



OFFICE OF CITY CLERK

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 5, 2008

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 May 5, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Tom Rawles
Scott Somers
Darrell Truitt
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

Kyle Jones

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Debbie Spinner
Linda Crocker

Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Jones from the entire meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the May 5, 2008 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: 5a, j, k, l, n (Hawker); 5m (Hawker-Truitt); 6n (Hawker-Rawles)

Items removed from the consent agenda: 6h; 6o; 8d

Items added to the consent agenda: 6c; 8b

2. Hear a presentation and discuss the Payday Loan Stores ordinance.

Zoning/Civil Hearing Administrator Gordon Sheffield addressed the Council and said that the Council first considered this issue 19 months ago. He stated that the proposed ordinance is identical to the one considered at that time and includes a definition of non-chartered financial institutions, requires that the operation be registered with the Planning Department, and imposes a 1,200 foot separation between similar types of facilities. Mr. Sheffield advised that a joint meeting of the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Board and the Downtown Development Committee (DDC) was held to consider the issue. He reported that P&Z recommended approval with the additional requirement for a Council Use Permit and that the DDC recommended approval of the ordinance as proposed.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, Government Relations Director Scott Butler advised that the current legislation regarding payday loan operations is scheduled to "sunset" in 2010, after which payday loan operations would cease to exist in Arizona. Mr. Butler said that

there has been some discussion in the Legislature regarding the possibility of extending the sunset date and imposing additional regulations on the industry. He noted that an initiative is in process that proposes to place an item on the State ballot to eliminate payday loan stores. He added that the payday loan industry is also considering an initiative that proposes to extend the sunset date for these operations.

City Attorney Debbie Spinner advised that the Council could incorporate changes to the proposed ordinance at the Regular Council meeting this evening for consideration by the Council on May 19, 2008.

Mr. Sheffield reported that staff prepared a preliminary draft of Alternative B, which incorporates the changes proposed by P&Z, in the event the Council prefers to introduce that version of the ordinance at the meeting this evening.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mr. Sheffield for the information, and he noted that the Council would consider this item during the Regular Council meeting.

3. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on Planning and Building Safety fees.

Planning Director John Wesley stated that the Planning and Building Safety fees are on the agenda for the Regular Council meeting this evening.

Vice Mayor Walters indicated that she would like to recommend approval of the commercial fees only and move consideration of the remaining residential fees to the June 2, 2008 Council meeting. She noted that all of the fees would typically be scheduled for consideration at the June 2, 2008 Council meeting, but because of staffing issues in the Planning Department, this item is being considered at the May 5th meeting.

City Attorney Debbie Spinner advised that the Council could consider the commercial fees only and move the residential portion to the June 2nd meeting when all other fees and charges would be considered by the Council.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation.

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

Vice Mayor Walters: Mesa Leadership Training and Development class graduation.
Employee service award event for five and ten-year employees.
"Future of the Region" presentation.
"Fit City" event at Hohokam Stadium.

Mayor Hawker: Meeting with Queen Creek Mayor Sanders.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady reported that Standard and Poor's announced today that the City's General Obligation Bonds are being upgraded from AA- to AA and that the Utility System Revenue Bonds are being upgraded from A+ to AA-. He noted that considering current

economic conditions and the financial problems of many cities, this was a remarkable accomplishment that reflected the Council's efforts regarding financing and fund balances.

Mr. Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, May 5, 2008, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, May 5, 2008, TBA – Audit & Finance Committee Meeting

6. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LINDA CROCKER, 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 5th day of May 2008. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

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