

# COUNCIL MINUTES

January 10, 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 January 10, 2002 at 8:14 a.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. Discuss and consider changes to the Citizen Advisory Board and Committee Program.

Special Assistant to the City Manager/Mayor Eric Norenberg addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. He reported that when the responsibility for appointments to the Citizen Advisory Board and Committee Program was transferred to Mayor Hawker's staff, a series of meetings were conducted with the Mayor and staff liaisons to the various boards and committees and feedback was solicited to enhance the experience and participation of the board and committee members.

Mr. Norenberg briefly outlined the proposed recommendations as follows: a comprehensive board and committee member orientation session; best practices workshops; the utilization of a citizen application form; a periodic mailing sent to candidates on the prospect list, and two annual appreciation events to recognize the board and committee members for their commitments to the City.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, Mr. Norenberg clarified that the cost to implement all of the recommendations is estimated at approximately \$5,000. He added that although the menu costs for the appreciation events have not been finalized, staff is sensitive to the City's current budget constraints and will endeavor to keep costs within reason, while still demonstrating the City's appreciation to the board and committee members.

Vice Mayor Davidson thanked staff for their efforts to acknowledge the service of the citizen advisory boards and committees. He also expressed support for the newly created application form that was initiated at the suggestion of Councilmember Kavanaugh. Vice Mayor Davidson

questioned whether the application form would ensure adequate diversity among the City's boards and commissions; suggested that the City maintain a list of the organizations which represent the different ethnic groups within the City; stated the opinion that the application form should inquire whether an applicant is bilingual, and also noted that more than half of the individuals who serve on boards or commissions reside in Districts 1 and 5. He also requested that the City Attorney's Office conduct research relative to whether staff-hosted appreciation events for board and committee members are a violation of the Open Meeting Law. He noted that in the past, former City Attorney Neal Beets had reached that conclusion.

Councilmember Kavanaugh voiced support for staff's recommendations. He stated the opinion that the recommendations afford the City the opportunity to expand the application process, provide greater diversity on the boards and committees, offer the opportunity to enhance the experience of citizens who serve on the boards through the implementation of "best practices" workshops, and to recognize the citizens for their service to the community.

Councilmember Walters concurred with Councilmember Kavanaugh's comments. She noted that in response to Vice Mayor Davidson's concerns regarding greater citizen participation in District 1, the data may be misleading due to the newly drawn Council district boundaries and said that board and committee members who previously resided in District 2 now reside in District 1. Councilmember Walters suggested that the application form inquire whether citizens are fluent in any language as opposed to being bilingual.

In response to a question from Councilmember Pomeroy, Mr. Norenberg clarified that it is the recommendation of staff to replace the previously required resume with the application form to make the process more accessible and to provide the Mayor and Council with sufficient information in order to select the most appropriate and qualified committee and board members.

Councilmember Pomeroy voiced support for the utilization of the new application form and stated the opinion that it would be more appropriate and useful than a resume in soliciting the necessary information from the potential board and committee candidates.

Mayor Hawker commented that it is not mandatory that a citizen submit a resume with the application form and stated that he would prefer that the item which indicates "Resume: Please attach a copy of resume, if available" be eliminated from the form.

Discussion ensued among the Council regarding the requirement of a resume.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that it is the recommendation of staff that a resume may be included with the application form, but that it is not a requirement. He said that if the Council would prefer that the form be worded differently, staff will comply with that request.

Vice Mayor Davidson commented that the City Charter does require that members of certain boards and committees possess specific professional criteria; however, such information could be listed on the application form and therefore eliminate the necessity of a resume.

Councilmember Jaffa requested that the City Attorney's Office conduct legal research relative to how other municipalities address the issue of district diversity on citizen boards and committees.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jaffa, City Attorney Debbie Spinner explained that although it is important to encourage Mesa residents throughout the City to participate on boards and committee, there is no legal requirement that they must have citizens from each of the Council districts.

Mayor Hawker stated that he would support a balance of citizens on various boards and committees and added that in some instances, it may be appropriate to have equal district representation on a particular committee. He emphasized, however, if there are two or three board members who are extremely qualified, it does not mean those citizens must reside in different Council districts.

Vice Mayor Davidson voiced opposition to district-by-district representation on the boards and committees and said that citizen participation is for the betterment of the City as a whole and not for the interests of a specific district.

Councilmember Walters concurred with Vice Mayor Davidson's opinions and suggested that the wording on the application form be altered to read, "Resume not required."

In response to a question from Councilmember Walters, Mr. Hutchinson advised that staff would research the term limits on various boards and committees.

Mayor Hawker clarified that it is the consensus of the Council that staff move forward with the implementation of the recommendations for the Citizen Advisory Board and Committee Program, and added that it would be appropriate that the language on the application form be modified to reflect that the submission of a resume is not required.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mr. Norenberg for the presentation and input.

2. Hear an update on the status of flood control projects in East Mesa.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson, City Engineer Keith Nath and Assistant City Engineer Peter Knudson addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Hutchinson reported that in response to a request by the Council, staff is prepared to provide an update relative to the status of the current and future flood control projects in east Mesa.

Mr. Nath advised that over the years, the City has partnered with the Maricopa County Flood Control District to develop several drainage studies and implement components of these studies. In 1998, the City Council adopted the Southeast Mesa Area Drainage Master Plan, which was prepared in cooperation with major property owners, developers, General Motors (GM) and Williams Gateway Airport (WGA). The plan was to provide regional detention basins and outfalls for storm water in the study area (south of the Central Arizona Project (CAP) Canal and east of Power Road). Mr. Nath stated that at the request of the City, the Flood Control District is currently engaged in an update of the Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan which was initially begun in the mid 1980s. He said that projects recommended in the Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan will be considered for programming once the plan is finalized and based on available funding. Completion and approval of the plan is anticipated to occur by mid to late 2002.

Mr. Knudson displayed graphics in the Council Chambers and provided an update on a series of current and future flood control projects in the East Mesa area which are located north and south of US 60. He reported that construction of the major components of the Southeast Mesa Area Drainage Master Plan are either completed or are programmed in the five-year Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) of both the City and the County Flood Control District. Mr. Knudson outlined the various projects, a tentative schedule for their completion and anticipated costs to be shared by the City and the Flood Control District.

Mr. Knudson stated that with regard to the Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan, a Citizen Committee was appointed by the Council to evaluate various alternatives. He advised that the Committee has now narrowed its focus to four alternatives and that a public meeting will be held this evening at Mesa Community College, Red Mountain campus, at 6:30 p.m. to present the alternatives to concerned citizens. Mr. Knudson added that subsequent to the public meeting, the Committee will select a single alternative which will then be presented for Council approval; the City and County will refine the costs and engineering specifications of the plan, and the final plan will be presented this fall for adoption.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation and encouraged Mesa residents to attend tonight's public meeting.

Discussion ensued relative to the four Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan alternatives.

Councilmember Jaffa thanked the Citizen Committee for their efforts and hard work relative to the Spook Hill Area Drainage Master Plan. He also commented that with regard to the planning of road improvements, new developments in east Mesa must be sensitive to flood control issues.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jaffa, Mr. Nath clarified that due to limited resources and availability, it has been necessary for City staff to rely on a developer's engineers to prepare the necessary technical analyses related to various flood control issues. Councilmember Jaffa suggested that a checklist be created to be utilized by staff relative to flood control issues.

In response to a series of question from Vice Mayor Davidson, Mr. Nath advised that as a result of input solicited from the Citizen Committee as well as public feedback at previous public hearings, all four of the Spook Hill system alternatives will not permit construction within Utery Mountain Park and that the Flood Control District concurs with the assessment. He also assured the Council that staff will consider multi-use purposes for the detention basins in addition to flood control.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for their presentation.

3 Hear an update and consider issues associated with the proposed site(s) for the Multipurpose Facility.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson addressed the Council and provided an update relative to this agenda item. He explained that in the past week, City staff has met with the Tourism and Sports Authority (TSA) at a series of meetings to discuss how the City would pay for the necessary

infrastructure for the multipurpose facility. He advised that staff is currently in the process of formulating a cost analysis of the proposed public improvements and revenues associated with the facility and hope to have it completed shortly. Mr. Hutchinson stated that another topic of discussion at the meetings was the potential for the host city to impose surcharges which would aid in its ability to finance the facility's infrastructure. He added that over the next few months, the TSA will host a series of Open Houses in Glendale and Phoenix to afford the host cities the opportunity to showcase their proposals to the public.

Mr. Hutchinson informed the Council that Mayor Hawker and City staff have also met with representatives of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Tempe to discuss the possibility of a joint commitment to support a multipurpose facility which would economically benefit the entire East Valley. He said that both entities are proposing their own sites and are currently conducting analyses regarding the feasibility of those sites.

Mr. Hutchinson commented that the City will be required to spend an estimated \$25,000 to conduct soil testing at the site and that it is suggested that the firm recommended by the TSA be utilized for the analysis. He stated that the City requested a delay in conducting the testing to allow staff sufficient time to provide the Council with a cost analysis and also to foster commitments from other East Valley communities. Mr. Hutchinson reported that the TSA has consented to the delay. He added that staff will seek Council approval to fund the testing at a future Study Session.

Mr. Hutchinson noted that the City has been requested to respond with regard to whether the TSA's proposed timeline is appropriate and reasonable. He advised that on February 11, 2002, staff is currently scheduled to make their proposal presentation to the TSA and that it is the opinion of staff that they are capable of meeting that deadline, pending Mesa's partnership with other East Valley entities.

In response to a series of questions from Councilmember Whalen, Mr. Hutchinson clarified that the environmental testing will be included as part of the soil analysis, and that the TSA has not yet determined if surcharges would be an appropriate revenue stream to assist the host city in financing the facility's infrastructure.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the host city is required to finance the construction of the proposed stadium plaza; the fact that the TSA will provide all the potential host cities with cost estimates for the construction of the plaza area and 400 secured parking spaces, and the fact that the host City would be required to maintain all the parking lots (excluding the 400 secured parking spaces) at the multipurpose facility.

Councilmember Pomeroy stated the opinion that Mesa is the best site for the multipurpose facility and urged the TSA, the Arizona Cardinals and various regional entities to join together financially to make it a reality.

Mayor Hawker concurred with Councilmember Pomeroy's comments and stated the opinion that locating a multipurpose facility in the East Valley or in a central urban core would be more appropriate than choosing a site that is not located in close proximity to the necessary amenities such as restaurants and lodging facilities.

Councilmember Jaffa discussed a variety of issues including the fact that it is imperative that the TSA is aware of all the local amenities in the area of the City's proposed site; the fact that he looks forward to partnering with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community in this regard, and the fact that there are many issues related to revenues and costs associated with the parking areas and the stadium plaza that warrant further discussion.

Councilmember Walters expressed concerns that with regard to the City forming partnerships with various political entities, the TSA's proposed timetable may be too aggressive to accommodate the needs of the various partners. She stated that she does not see the City's proposal being successful without partnerships. Councilmember Walters also voiced concerns regarding the final figures for the cost of the various infrastructure and urged staff to carefully scrutinize the language in any contracts associated with this issue in an effort to lower costs.

Mayor Hawker clarified that at the present time, the Council will not approve funding for the soil testing until staff completes its cost analysis of the proposed public improvements and revenues, explores the potential of entering into a partnership with other East Valley communities, and determines if the City has a viable site that has a high potential of being selected by the TSA. He added that once the testing is completed, the analysis may reveal that it would be necessary for the City to incur an additional four or \$5 million in costs, and that it would be imperative that the Council consider and address that issue.

Mayor Hawker thanked the TSA for its willingness to provide the City with a narrative which describes the benefits to the City associated with the potential usage of the multipurpose facilities for conferences and conventions.

Councilmember Jaffa concurred with Mayor Hawker's comments and stated that the multipurpose facility is a uniquely designed project and would provide Mesa much needed convention and conference facilities.

Mayor Hawker requested an update from staff regarding this issue at the January 17, 2002 Council Study Session.

Discussion ensued relative to the pros and cons of proceeding forward with the soil/environmental testing at the proposed site.

Mayor Hawker expressed concerns with the TSA's proposed timeline regarding this issue and added that he is reluctant to agree to the February 11<sup>th</sup> submittal date due to the fact the City may require additional time to establish a partnership with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

Councilmember Whalen stated that it is imperative that staff aggressively markets the City's proposed site to its residents, the TSA and the surrounding communities as the best site in the Valley for a multipurpose facility. He indicated his willingness to proceed with the TSA's schedule, but added that it is time for the City to ask for support from neighboring communities to ensure that the project is developed in the East Valley.

4. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Design Review Board meeting held January 2, 2002.
- b. Judicial Advisory Board meeting held October 3, 2001.
- c. Transportation Advisory Board meeting held December 18, 2001.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Pomeroy informed the Council that the Mesa Fire Department and the Mesa Police Department recently held graduation ceremonies for a number of cadets from their respective academies. He noted that the 16 new firefighters and 24 new police officers are a welcome addition to the City's public safety divisions.

Vice Mayor Davidson reported on his recent attendance at a neighborhood meeting which was hosted by the Care Community Center. He stated that the gathering addressed the upcoming schedule of the Joint Master Planning Committee (JMPC) and its efforts to place the updated Mesa General Plan on the November 2002 General Election ballot for voter approval.

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Thursday, January 17, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, January 24, 2002, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, January 24, 2002, 9:30 a.m. – Police Committee Meeting

Monday, January 28, 2002, TBA – Study Session

Monday, January 28, 2002, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Mayor Hawker invited the public to attend the opening of the Red Mountain Freeway between Country Club Drive and Gilbert Road on Saturday, January 12, 2002, between 9:00 a.m. and noon.

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

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KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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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 10<sup>th</sup> day of January 2002. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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