

# AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ETHICS MINUTES

November 17, 1999

The Council Ad Hoc Ethics Committee of the City of Mesa met in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on November 17, 1999 at 4:30 p.m.

## COMMITTEE PRESENT

Dennis Kavanaugh, Chairman  
John Giles  
Keno Hawker

## COUNCIL PRESENT

None

## STAFF PRESENT

Cindy Barris  
Neal Beets  
Barbara Jones  
Tom Remes

1. Further discussion and consideration of ethics standards for Councilmembers and Citizen Advisory Boards.

Chairman Kavanaugh welcomed everyone in attendance and explained that the purpose of the meeting is to review the proposed Mesa City Charter ethic standards changes for Councilmembers and Citizen Advisory Boards which will be presented for voter approval at the March 14, 2000 Primary election. Chairman Kavanaugh urged the Committee to consider amendments to the City Charter regarding the investigations of Advisory Boardmembers and Councilmembers regarding sanctions, and also seeking a more precise definition of "misconduct." Chairman Kavanaugh recommended two modifications to the Ethics Standards including: 1) the deletion of the Ethics Advisory Board as the investigative body and replacement with the Council, and 2) the investigation of Councilmember misconduct would span five years of being elected or appointed to office.

Committeemember Hawker concurred with Chairman Kavanaugh's suggestion relative to the abolishment of the Ethics Advisory Board and the Council or a Designee being authorized to conduct Councilmember and Citizen Advisory Boardmember investigations. Committeemember Hawker stated the opinion that without the Board, the City Council should have the power to enable an investigation to take place, either the City Attorney or, if the magnitude of the case warranted, a special investigator, appointed by the Council.

Committeemember Hawker said that he strongly supports the elimination of the proposed Ethics Advisory Board and said that he had serious concerns regarding providing a non-elected Board with that much power and authority.

Discussion ensued relative to a proposal contained in the ethics code which states that 5 of the 7 members of the Council can vote to remove a fellow Councilmember from office, the fact that the Code of Ethics will not be part of the City Charter and is similar to the rules of Ethics that apply in the U.S. Senate, Congress and the Legislature, the fact that a difference exists between being inept and being unethical, the fact that the Ethics Code will be revised as required,

2. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting of the Council Ad Hoc Ethics Committee adjourned at XXX p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council Ad Hoc Ethics Committee of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 17th day of November 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1999

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK