



# COUNCIL MINUTES

April 13, 2004

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Meeting with Apache Junction City Council, 1001 N. Idaho Road, Apache Junction, Arizona on April 13, 2004 at 6:30 p.m.

## MESA CITY COUNCIL PRESENT

Keno Hawker, Mayor  
Rex Griswold  
Kyle Jones  
Janie Thom  
Claudia Walters  
Mike Whalen

## COUNCIL ABSENT

Dennis Kavanaugh

## MESA STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Wahid Alam  
Wayne Balmer  
Debra Dollar  
Jim Huling  
Barbara Jones  
Lynn Kusy  
Eric Norenberg  
Mike Renshaw  
John Wesley

## STAFF ABSENT

Paul Wenbert

## APACHE JUNCTION CITY COUNCIL PRESENT

Douglas Coleman  
Richard M. Dietz  
R. E. Eck  
John Insalaco  
Brian Milkey  
Kris Sippel  
Dave Waldron

## APACHE JUNCTION STAFF PRESENT

George Hoffman  
Charles Beck  
Kathy Connelly  
Rudy Esquivias  
Ron Grittman  
Bryant Powell  
Joel Stern

## APACHE JUNCTION STAFF ABSENT

Amy Malloy

### 1. Welcome and introductions.

Apache Junction Mayor Douglas Coleman requested that everyone introduce themselves.

## 2. Mutual partnerships.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson commented on the positive relationships the City of Mesa has had with the east valley cities over the years. Mr. Hutchinson discussed Mesa's efforts to assist surrounding cities with their water supply. He stated that currently a joint agreement exists that enables Apache Junction to purchase a portion of the water supply that Mesa receives from the Central Arizona Project (CAP) and then transfers to the Arizona Water Company for Apache Junction's use.

Mr. Hutchinson indicated that Mesa is currently trying to acquire land in order to construct a new plant in the southeast portion of the community. He reported that based on the fact that this endeavor is an expensive project, Apache Junction has expressed an interest in participating as a partner in that plan. Mr. Hutchinson stated that the City would welcome Apache Junction's partnership in the construction and operation of that plant.

Apache Junction City Manager George Hoffman commented on a recent situation regarding a broken 16-inch water line that necessitated shutting down the entire water system. He stated that a crew from the City of Mesa provided support and because of their assistance the water system was back in operation within forty-five minutes.

Mr. Hoffman also commented on the cooperative efforts between the cities relative to the dispatching of fire services provided by the City of Mesa and the assistance from Mesa's engineering staff with the installation of microwave communication systems.

Mr. Hutchinson mentioned the City's concerns regarding transportation issues relating to the growth forecasts for Pinal County east of Queen Creek and in southeast Mesa and Gilbert. He discussed the planning efforts sponsored by the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) to address the transportation needs for the future. Mr. Hutchinson also pointed out that the City of Mesa worked jointly with Apache Junction to ensure that the city became a member of the MAG Governing Board.

Mr. Hoffman discussed other partnerships including joint efforts expended in searching for grants and various shared training programs for employees.

## 3. Maricopa County Transportation Planning Process Presentation.

Mayor Hawker introduced this item with a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the history of the half-cent County sales tax that originated in 1985 and will expire in 2005. He informed everyone that the current plan has a 98% funding designation for freeways and only 2% for transit, and that the proposed plan, if passed by the voters, would specify 50% funding for freeways, 35% for transit and the remainder of the revenue for arterial street improvements. Mayor Hawker also mentioned some of the characteristics of the plan, such as the fact that the funding cannot be transferred from one mode of transportation to another, and that the plan contains a life cycle program that would analyze the projects and report on whether the goals were accomplished.

Mayor Hawker discussed other aspects of the transportation plan that incorporates a regional perspective of the major transportation issues and calls for the development of partnerships with Apache Junction and Pinal County to ensure that the road systems are supported throughout the entire region.

Mayor Hawker outlined several major issues identified in the study including arterial street grids and future freeway corridor loops that would enable the east valley to connect with Interstate 10 and Casa Grande. He also outlined the regional growth in the east valley from 1955 to the projections for 2030. He pointed out the Williams Gateway Airport influence area and indicated that it is projected to be a significant employment base. Mayor Hawker provided statistics regarding Maricopa County's population growth from 1900's to 2000 and projections for Maricopa County in 2040, which clearly indicate that the County will more than double its current population. He also pointed out that if Pinal County continues to grow at its current rate the County will likely double in population every ten years similar to the City of Mesa. Mayor Hawker outlined population densities for the State Trust Land and employment density projections.

In closing, Mayor Hawker emphasized the importance of obtaining sufficient transportation corridors that support job centers to ensure that employees can commute easily. He added that completion of the San Tan and Red Mountain freeways will be at the end of 2007 or early 2008. Mayor Hawker emphasized that the east valley, based on its current transportation needs, worked hard to ensure that the transportation plan provided funding for arterial streets and placed less emphasis on the construction of freeways.

#### 4. Overview of Williams Gateway Airport.

- a) Review of arrival/departure routes, land development planning to protect the airport.
- b) Review of WGA Authority membership opportunity.

Williams Gateway Area Project Manager Wayne Balmer pointed out that two items have been distributed: (1) a brief update of the new projects currently underway at the Airport and, (2) a letter from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to Mayor Hawker outlining Williams' approach and departure flight procedures.

Mr. Balmer discussed the landing and takeoff flight patterns to and from Williams Gateway Airport and pointed out that there are flight tracks that monitor every departing aircraft. He also spoke of the FAA's development of a new national system that will enable enhanced communication as a result of the implementation of new software and computers for aircraft that will coordinate safety, aircraft separation and aircraft arrivals and departures.

Mr. Balmer discussed the noise complaints received from residents in southeast Mesa, which average approximately forty a month, and reported that the City of Mesa is working with the FAA to ensure that heavy aircraft avoid flying over residential areas, particularly at low altitudes.

Williams Gateway Airport Authority Executive Director Lynn Kusy stated that as far as passenger travel at Williams Gateway, there were 2,300 passengers in 2003 and 2,000 in 2004. Mr. Kusy pointed out that these passengers are generated from the one flight a month to Laughlin and a monthly flight to Reno. Additionally, Mr. Kusy stated that charter flights continue to fly in and out of the airport daily, and he commented on the modern passenger terminal with its ticket counters, baggage belts and rental car counters. He noted that there are four terminal gates at the airport and indicated that the computer equipment prints tickets and baggage claims in an efficient manner similar to other regional airports.

Mr. Kusy also outlined other aspects of the airport relative to the thirty-five tenants (companies) located on the grounds, the one-thousand individuals employed by those tenants, the new buildings currently in the design phase for the purpose of constructing a cargo building and hangars, which are all generated from private investors.

In providing background relative to Williams Gateway Airport, Mr. Kusy stated that prior to the construction of any new buildings, it was necessary to rebuild all of the utility systems at the airport. Mr. Kusy explained that this project, which involved the building of roads and the development of lines for sewer, water, gas, electric, and telephones, was a lengthy and expensive endeavor.

Mr. Kusy stated that current projects include the extension of Sossaman Road south of the airport to Germann Road, and he commented that these road improvements will provide a south entrance to the airport. He discussed the airport's future development objectives, which includes increasing passenger service and cargo airlines while continuing to serve the general aviation community. Mr. Kusy mentioned the five flight schools currently housed at the airport and commented on the property that is available for future industrial development.

Mr. Kusy outlined the airport's marketing program and commented that last year their marketing program efforts were supplemented by an appropriation from the Phoenix City Council in the amount of \$100,000. He stated that for this upcoming year support has been requested in the amount of \$130,000 and reported that approval of this generous allocation was passed unanimously by the City of Phoenix Aviation Advisory Committee.

In closing, Mr. Kusy outlined the budget process which includes a retreat held in September of each year at which the Board adopts goals and objectives for the upcoming year. He stated that in April the work program, which includes the operation and capital budgets, is adopted by the Board of Directors and said that also, at that time, contributions to the budget (local support) are negotiated among its members. Mr. Kusy reported that the budget for Williams Gateway Airport is adopted on July 1<sup>st</sup>, which is the beginning of the new fiscal year.

In response to a request from Councilmember Griswold, Mr. Kusy explained that the funding support received from local entities are treated as a loans to the Authority and are required to be paid back with interest once the Authority realizes an overall profit.

Mr. Kusy mentioned that a packet of information has been distributed which includes the Airport's tenth anniversary brochure, a memorandum to the Board of Directors requesting an additional membership in the Airport Authority, and last year's budget allocation that delineates the funding levels derived from local support.

Discussion ensued regarding the steps that would be necessary should an entity wish to rejoin the Airport Authority. Mr. Kusy stated that currently there are no financial provisions in place for a "catch-up" of funds but commented that further discussion will take place among the current members.

Discussion ensued relative to Apache Junction's interest in becoming a member of the Williams Gateway Airport Authority.

5. Overview of General Plans and coordinated planning of State Trust Lands.

Apache Junction Development Services Director Rudy Esquivias provided a brief presentation regarding the City's General Plan. Mr. Esquivias outlined some general plan amendments and elements that are currently in process. He commented that a planning overview booklet has been distributed for review and outlined the various plans (i.e., transportation, development, proposed planning areas, flood easements and a state land conceptual use plan). He indicated that at the completion of the plans, the Council will be receiving direction from the City Clerk relative to a proposed date for an election.

In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Walters, Mr. Esquivias reported that based on certain factors (complete infill of current planning area), it is estimated that Apache Junction will have a population of 180,000. He explained that an estimate has not yet been made regarding their proposed growth for future planning areas at maximum build-out.

Councilmember Griswold commended the Apache Junction City Council for their land use plan which included special recognition for trails, retaining open spaces and connecting the Tonto National Forest for use by future generations.

Mr. Esquivias stated that a group of citizens, the "Apache Junction Open Space Task Force," makes recommendations regarding the preservation of specific land and is very sensitive regarding open space and natural washes.

Planning Director John Wesley discussed Mesa's Plan regarding the City's vision to have a balanced community with an even ratio of housing and employment opportunities. Mr. Wesley discussed the future economic hub of the Community, Williams Gateway Airport, and he also stressed the importance of providing a transportation system (alternative modes) that meets all the needs of the residents in the City. Mr. Wesley pointed out that Mesa's build out is estimated at 660,000 residents in approximately 230,000 housing units and employed by 307,000 jobs.

Mr. Wesley pointed out that a summary of Mesa's General Plan has been placed on the table in front of the room for any interested party's review.

Mayor Coleman thanked everyone for their attendance and stated appreciation to the Mesa City Council for taking the time to meet and discuss issues that impact both communities. He also provided the Mesa City Council with mementos marking Apache Junction's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and he expressed his appreciation to the Mesa Councilmembers who recently attended the groundbreaking of Apache Junction's new City Hall.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Joint Meeting between the Mesa City Council and the Apache Junction City Council adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

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KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Joint Meeting between the Mesa City Council and the Apache Junction City Council on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of April 2004. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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