

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 15, 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 July 15, 2002 at 4:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Dennis Kavanaugh
Rex Griswold
Kyle Jones
Janie Thom
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

(Items were discussed out of order but for purposes of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.)

1. Introduction of Sister Cities delegation from Kaiping, China.

Mayor Hawker welcomed the Kaiping, China Sister City delegation to Mesa. Mayor Shi Zhaoping and other visiting delegates were introduced.

Mayor Zhaoping said that this is the delegation's first visit to Mesa and he commented on Mesa's excellent roads and beautiful environment. He stated that the delegation's goals are to develop a friendship with Mesa and learn from Mesa's experiences.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mayor Zhaoping and the delegates for visiting Mesa. He discussed his previous visit to Kaiping and voiced appreciation for the hospitality extended to him during his visit. He said that he was impressed with Kaiping's economic development activities and commented on the fact that many U.S. cities have a presence in Kaiping, including Motorola. Mayor Hawker also said that he hopes to establish an air cargo relationship between Williams Gateway Airport and Kaiping in the future.

2. Review items on the agenda for the July 1, 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:

Mayor Hawker declared potential conflicts of interest on agenda items 4h (Desert Sage Well #9 Equipment and Piping), 4i (6th Street Service Center Remodel, Phase 2) and 4l (Arizona

Museum For Youth Expansion) and said he would refrain from discussion/participation in these items.

Planning Director Frank Mizner commented on agenda item 7a (Z02-17 The 3000 to 3100 block of S. Hawes Road) and advised that due to the fact that one of the previously filed letters of protest concerning this zoning case was rescinded earlier that day, this case no longer qualifies as a legal protest case and does not require a super majority (3/4) vote of the Council to approve.

3. Hear, discuss and consider the Concept Plan for the Downtown Pedestrian Connection (north-south phase) and implementation of Phase 1.

Redevelopment Director Greg Marek and Redevelopment Planner Tony Felice addressed the Council concerning this agenda item. Mr. Marek provided a brief historical overview concerning this project and said that the City was awarded a Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds (TEA-21) grant, which is a program administered by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), to construct a north/south pedestrian pathway (Downtown Pedestrian Connection) that will connect the new Mesa Arts Center with the Convention Center following the Lewis Street alignment. He further reported that a Concept Plan was developed for this project that was approved by ADOT. Mr. Marek stated that staff is seeking Council approval of the Concept Plan and approval to commence Phase 1 of the project. He added that Phase 1 of the project encompasses a portion of the pathway from Main Street to 1st Street along the Lewis Street alignment.

Mr. Marek referred to and commented on artist renderings on display in the Council Chambers that depicted the proposed Concept Plan for the north-south phase of the Downtown Pedestrian Connection. He noted that the proposed Concept Plan is a combination of three different designs that underwent a public process to select a preferred plan, resulting in a three-way tie. He outlined Phase 1 of the Plan and noted that the pathway will be well landscaped and lighted. He added that the portion of the pathway crossing the parking lot between Pepper Place and the Council Chambers will only be striped at this time due to the fact that future improvements are planned for this area.

Mr. Marek discussed the portion of the pathway that crosses Main Street, including the fact that this area will be a brick crosswalk with a pedestrian signal that will provide access directly into the plaza area of the Mesa Arts Center. He noted that this portion of the pathway will be funded through the Mesa Arts Center project. Mr. Marek also discussed the fact that a separate Public Art component, which will be designed, constructed and funded as a separate Public Art project, will be part of the overall project. He noted that Public Art Coordinator Kate O'Mara is involved in this element of the project.

Mr. Marek also commented on the fact that the water line system associated with the chilled water cooling plant that is part of the Mesa Arts Center project, will be installed along the Lewis Street alignment prior to construction of the Pedestrian Pathway to avoid disrupting the pathway in the future. He noted that extension of the chilled water line in this area is designed to serve the Mesa City Plaza and other area facilities in the future.

Mr. Marek reported that the total proposed budget for Phase I of this project is \$543,930. He further reported that this total includes grant funds of \$479,930 and the City's required matching

funds of \$29,000, plus \$30,000 for non-grant covered construction items as well as ADOT's \$5,000 processing fee. He explained that the grant will not fund vehicle oriented improvements for this project.

Mr. Marek referred to a map on display in the Council Chambers and commented on proposed improvements related to the existing parking lots between Pepper Place and Main Street, east of Lewis Street. He reported that the Lewis Street vehicular access from Main Street will be eliminated and that a 20 ft. wide driveway from Pepper Place will provide access to these existing parking lots.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker regarding whether any consideration has been given to constructing a pedestrian bridge over Main Street connecting the pedestrian pathway to the Mesa Arts Center, Mr. Marek reported that a bridge structure was considered but ruled out because of the excessive costs involved and the fact that there is insufficient space at this location to build a structure that would meet ADA requirements.

Discussion ensued concerning the chilled water cooling system, the fact that the chilled water plant incorporated into the Mesa Arts Center is designed with three 800-ton chillers, plus space for two additional chillers to provide excess capacity allowing the City to pipe chilled water to other nearby facilities.

In response to a question from Councilmember Thom concerning consideration given to aligning the pedestrian pathway along Center Street, Mr. Marek discussed the fact that two of the goals associated with the pedestrian pathway is to provide pedestrian access from the Sheraton Hotel, Conference Center and from various existing parking facilities to the Mesa Arts Center, including parking lots associated with the City Plaza campus, Council Chambers, Library and Conference Center. He noted that the proposed alignment also eliminates north/south vehicular traffic from the pathway and provides adequate space to incorporate "pocket parks" and public art displays. He added that future development of an east/west pathway is also being considered, which would provide a connecting pathway to the City's museums and other downtown destinations.

Mayor Hawker voiced concerns regarding costs associated with the proposed project and commented on the limited use of the existing "Cultural Walk."

Discussion ensued regarding the source of federal grant funding for the project, the fact that the grant is administered by ADOT, and the fact that ADOT recently indicated that funding approved for this project would be reassigned to another municipality if the City does not intend to proceed with this project.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker concerning construction of the chilled water line and crosswalk across Main Street, City Engineer Keith Nath advised that installation of the chilled water line and construction of the sidewalk across Main Street will be implemented as a single project to minimize impacts on Main Street.

Further discussion ensued regarding the chilled water cooling system and the fact that the system includes two lines, a supply line and a return line to the cooling plant.

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh stated support for the proposed project and stressed the importance of encouraging pedestrian traffic in the downtown area. He also voiced support regarding the coordination of the pedestrian pathway project with the chilled water line project.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that adoption of the proposed Downtown Pedestrian Connection (north-south phase) Concept Plan and implementation of Phase I, be approved.

Councilmember Walters stated support for the project and commented on the fact that the existing parking lots at the Library, Conference Center and Mesa City Plaza complex will serve the new Mesa Arts Center. She stated the opinion that Mesa Arts Center visitors who use these parking facilities are likely to cross Main Street at this location regardless of whether a crosswalk is there or not. She also stated approval concerning plans to install the chilled water line in conjunction with this project and voiced appreciation to Mayor Hawker for his previous insight and direction to staff in this regard.

Discussion ensued regarding the fact that award of the construction contract for this project will be separately considered by the Council in the future.

Carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Hawker discussed his recent vacation in Alaska and said that while there, he toured air cargo facilities at the Anchorage Airport, including Federal Express. He added that he also toured air cargo facilities at Sky Harbor Airport prior to departing. He commented on future plans related to air cargo operations at Williams Gateway Airport and the fact that Anchorage is a key U.S. port-of-entry with respect to air cargo.

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Tuesday, July 16, 2002, 8:00 a.m. – Tour/Briefing of Neighborhood Services Department

Tuesday, July 16, 2002, 3:30 p.m. – Transportation Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 18, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session – CANCELLED

Thursday, July 18, 2002, 8:00 a.m. – Tour/Briefing of Community Services Department

Thursday, July 25, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, July 25, 2002 – Briefing of Development Services Department immediately following Study Session

Thursday, August 1, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, August 5, 2002, TBA – Study Session

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

Monday, August 26, 2002, TBA – Study Session

Monday, August 26, 2002, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:17 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 15th day of July 2002. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

pjt