

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 6, 2002

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 6, 2002 at 4:45 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the May 6, 2002 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:

Councilmember Whalen declared a potential conflict of interest regarding agenda item 4g (Mary L. Matta, Agent, New Restaurant License for Dos Matta's, 1425 S. Alma School Rd., Ste. 105) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in this item.

Mayor Hawker declared potential conflicts of interest regarding agenda items 5a (Basketball court refinishing as requested by the Parks & Recreation Division), 5i (Desert Wells #3 Equipment and Piping), 5j (8th Street Retaining Wall, 1608, 1616 and 1624 West Mountain View) and 5k (Mesa Arts Center and Mesa Town Center Streetscape Improvements, Phase 4) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in these items.

Vice Mayor Davidson declared potential conflicts of interest regarding agenda items 7b (Authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between Salt River Project Agricultural Improvement and Power district and the City of Mesa for the Photovoltaic Demonstration Project at the East Mesa Regional Library), 7d (Extinguishing a portion of a Public Utilities Easement at 7703 East Des Moines Street), and 7i (Approving and authorizing the City Manager to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between Salt River Project and the City of Mesa) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in these items.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda item 10e (Z02-10 The southeast corner of Hawes Road and East Pueblo Avenue) would be added to the consent agenda.

2. Discuss and consider a Legislative update.

Assistant to the City Manager Jim Huling addressed the Council and said that the purpose of this agenda item is to update the Council concerning new developments regarding the State budget deficit of approximately \$952 million. Mr. Huling reported that despite previous assurances from the legislature that State shared revenues would not be cut to help balance the budget, staff was recently notified that the legislature is proposing to cut State shared revenue by approximately \$15 million statewide.

Mr. Huling explained that there are two components of the proposed State shared revenue cuts and that the first component is a one-time \$10 million cut for all cities and towns in the State representing a portion of the alternative fuels tax credit. He added that in connection with this component, Mesa's one-time reduction of FY 2003 State shared revenue would be \$979,960. Mr. Huling further explained that the second component is an additional permanent reduction of \$5 million, which would apply to the eight cities and one town with populations over 80,000. He further stated that Mesa's reduction during FY 2003 in conjunction with this component would be \$610,977. He added that this cut represents a permanent reduction of shared revenue from 15% to 14.8% and that the actual reduction amount would fluctuate each year.

Mr. Huling also commented on the fact that although proposed State shared revenue cuts have historically required a 2/3 vote of the legislature pursuant to Proposition 108, proponents of the shared revenue cuts claim that because there will not be a net increase to the State's General Fund balance this fiscal year in conjunction with the proposed cuts, a 2/3 vote is not required. Mr. Huling further explained that the reasoning behind this argument is that a \$20 million tax cut will be passed on to Arizona taxpayers in conjunction with a tax conformity bill, which offsets the increases to the State's General Fund balance resulting from the proposed shared revenue cuts.

Mr. Huling reported that a number of legislators have expressed opposition to the proposed shared revenue cuts, particularly the cuts targeted solely against the nine largest municipalities in the State. He also advised that the proposed cuts are being opposed based on the fact that the legislature has historically insisted that State shared revenues not deviate from 15% and that the proposed reduction impacting the largest municipalities represents a permanent reduction from 15% to 14.8%.

In response to a question from Councilmember Pomeroy relative to the legislature's justification for imposing cuts based on alternative fuels tax credits, Mr. Huling explained that despite assurances from the legislature at the time of the "alternative fuels fiasco" two years ago that cities and towns would not bear the burden of this problem through impacts to shared revenues, proponents of the proposed shared revenue cuts claim that because cities and towns receive shared revenues two years in arrears, imposing cuts during this fiscal year is equitable.

Councilmember Pomeroy voiced concerns regarding the proposed cuts and the inequity associated with the fact that Yuma was not impacted by the cuts imposed on the largest communities although its population is within 2,500 of 80,000.

Vice Mayor Davidson urged staff to continuing their lobbying efforts relative to this issue.

Further discussion ensued regarding the legislature's logic associated with avoiding the 2/3 vote required pursuant to Proposition 108.

Councilmember Walters voiced the opinion that efforts to circumvent the requirements associated with Proposition 108 violates the spirit of this legislation. She also stated appreciation to the legislators who have supported the cities and towns in connection with this issue.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the update.

3. Discuss and consider a proposed name change for Williams Gateway Airport.

Williams Gateway REAA Project Manager Wayne Balmer and Lynn Kusy, William Gateway Airport Executive Director, addressed the Council concerning this agenda item. Mr. Balmer reported that the Airport was named *Williams Gateway Airport* in 1993 when it was first opened and he also commented on the fact that "*Williams*" reflects the history associated with Williams Air Force Base. Mr. Balmer further reported that because efforts to market the Airport on a national and global basis have been impacted by a lack of name and location recognition associated with the current name, the Airport Board of Directors instructed staff to evaluate a possible name change.

Mr. Kusy reported that Airport staff conducted a series of focus groups regarding this issue and he noted that there was a significant amount of input that the current name not be changed. He further reported that there was also significant interest in changing the name to reflect its geographical location. He further reported that a list of potential names was reduced to the following names: *Arizona Gateway Airport*, *Arizona Capital Gateway Airport*, *Central Arizona Airport*, *East Valley Airport*, *Mesa-Phoenix Gateway Airport* and *Valley of the Sun Airport*.

Mr. Kusy stated that "International" could be added to any of the proposed names and that Airport staff recommends that International be added to the name of the Airport at the time that international service commences.

Mr. Kusy advised that the various City and Town Councils are being asked to provide input concerning this issue. He reported that a name change would result in expenditures associated with signs at the Airport and also printed materials. He also noted that tenants of the Airport would also be impacted by a name change.

Councilmember Pomeroy suggested that *John Rhodes Airport* be considered as a potential name. He also voiced a preference for *Williams Gateway Airport*.

Councilmember Jaffa stated a preference for *Mesa Gateway International Airport*.

Councilmember Walters voiced concerns regarding losing the historical significance of the Airport and suggested that if a name change is ultimately made, that "*at Williams Field*" be added to the new name to preserve the history associated with the Airport.

Councilmember Kavanaugh stated concurrence regarding Councilmember Walters' suggestion but also commented on the importance of including a recognizable geographical reference in a new name.

Discussion ensued regarding the benefits associated with including *Arizona* in a new name, and the fact that Airport staff is currently marketing to international freight carriers.

Mayor Hawker stated that *Mesa Gateway Airport* is his first choice and that *Arizona Gateway Airport* is his second choice.

Discussion ensued regarding the broad list of names that were considered in this process, the history and reasoning associated with including *Gateway* in the current name of the Airport, and the fact that *Gateway* is also used by other local entities.

Councilmember Whalen voiced a preference for including *Mesa* in any future name change.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, Mr. Kusy reported that the Airport Board of Directors is expected to consider this issue within the next few weeks. He added that he will keep the Council updated on this issue.

4. Appointments to boards and committees.

Mayor Hawker recommended the following appointments to Boards and Committees:

HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Ken Salas – Three-year term to expire June 30, 2005

BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Jeff Decker – Three-year term to expire June 30, 2005

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

Carried unanimously.

5. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

a. Judicial Advisory Board meetings held February 6 and March 6, 2002.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Kavanaugh reported on his attendance at the recent event honoring the children who submitted the winning posters for the City's "Water - Use it Wisely" campaign. He voiced appreciation to the 900 students who participated in this program.

Councilmember Kavanaugh also reported on his recent attendance at a National League of Cities Information Technology and Communications Steering Committee meeting in Iowa. He noted that the committee continued its work relative to cable television policy and commented on the significance and impacts associated with the recent reclassification of cable modem services to information services. He further reported that municipal right-of-way issues were also discussed at the meeting.

Mayor Hawker voiced appreciation to Councilmember Kavanaugh for his participation on the Information Technology Steering Committee and commented on the benefits provided to the community in conjunction with his role in this regard.

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Thursday, May 9, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, May 13, 2002, 4:30 p.m. – Transportation Committee

Thursday, May 16, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, May 16, 2002 – Police Committee Meeting immediately following Study Session

Monday, May 20, 2002, TBA – Study Session

Monday, May 20, 2002, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, May 23, 2002, TBA – Budget Review Session

Friday, May 24, 2002 – Budget Review Session CANCELLED

Tuesday, May 28, 2002, TBA – Budget Review Session

Thursday, May 30, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Mr. Hutchinson reported that a Farewell Reception for departing Councilmembers will take place on May 23, 2002, from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

8. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:30 p.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 6th day of May 2002. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

pjt