

# COUNCIL MINUTES

May 12, 2000

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Budget Review Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 12, 2000 at 8:00 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Vice Mayor John Giles  
Jim Davidson  
Keno Hawker  
Bill Jaffa  
Pat Pomeroy  
Councilmember-Elect  
Claudia Walters

## COUNCIL ABSENT

Mayor Wayne Brown  
Dennis Kavanaugh

## STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Wayne Balmer  
Denise Bleyle  
Gary Bradbury  
Jamie Brennen  
Dennis Compton  
Linda Crocker  
Gil Damiani  
Stacy Damp  
Dennis Dona  
G.T. Fowler  
John Geier  
Pat Granillo  
Barbara Jones  
Dorinda Larsen  
Greg Marek  
Jeff Martin  
Dee Ann Mickelsen  
Frank Mizner  
Dick Mulligan

## STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Ellen Pence  
Ron Poulin  
Cliff Puckett  
Bryan Raines  
Andrea Rasizer  
Tom Remes  
Becky Richardson  
Jenny Sheppard  
Jan Strauss  
Jamie Warner  
Jeff Welker

## OTHERS PRESENT

Barrett Marson  
Betty Beard  
Kathy Tolman  
Mike Whalen  
Others

### 1. Neighborhood Services Department.

Neighborhood Services Manager Wayne Balmer provided Council with an overview of the proposed FY 2000/01 budget for the City's newest Responsibility Center, Neighborhood Services Department, and introduced staff members present at the meeting. Mr. Balmer explained that the Department's Action Plan will focus on several areas including administrative changes, marketing and promotion, neighborhood outreach, Code Compliance, Falcon Field and Williams Gateway Airports, information and resources, neighborhood planning and community revitalization. Mr. Balmer noted that the proposed budget for the Neighborhood Services Department is \$460,000.00

Neighborhood Outreach Director Tanya Collins provided a synopsis of the duties of the Neighborhood Outreach Division. Ms. Collins noted that the Division is requesting an additional Outreach Neighborhood Coordinator and a Senior Clerk. Ms. Collins reported that some of the Division's proposed projects include the expansion of Registered Neighborhoods and Homeowners' Associations, the implementation of the Neighborhood Resource Center and the division of outreach efforts into East Side and West Side teams.

Community Revitalization Administrator Kit Savagian outlined the FY 2000/01 budget plan for the Community Revitalization Department. Ms. Savagian stated that there is a request for a Community Revitalization Assistant and a Senior Administrative Aide.

Housing Director Jack Caroline provided an overview of the functions of the Housing Services Division. Mr. Caroline explained that at the present time, the Division has more than 763 names placed on a waiting list for housing assistance.

Mr. Balmer briefly outlined the responsibilities of the Neighborhood Services Administration and clarified that the Division is requesting the addition of a Neighborhood Planner, a Neighborhood Marketing and Promotions Specialist, an Information and Resource Specialist and a Senior Secretary.

Code Compliance Director Bill Petrie highlighted for the Council the primary programs of the Code Compliance Division. Mr. Petrie explained that the Division is requesting four additional Code Compliance Officers to assist with the implementation of the new Housing Code. Mr. Petrie also stated that updated computer software is required to improve the Division's ability to track and perform follow-up on code enforcement, new housing code complaints and inquiries.

Airport Director Mark Meyers presented statistical data pertaining to activities at Falcon Field Airport and estimated the economic impact at \$2 million per day. Mr. Meyers provided a brief overview of the proposed FY 2000/01 budget, noting federal and state funding of projects. Mr. Meyers gave a brief synopsis of proposed improvements to Falcon Field.

Councilmember-Elect Walters spoke in support of code enforcement programs which would foster voluntary neighborhood participation.

Councilmember Jaffa expressed the opinion that "neighborhoods" refers not only to residential, but also business, industrial and mixed-use areas, and urged the Council to address this issue in a balanced manner.

Councilmember Kavanaugh spoke in opposition to Councilmember Jaffa's opinion and stated that the primary focus of the Neighborhood Services Department should be with regard to residential neighborhoods, which constitute the building blocks of a stable community.

Vice Mayor Giles spoke in support of the recommendations of staff.

Staff and the Council discussed the requested Code Compliance computer software, impact fees and the expansion of the Falcon Field Airport Master Plan.

Councilmembers Pomeroy, Hawker and Candidate Whalen concurred with the opinions of Councilmember Kavanaugh.

Mayor Brown recognized City Manager Mike Hutchinson for his efforts in spearheading the formation of the Neighborhood Services Department.

Mayor Brown thanked staff for their presentation.

Management Services Manager Dan Brewer provided a brief overview to the Council of the functions of the Management Services Department and introduced personnel present at the meeting.

Ken Langford, Customer Service Administrator, explained that due to a shortfall in manpower at the Customer Service Department, there has been a 57% increase in overtime attributed to the meter readers compared to the prior year. Mr. Langford added that the meter readers and customer service representatives are cross-trained on multiple functions.

Discussion ensued relative to remote-read meter technology, Pay-As-You-Go billing format, alternative solutions with regard to overtime increases, electric deregulation and competitor services meter reading.

Councilmember-Elect Walters stated that it is imperative that the City examine technology-related issues on a more global scale as opposed to on a department-by-department basis.

Mayor Brown thanked the staff for their input.

3. Break.

At 10:33 a.m., Mayor Brown called for a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 10:56 a.m.

4. Miscellaneous Issues.

Mesa Town Center Corporation

Vince DiBella, President of the Mesa Town Center Corporation (MTCC), presented a budget summary for FY 2000/01 relating to three contracts with the City of Mesa: a) Mesa Town Center Improvement District (\$242,397), b) parking management (\$127,000), c) public space management, (Proposal A, \$179,877, Proposal B, \$194,765 and Proposal C, \$243,675). Mr. DiBella highlighted services provided pursuant to each contract. Mr. DiBella explained that the MTCC Executive Committee recommends Proposal C, in which the City would incur costs for all public space management in the Town Center.

Mr. DiBella and Tom Verploegen, Executive Director of MTCC, responded to questions from the Council concerning assessment rate increases, public space management alternatives, security and safety coordination.

Councilmember Hawker indicated that he had a potential conflict of interest in connection with the matter now under discussion that he wanted recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. DiBella and Mr. Verploegen for their input.

Mesa Convention & Visitors Bureau

Robert Brinton, Executive Director of the Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau (MCVB) and Dave Mooth, Manager of the Mesa Hilton Hotel, addressed the members of the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Mooth stated that due to the proliferation of new motels and hotels in the City of Chandler and also the lack of new revenue sources in Mesa, the lodging industry in the City has decreased dramatically.

Mr. Brinton commented that the proposed FY 2000/01 budget has not changed significantly from the previous year. Mr. Brinton presented an overview of projected revenues and expenses (marketing and administrative) and outlined actions undertaken in an attempt to assist quality growth within the City. Mr. Brinton responded

to questions from the Council pertaining to funding, Mesa area golf packages and the Rio Salado Crossing Project.

Mayor Brown expressed appreciation to Mr. Brinton and Mr. Mooth.

5. Community Aid Issues.

Recommendations of the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board

Human Services Funding Recommendations

Human Services Coordinator Karen Kurtz presented Human Services funding recommendations for FY 2000/01 as proposed by the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board. Ms. Kurtz stated that the recommendations represent a 5.9% increase over the previous year. Ms. Kurtz provided background information pertaining to the applicants and noted the following priorities identified by the Board: a) Mesa CAN – EVTTL, b) Save the Family, c) Child Crisis Center, d) Center Against Sexual Abuse, e) Housing for Mesa, and f) Mesa YMCA.

Discussion ensued concerning the funding levels proposed by the Board, Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) funding.

Council expressed appreciation to staff and the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board for their efforts.

Recommendations of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board

Arts and Cultural Community Aid Grants

Community Arts Coordinator Nancy Wolter outlined the FY 2000/01 arts and cultural community aid grant requests and the recommendations of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board. Ms. Wolter presented background information pertaining to discussion and interviews by the Board and indicated that the recommended funding level represents an increase of 10 percent. Ms. Wolter noted an additional proposal for mini-grant “contingency” funding.

Council thanked Ms. Wolter for her presentation and the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board for their efforts.

Mesa Historical Museum

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Director Joe Holmwood outlined a request by the Mesa Historical Society for \$105,000 in funding for FY 2000/01, which represents a 5 percent increase from the previous year.

Discussion ensued regarding construction and restoration of the Little Adobe Schoolhouse exhibit located on the southeast corner of Lehi and Horne.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Holmwood for his presentation.

Kids CAN!

Acting Community Center Director Eric Norenberg provided the Council with the FY 2000/01 Kids CAN! request for \$58,333. Mr. Norenberg stated that the loss of City funding could jeopardize pending and future grant requests and prevent future growth of the program.

Discussion ensued relative to alternative funding methods via the Mesa United Way, proactive use of City funds, and review of grant programs.

Mayor Brown spoke in appreciation of staff's input.

6. Council Discussion

Councilmember Hawker requested additional input from staff input relative to impact fee increases. Councilmember Hawker stated that he would support the implementation of an accounting system to create a two-year budget, a 3% increase with regard to utility rates, an increase relative to cemetery rates, video arraignments, and the expansion of programming on Mesa Channel 11.

Councilmember Pomeroy expressed approval relative to the recruitment of additional police officers and fire fighters.

Councilmember Kavanaugh concurred with the opinion of Councilmember Hawker relative to Mesa Channel 11. Councilmember Kavanaugh stated that the City should focus greater attention with regard to technology advancement in an effort to provide heightened citizen accessibility and to enhance Mesa's ability to function on a City-wide basis.

Councilmember Davidson and Candidate Whalen concurred with the opinions of the other Councilmembers and also expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts.

Candidate Tolman thanked the Council and staff for the opportunity to participate in the Budget Review process.

Vice Mayor Giles expressed support with regard to the recruitment of additional police officers, increased Internet access, video arraignments and additional programming relative to Mesa Channel 11.

Mayor Brown and Councilmember-Elect Walters concurred with the opinions of the other Councilmembers. Councilmember-Elect Walters also spoke in appreciation relative to staff addressing the needs of Mesa's neighborhoods.

Mayor Brown thanked staff for their efforts during the Budget Review process.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Budget Session adjourned at 12:00 p.m

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WAYNE BROWN, 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 Budget Review Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 12th day of May, 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2000

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK