

COUNCIL MINUTES

November 1, 2001

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 November 1, 2001 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

Mike Whalen

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones

(Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Whalen from the meeting and Councilmember Kavanaugh from the beginning of the meeting. Councilmember Kavanaugh arrived at 8:50 a.m.)

Mayor Hawker welcomed Bernardino Cruz Rivas, the Mayor of Mesa's Sister City, Guaymas, Mexico. He explained that Mayor Rivas and a delegation from his community are participating in the East Valley Partnership conference to promote economic development and to establish an international partnership between the cities of Mesa and Guaymas.

Mayor Rivas, through the assistance of an interpreter, thanked Mayor Hawker and the Council for the warm hospitality which has been extended to him and his delegation during their visit to Mesa. He commented that he looks forward to an ongoing and productive relationship with the City of Mesa.

In response to a request from Vice Mayor Davidson, Williams Gateway Regional Economic Activity Area Project Manager Wayne Balmer introduced the other members of the delegation to the Council.

Vice Mayor Davidson thanked Mayor Hawker and Mayor Rivas for their efforts to foster a strong and enduring relationship between Mesa and Guaymas.

1. Review items on the agenda for the November 5, 2001 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:

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda items 6b, 7b, 9a, 10a and 10b will be removed from the consent agenda.

2. Presentation by Transit staff regarding the Clean Air Campaign Awards.

Transportation Administrator Jim Wright addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. He reported that the City of Mesa recently received three awards at a luncheon sponsored by the Valley Metro Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA) for its commitment to clean air. Mr. Wright explained that as a result of the efforts of Administrative Aide II Rachel Morgan, the City's Transit Division garnered the Outstanding Clean Air Campaign and Governor's Ozone 2001 Awards. He also recognized Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Coordinator Brian Fellows for his hard work which resulted in the Transportation Division being presented the Golden Spoke Award. Mr. Wright added that the City's Telework Program also received honorable mention.

Ms. Morgan and Mr. Fellows briefly outlined several programs which generated employee participation including the Clean Air Club, the Ozone Alert Program and Valley Bike Week activities.

Vice Mayor Davidson congratulated staff for their hard work and also thanked Mayor Hawker for his participation in the Mayor's Bike Ride event. Vice Mayor Davidson emphasized the fact that the City of Mesa was the only Valley employer to receive three awards for its outstanding Clean Air Campaign efforts.

3. Hear an overview of the Emergency Management System.

Assistant Fire Chief Cliff Puckett and Management Assistant Dorinda Larsen provided the Council with a brief overview of the City's Emergency Management System (EMS) program, which addresses disaster preparedness and planning. Chief Puckett explained that although the tragic events of September 11, 2001 have heightened public awareness regarding the need for emergency preparedness, City staff first commenced work on the EMS program more than three years ago.

Chief Puckett advised that the City has implemented a number of procedures to ensure the safety of Mesa's citizens in times of disaster including the establishment of an Emergency Operations Plan; ongoing training with key City staff, and City participation in two Federally funded programs for domestic preparedness and a metropolitan medical response system. He stated that the domestic preparedness training focuses on biological, chemical and nuclear terrorist events, and that as part of the metropolitan medical response contract, the City is required to purchase pharmaceuticals for the treatment of at least 1,000 individuals during a chemical emergency and 10,000 individuals as a result of a biological attack upon the community. Chief Puckett commented that the City has received authorization to purchase the medications through the Department of Health and Human Services and that staff will seek Council approval for the purchase in early December.

Chief Puckett noted that the City continues to maintain a proactive approach to terrorism by its ongoing participation in the Arizona Terrorism Task Force, the Arizona Emergency Services Association, the International Emergency Managers Association, and by maintaining regular contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and other State and local authorities.

Chief Puckett also discussed the dissemination of up-to-date information to the public and City employees; the implementation of heightened security measures in City facilities, and the establishment of an Emergency Management Committee.

The Councilmembers complimented staff for their hard work and ongoing efforts regarding this crucial issue.

In response to a question from Councilmember Pomeroy, Chief Puckett assured the Council that at the present time, no anthrax exposures have occurred in Arizona.

Mayor Hawker commented that in the event of an emergency situation, he would be authorized to accelerate the purchase of the necessary pharmaceuticals for Mesa citizens.

In response to concerns expressed by Councilmember Walters, City Manager Mike Hutchinson assured Mesa residents that although the City's EMS strategies are not divulged to the public, appropriate steps are being implemented to assure the safety of the entire community.

Councilmember Jaffa requested additional input from staff at a future Council Study Session relative to enhanced public and private security measures.

4. Discuss and consider a recommendation pertaining to the Crime Prevention Advisory Board.

Assistant to the City Manager Ellen Pence addressed the Council relative to this agenda item and recognized the presence of Alan Ramsdell, a member of the Crime Prevention Advisory Board, and Crime Prevention Specialist Denise Traves who staffs the Board.

Ms. Pence reported that the Crime Prevention Advisory Board was originally established to provide advice to the Council regarding policies to promote public awareness of crime prevention techniques and programs. She explained that during its tenure, the Crime Prevention Advisory Board has achieved many worthwhile accomplishments, including promoting Neighborhood Watch, attending neighborhood meetings, assisting in the establishment and on-going support for the Getting Arizona Involved In Neighborhoods (GAIN) program and other crime prevention programs.

Ms. Pence advised that at the June 20, 2001 Crime Prevention Advisory Board meeting, the Board concluded that its goals had been accomplished and it might be appropriate to disband the Board. She added that the Board is requesting input from the Council on this matter as well as repealing Chapter 19, Title 2 of the Mesa City Code, which established the Board. Ms. Pence said that if it is the direction of Council to disband the Crime Prevention Advisory Board, staff will endeavor to place the current Boardmembers on other citizen advisory boards when vacancies occur.

Mayor Hawker stated that due to the success of various community-policing activities such as the Block Watch program, the ongoing stabilization and unification of neighborhoods, and the

formalization of neighborhood partnerships with the Police Department, in his opinion, the Crime Prevention Advisory Board has accomplished its goals and it would be appropriate to disband at this time.

Councilmember Kavanaugh concurred with Mayor Hawker's comments. He added that the Crime Prevention Advisory Board has initiated many City programs that have resulted in establishing dialogue between neighborhoods and the Police Department, encouraging community policing, and fostering neighborhood involvement with the Neighborhood Services Department.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that the Crime Prevention Advisory Board be disbanded and that Chapter 19, Title 2 of the Mesa City Code, which established the Board, be repealed.

In response to concerns expressed by Vice Mayor Davidson, Ms. Pence clarified that the Police Department will continue to solicit input from Mesa residents regarding crime prevention policies and techniques through the Department's Neighborhood Communications Program.

Vice Mayor Davidson said that he would reluctantly support the motion and added that he has always placed great value on input provided by Mesa's citizen advisory boards and committees.

Councilmember Pomeroy stated that in view of the fact that the Board has achieved its crime prevention goals, he will vote in support of the motion.

Councilmember Walters concurred with Councilmember Pomeroy's comments.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

5. Hear an update on the Williams Gateway Area of Regional Economic Activity Office.

Williams Gateway Regional Economic Activity Area Project Manager Wayne Balmer, Marketing/Communication Specialist II Kathy Bareiss and Management Assistant Cyndi Gonzales addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Balmer briefly outlined the documentation in the Council packet including the City Council Work Plan goals and the Williams Gateway Area of Regional Economic Activity Office (AREA) FY 2001/02 goals. Mr. Balmer also discussed the WGA Economic Center, passenger and cargo service, the Project Update Team, Mesa 2025: A Shared Vision, and various marketing strategies. (See Attachment).

Mr. Balmer extended an invitation to the Council to tour WGA and the surrounding area.

Mayor Hawker suggested several additions to the Council Work Plan and discussed an enhanced version of the Hawes Road interchange, the Southeast Regional Transportation Study, and participation in the Mesa Business Speaks conference.

Vice Mayor Davidson suggested that staff provide an update to the Utility Committee relative to the current electrical distribution system at WGA.

Councilmember Walters expressed concerns regarding a potential controversy with the name of Williams Gateway Airport and a proposed facility for homeless veterans in Phoenix also referred to as the "Gateway Campus."

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for their presentation.

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

City Manager Mike Hutchinson introduced Jim Huling, the recently appointed Assistant to the City Manager/Intergovernmental Relations, to the Council and noted that Mr. Huling is a former employee of the City of Mesa. Mayor Hawker welcomed Mr. Huling to the City of Mesa.

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, November 5, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, November 5, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, November 8, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, November 15, 2001, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, November 19, 2001, 3:00 p.m. – Transportation Committee Meeting

Monday, November 19, 2001, TBA – Study Session

Monday, November 19, 2001, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Hutchinson also announced the following events:

Saturday, November 3, 2001, 9:00 a.m. Market on Main Street

Saturday, November 3, 2001, Dedication of the Arizona School of Health Sciences

Councilmember Pomeroy reported that the Superstition Mountain Golf Course will host the PGA Senior Tour for a golf tournament on April 23-28, 2002.

Vice Mayor Davidson stated that on Sunday, November 4, 2001, at 12:00 p.m., a celebration of El Dia de Los Muertos will be held at Pioneer Park.

Councilmember Walters advised that on Saturday, November 3, 2001, at 10:00 a.m., the first Opportunity Zone event will be held at Westwood High School.

8. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 10:18 a.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 1st day of November 2001. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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Attachment

WILLIAMS GATEWAY AREA COUNCIL UPDATE

CITY OF MESA

NOVEMBER 1, 2001

WHAT'S HOT

Williams Gateway Economic Center

All 24 Airport buildings are leased. Three new buildings (two new office buildings and a hangar) have been completed and two additional buildings are under construction.

Discussions with at least two major employers are progressing.

Landscaping is nearly finished for Sossaman Road, Phase One - the Entryway to Williams Gateway Airport.

Design for Sossaman Road, Phase Three, is underway and should be bid by December.

Williams Gateway Regional Airport - Passenger and Cargo Service

Discussion with prospective air cargo operations are underway.

Two passenger carriers have expressed an interest in the Williams Gateway facilities and discussions are proceeding.

Project Update Team

A team of staff from the City and Williams Gateway Airport meet regularly to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Team members include representatives from Building Safety, CIP Office, Engineering, Development Services, Fire Department, Police Department, Planning and Zoning, Transportation, Utilities, Legislative Affairs, Economic Development, the Airport and the Williams Gateway AREA Office.

Mesa 2025: A Shared Vision

Met with major AREA property owners in June to conduct a design workshop to develop an alternative plan for consideration as part of Mesa 2025: A Shared Vision.

Continue to work with General Motors to create a land use plan that supports Mesa's vision of the Williams Gateway AREA as the Premier center for aviation, Education, technology and employment.

Marketing

The Williams Gateway AREA office Has created a brochure and marketing materials.

Staff is working with marketing and public relations staff from the Airport, Williams Campus, local businesses and partner communities to create a partnership for promoting the success of the Williams AREA.

Get-Acquainted Tours have been successful in informing staff and elected officials of neighboring communities about the vision for the Williams Gateway AREA.