked everyone for the presentation.

3. Appointment to boards and committees.

Mayor Hawker recommended the following appointments to Boards and Committees:

COUNCIL DISTRICT COMMISSION:

Pat Langdon

Dwayne (Dee) E. Priester

Jim Driskill

Martha (Marti) Sezate Soza

Alice Swinehart

Mayor Hawker recommended that Pat Langdon serve as Chairman of the 2001 Council District Commission.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Davidson, seconded by Councilmember Whalen, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendations and the appointments be confirmed.

Councilmember Walters spoke in appreciation of the candidates who placed their names in nomination but were not selected to serve on the Committee.

Mayor Hawker requested that Mr. Langdon be provided with a list of those individuals who were not selected and extend an invitation to them to attend the Council District Commission meetings.

In response to a question from Councilmember Whalen, City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that staff has contacted the Department of Justice regarding an expedited review process in this matter.

Mayor Hawker noted that prospective City Council candidates must be a resident of a district for a period of two years.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Hawker-Davidson-Kavanaugh-Pomeroy-Walters-Whalen
ABSENT - Jaffa

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- a. Board of Adjustment meeting held March 13, 2001.
- b. Crime Prevention Advisory Board meeting held March 21, 2001.
- c. Downtown Development Committee meeting held March 8, 2001.
- d. Historic Preservation Committee meeting held March 8, 2001.

It was moved by Councilmember Pomeroy, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Hawker-Davidson-Kavanaugh-Pomeroy-Walters-Whalen
ABSENT - Jaffa

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

Mayor Hawker reported that he and a majority of the Council recently attended the dedication of the newly completed Williams Gateway Airport passenger terminal.

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, March 29, 2001 – Police Committee Meeting (Immediately following the Study Session)

Monday, April 2, 2001, 4:00 p.m. – Executive Session

Monday, April 2, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, April 2, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, April 5, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, April 12, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, April 12, 2001, 9:00 a.m. – Transportation Committee

Monday, April 16, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, April 16, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:43 a.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 29th day of March, 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2001.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK