

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 13, 1999

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Special Council Meeting in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on September 13, 1999 at 4:00 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Keno Hawker
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy

COUNCIL ABSENT

Bill Jaffa

STAFF PRESENT

Neal Beets
Denise Bleyle
Linda Crocker
Penny Griffin
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Joe Padilla
Ellen Pence
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer
Becky Richardson
Jenny Sheppard
Jan Strauss
Kim West
Mindy White
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Barrett Marson
Robbie Sherwood
Others

Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Jaffa from the meeting.

1. Consider appointing a Council City Manager Search Committee.

In response to a request from Mayor Brown, City Attorney Neal Beets provided a brief overview of the appointment process and noted that in accordance with State law, specifically the Open Meeting Law, a vote of the Council is required to create the committee. Mr. Beets stated that following a vote of the Council, the appointed committee will be subject to all of the rules and regulations governing the Open Meeting Law and added that confidential personnel issues may be discussed by the committee during Executive Sessions.

Discussion ensued relative to the proposed purpose of the committee, the fact that the committee will perform a variety of administrative duties, and the fact that all committee recommendations will be presented to the full Council for consideration.

Mayor Brown stated that if the City Council concurs that that the committee would be effective in the recruitment of executive search consultants, staff will be directed to prepare Request for Proposals (RFP's), which will be forwarded to a select number of consulting firms. Mayor Brown stated that following the tentative selection of three or four top firms, the committee will present their interview recommendations to the Council for their consideration. Mayor Brown noted that the process is lengthy

and said that following a vote on the appointment of the committee, the members will consider a number of parameters that will be followed throughout the selection process.

Councilmember Pomeroy stated that he supports the formation of the proposed committee and indicated approval of the proposed members, namely Mayor Brown, Vice Mayor Giles and Councilmember Kavanaugh. Councilmember Pomeroy commented that he agrees that the selected executive search firm should conduct the initial interviews and screening and added the opinion that once the number of candidates have been scaled down to between six and twelve qualified applicants, the full Council should become actively involved in the process.

Vice Mayor Giles concurred that the Council should be involved in the interview process and stressed the importance of determining the number of final applicants who will participate in that process. Vice Mayor Giles also informed the Council that he has spoken with the members of a search team which participated in the Mesa Public Schools' recent national search for a Superintendent and commented that the team recommends that the number of candidates to be interviewed be limited to ten (10).

Mr. Beets provided the Council with a brief overview of the rules of disclosure and reported that once a public entity has selected applicants to be interviewed, State law requires the disclosure of the names of those who have been chosen. Mr. Beets explained that although preliminary screening may occur without releasing names, once the committee and/or the City Council decides to conduct interviews, the applications of the candidates selected to participate in the process must be made available to the public and/or the media.

Additional discussion ensued relative to the number of candidates chosen for interviews and the process that was followed by the Judicial Advisory Board in their selection of City Magistrates.

Councilmember Hawker stated that he supports the proposed composition of the Council City Manager Selection Committee and added that he also concurs with Councilmember Pomeroy's remarks regarding the importance of full Council involvement. Councilmember Hawker commented that the Council Committee may reduce the number of candidates to ten (10) and the full Council could then select the final three (3) candidates. Councilmember Hawker briefly discussed the extensive selection process that will occur and stressed the importance of engaging the services of a highly qualified, professional executive search team.

Mayor Brown recommended that the Council determine the number of consulting firms that will be contacted and added that the selected consultant will be asked to provide input on the number of candidates to be interviewed and presented to the full Council for their consideration.

It was moved by Councilmember Pomeroy, seconded by Vice Mayor Giles, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendations and that Mayor Wayne Brown, Vice Mayor John Giles and Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh be appointed to the Council City Manager Search Committee and that the Committee proceed with the selection of three to five (3 to 5) executive search firms to be contacted and requested to forward RFP's to the City of Mesa.

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Mayor Brown requested input from the Committee relative to scheduling a meeting to review and select executive search firms from the list provided by the City of Phoenix to be contacted and requested to participate in the RFP process.

Discussion ensued among the members of the Council and Mayor Brown advised that the next meeting of the Council City Manager Search Committee will occur on Wednesday, September 15, 1999, at 4:00 p.m. in the Lower Council Chambers.

2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Special Session adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

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 Council Meeting of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 13th day of September, 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK