

COUNCIL MINUTES

July 3, 2003

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 3, 2003 at 7:33 a.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

1. Review items on the agenda for the July 7, 2003 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: 7c (Walters)

Items removed from the consent agenda: 4c

2. Further discussion and consideration of the Request for Proposal to provide emergency medical service transportation in Mesa.

Mayor Hawker explained that this item was continued to the July 7, 2003 Regular Council so that staff could highlight a presentation for the viewing audience regarding this important issue.

Assistant Fire Chief Gary Bradbury and Deputy Fire Chief Kenny King addressed the Council relative to this agenda item.

Chief Bradbury provided background information regarding the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) transportation program and briefly defined the duties/responsibilities of Basic Life Support (BLS), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and Advanced Life Support (ALS).

Chief Bradbury reported that with regard to the Request for Proposal (RFP) for emergency medical service transportation, an Emergency Transportation Team was formed to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the current private provider and the City of Mesa. He explained that it was the consensus of the group that a public/private cost recovery model, in which both entities would share the system development, operations and cost recovery, would be the most appropriate choice. Chief Bradbury advised that the private partner would provide the basic system structure and staffing, administrative management, billing reimbursement, consumable medical supplies and patient records management, and the Fire Department would furnish the daily operations management and response dispatch, with operational peak-time staffing as an option.

Chief Bradbury stated that in evaluating a future model for emergency transportation, the following components were reviewed: 1.) Enhanced customer service through integrated deployment; 2.) Improved response times, whereby all primary and peak time ambulances would include an Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) system, Mobile Dispatch Computer and radio communication equipment that integrates with Mesa's Police/Fire Communication Center; 3.) Greater public/private cooperation; 4.) A team environment for the transportation provider and Fire crews; 5.) Staffing level stability through cooperative peak-time staffing with Fire Department personnel, and 6.) Cost recovery to the City of Mesa.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the City would receive the ALS reimbursement fee only when a Mesa paramedic would accompany a patient in an ambulance and provide care en route to a receiving facility; that the patient would not incur additional costs, barring a rate increase request by the regional transportation providers to the Department of Health Services; that consumable medical supplies would be provided by the private partner, and that Mesa would assess a standard fee per call for dispatch services to the City of Apache Junction and the Town of Gilbert.

Chief Bradbury commented that per the Arizona Department of Health Services, "Medical Authority" is defined as the direct communication between a Medical Authority physician and a paramedic (via radio or telephone), whereby treatment orders are provided to the paramedic. He explained that in the past, the hospital which provided on-line medical direction would receive the patient from whom the orders had been given, but currently, the individual's health care plan or insurer determines the ultimate destination of the patient. Chief Bradbury added that Banner Baywood Medical Center and Banner Desert Medical Center are now under contract with the City to provide medical care to patients transported by ambulance. He stated that because the City's medical control has degraded to the point that patients are not receiving the services that are needed, in part due to hospital overcrowding, staff is considering three models to address this concern including a City of Mesa 911 Center; a free-standing facility that could be manned by physicians and medical staff, and/or seeking bids from hospitals that would be interested in supporting the City with medical control.

Further discussion ensued relative to the fact that the service model proposal, which is revenue neutral, would provide ongoing cost recovery as follows: Dispatch/Communications Fee; Advanced Life Support Fee; Medical Control Fee, and Medical Supply Replacement, and that the City could potentially receive \$1.2 million as a result of the public/private cost recovery model.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, City Attorney Debbie Spinner clarified that once this issue is moved forward by the Council at the July 7 Regular Council Meeting, the Council should refrain from any communications with potential vendors who may participate in the RFP process. She added that a specific contact person is identified in the RFP who will respond to any questions posed by prospective vendors.

Additional discussion ensued relative to “bad debt” recovery; the potential for a regional medical model in the future, and the current costs/fees for transport services.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the presentation and commented that he looks forward to considering this issue at the upcoming Regular Council Meeting.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of boards and committees.

- a. Fire Committee meeting held June 23, 2003.
- b. Merit System Board meeting held June 30, 2003.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Vice Mayor Kavanaugh
Councilmember Griswold

Mayor Hawker
Councilmember Jones
Councilmember Walters
Councilmember Whalen
Councilmember Thom

Valley Metro Light Rail Transit Meeting
Meeting with Boeing officials with reference to job expansion; Breakfast meeting with Roberto Gonzales, Legal Advisor to President Bush
MAG Transportation Policy Committee Meeting
Neighborhood Meeting
Neighborhood Meeting
Homeland Security Meeting
Town of Gilbert Meeting with reference to the widening of Baseline and Power Roads

5. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, July 7, 2003, TBA – Study Session

Monday, July 7, 2003, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, July 10, 2003, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, July 14, 2003, TBA – Study Session

Monday, July 14, 2003, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Mr. Hutchinson briefly outlined a series of organizational changes occurring within the City. He announced that he has requested Neighborhood Services Manager Bryan Raines to conduct research relative to the development of a new Financial Services Department; that Arts and Cultural Director Gerry Fathauer will now focus her attention exclusively on the development, operations and marketing of the new Mesa Arts Center, and that Grants Coordinator Jerry Dillehay, in addition to his current duties with Mesa's grants program, will be on special assignment as Acting Cultural Director and oversee the Mesa Southwest Museum, Arizona Museum for Youth and the public art program. Mr. Hutchinson also stated that the City continues the process to fill a number of key positions including Planning Director, Transportation Director, Housing Services Director and Presiding City Magistrate. He added that the Emergency Management Division will be expanded through the hiring of a Deputy Fire Chief and Fire Captain.

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Items from citizens present.

Willie Willis, 930 North Mesa Drive, #1008, expressed concerns relative to the negative impacts on citizens with disabilities as a result of bus route eliminations and reductions in service in the Fiesta Mall area.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:05 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 3rd day of July 2003. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK