

COUNCIL MINUTES

December 20, 1999

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 December 20, 1999 at 4:18 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Keno Hawker
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Shelly Allen
Don Ayers
Wayne Balmer
Neal Beets
Denise Bleyle
Mark Coon
Linda Crocker
Stacey Damp
Bob DeLeon
Jerry Dillahey
Jack Friedline
John Geier
John Gendron
Bill Haney
Joe Holmwood
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Ron Krosting
Dorinda Larsen
Rich Lorig
Greg Marek
Jeff Martin

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Tom Mattingly
Frank Mizner
Keith Nath
Ellen Pence
Ron Poulin
Bryan Raines
Roger Rambo
Tom Remes
Becky Richardson
Kathleen Savagian
Sharon Seekins
Jenny Sheppard
Larry Tally
Kim West
Paul Wilson
Larry Woolf
Others

OTHERS PRESENT

Barrett Marson
Joan Newth
Others

1. Review items on the agenda for the December 20, 1999 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed by Council and staff with no formal action taken. There was specific discussion relative to the following agenda items:

4. Consider the following contracts:

- h. Alma Gardens Trailer Park and Trailer Village Gas Line Replacement. City of Mesa Project 98-14.
- i. Desert Wells Transfer Station. City of Mesa Project 98-57.

- n. Williams Gateway Wastewater Sewer Interceptor. City of Mesa Project 98-59.
- p. South Center Complex Remodel. City of Mesa Project 00-51.

Councilmember Hawker indicated that he had potential conflicts of interest in connection with the above four listed agenda items (h, i, n and p) which he wanted reflected in the minutes of the meeting and because of such conflicts, he would refrain from discussing and/or participating in any manner in connection with same.

- 5. Introduction of the following ordinances and setting January 3, 2000 as the date of the public hearing on these ordinances:

- *k. Z99-99 The 4000 to 4100 blocks of East McDowell Road.

In response to a question from Councilmember Davidson, Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer stated that the Planning and Zoning Board's recommendation is that the City build the entire wall now and be reimbursed at a future time by the owners of the now undeveloped lots.

- 7. Consider the following resolutions:

- *a. Pertaining to the regulation of recovery homes and group homes for the handicapped.

Vice Mayor Giles requested that this agenda item be continued to a future meeting to allow additional time to review and further consider the matter.

Mayor Brown stated that it is the consensus of the Council that this item be placed on the Consent Agenda for continuance to the January 18, 2000 Regular Council Meeting.

2. Discuss and consider issues associated with the Governor's Stadium Plan "B" Advisory Task Force regarding sites for a new stadium.

Assistant City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that the Governor appointed a group to review the issue of providing a stadium for the Arizona Cardinals and the Fiesta Bowl. Mr. Hutchinson commented on the fact that the City is well aware of the extensive work that is involved in the stadium issue and said that the Committee has been meeting to address many of these issues.

Mr. Hutchinson informed the Council that the Advisory Task Force has recently asked cities throughout the Valley to propose potential sites for the stadium and said that the City of Tempe contacted the City to determine whether there was any interest in proposing a site (partially located in both the City of Tempe and the City of Mesa) which was originally considered for the Rio Salado Project. Mr. Hutchinson noted that discussions are very preliminary at this point in time and said that Tempe is recommending three sites within its boundaries in addition to the fourth shared site. Mr. Hutchinson said that it was decided that a subcommittee would be formed for the purpose of pursuing criteria upon which to judge the different site proposals.

Mayor Brown commented on his attendance at the Task Force meeting and said that he indicated that the City of Mesa owns additional property located north of Site 3A which could be utilized as a stadium site if the City was so inclined. Mayor Brown stated the opinion that one of the determining factors will be the availability of the sites and encouraged input from the Council relative to the City's interest in participating in this project.

In response to a question from Councilmember Davidson relative to whether a potential conflict of interest exists on his part, City Attorney Neal Beets stated the opinion that Councilmember Davidson should avoid commenting on the proposed SRP site but may comment on Mesa's site.

Councilmember Jaffa read a prepared statement relative to this item into the record and stated the opinion that the most appropriate site for a new stadium would be at the intersection of the 101 and 202 freeways. Councilmember Jaffa noted that the City of Mesa already owns the land needed for the stadium and is presumably ready to negotiate a fair agreement with all involved parties. Councilmember Jaffa said that he would personally prefer that half the stadium be built in Mesa and half in Tempe and discussed the positive aspects of that location. Councilmember Jaffa stressed the importance of ensuring the citizens of Mesa that any Council support for this project is not based on any new taxes that they will be forced to bear.

Councilmember Pomeroy thanked the Mayor for representing the City at the Task Force Meeting and said that he still believes that positive economic development opportunities would be realized as a result of a stadium project.

Vice Mayor Giles indicated his preference that this issue be discussed at a televised meeting for the benefit of the citizens and requested that either Study Sessions held prior to the Regular Council Meetings be televised or items such as this only be placed on agendas of meetings that will be televised. Vice Mayor Giles encouraged staff to pursue televising all Council meetings in the near future.

Vice Mayor Giles said that although he was not supportive of the previous stadium project, he does believe that Mesa should be involved in the process to locate and determine the best possible site for a Valley-wide stadium. Vice Mayor Giles said that he supports Mesa's efforts in this regard and encouraged staff to be aggressive in their approach to this important issue.

Councilmember Kavanaugh agreed that all of the Council meetings should be televised and also encouraged staff to pursue this issue. Councilmember Kavanaugh expressed the opinion that the intersection of the 101 and 202 freeways is the most appropriate location for a facility of this type and discussed ease of access and overall benefits to be derived from such a project. Councilmember Kavanaugh said he supports partnering with Tempe to explore the possibility of presenting a joint stadium site proposal.

Councilmember Hawker commented that he too is excited about the prospect of locating a site in the East Valley for the proposed stadium and stated the opinion that it is time that the East Valley received some of the benefits that have been enjoyed by the City of Phoenix and the County. Councilmember Hawker expressed concerns regarding the financing of the project and the important role the City of Scottsdale will play in this proposal.

Mr. Hutchinson stated the opinion that it would be appropriate for the Council to forward a letter to the Chairman of the Committee indicating Mesa's interest in pursuing the sites identified by the City of Tempe in their proposal.

Mayor Brown concurred with Mr. Hutchinson's recommendation and requested that the Council make a motion relative to the manner in which to proceed.

Vice Mayor Giles recommended that staff propose two sites for consideration, the joint site with Tempe and the site Mayor Brown referred to which is located to the north of Site 3A and is totally owned by the City of Mesa.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Giles, seconded by Councilmember Jaffa, that the Mayor be authorized to represent the Council and present a proposal to the Governor's Task Force relative to locating the stadium at one of two proposed sites, one located jointly in Mesa and Tempe and the other located north of Site 3A.

Councilmember Hawker stated that he is willing to vote in support of the motion in order to move forward with the process but stressed that until he has a clear understanding of all of the costs involved in utilizing either of the sites, he would not vote in support of proceeding with the project.

Vice Mayor Giles indicated his willingness to amend his motion to include the statement that the proposal is contingent upon being able to work out the finances to everyone's satisfaction. Councilmember Jaffa seconded the amendment to the motion.

Carried unanimously.

3. Further discussion and consideration regarding "Policy Guidelines for Use of CDBG/HOME Funding."

Vice Mayor Giles stated that he voted with the majority of the Council at a previous Council Study Session to not approve staff's recommendations to allow economic development activities to be funded through Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)/HOME funding. Vice Mayor Giles informed the Council that he has had an opportunity to discuss this issue with supporters of the motion and is willing to change his vote in favor of the proposal.

In response to a request for further clarification from Mayor Brown, Councilmember Kavanaugh provided a brief explanation and overview of this agenda item.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Davidson, that the Council reconsider this issue and approve staff's recommendation to potentially utilize CDBG/HOME funds for economic development purposes, as outlined in the staff report (Option 3).

Councilmember Hawker questioned whether an over-lapping of organizations that are already being funded by the City of Mesa exists. Councilmember Hawker commented on the fact that the Chamber of Commerce is already involved in business retention activities and MEGACORP and GPEC are participating in recruiting businesses and questioned why the City would fund other organizations in addition to the ones they are already funding to perform the same type of activities.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Brown-Davidson-Giles-Jaffa-Kavanaugh-Pomeroy
NAYS - Hawker

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried by majority vote.

4. Discuss and consider a Memorandum of Understanding for a pre-planning study for an environmental restoration project for portions of the Salt River from Price Road to the Granite Reef Dam.

Assistant City Manager Mike Hutchinson informed the Council that City Engineer Keith Nath and Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin have been actively involved in efforts to participate in a cooperative project with the Salt River-Pima Indian Community for the last year and a half to restore portions of the Salt River north of Mesa.

Mr. Hutchinson discussed staff's recommendation that the City enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for a pre-planning study and said that the Salt River-Pima Indian Community would assume the lead position in that action and contract with a firm that has already begun identifying issues. Mr. Hutchinson reported that the study that is compiled will be presented to the Council for their review and said that it is staff's hope that at that point the City will be able to move forward with the restoration project.

Mr. Hutchinson commented on the fact that the restored river bed would serve as a significant amenity for both the City of Mesa and the Indian Community and urged the Council to support staff's recommendation.

Mr. Martin addressed the Council regarding this agenda item and spoke in strong support of the restoration proposal. Mr. Martin stated that the Tribal Council will consider this item in January and said that the pre-planning study will provide the City an opportunity to work with the Indian Community and identify the opportunities, benefits and goals of the project.

Councilmember Kavanaugh commented on the extensive spirit of cooperation that exists between the City of Mesa and the Salt River-Pima Indian Community. Councilmember Kavanaugh said that the proposed restoration project will present great environmental and recreational opportunities for everyone involved and added that he supports staff's recommendation.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Hawker, that the City of Mesa enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for a pre-planning study for an environmental restoration project for portions of the Salt River from Price Road to the Granite Reef Dam.

Councilmember Hawker also spoke in strong support of this project and said that the restoration of the riverbed has been a long-term personal goal. Councilmember Hawker added that a lineal parkway that goes from Saguaro Lake clear through downtown Phoenix would raise the area to national prominence. Councilmember Hawker thanked staff and the members of the Indian Community for their efforts.

Councilmember Jaffa concurred with Councilmember Hawker's comments and said that the development of a waterway containing a variety of amenities would be a tremendous opportunity for the entire region.

Discussion ensued relative to waterway accessibility, the importance of ensuring that high quality development occurs at that site, and the importance of exploring all areas of this proposal.

Carried unanimously.

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

Mayor Brown stated that there were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended to report on at this time.

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Charles Luster advised that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, January 3, 2000, TBA – Council Study Session

Monday, January 3, 2000, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances. (Prescheduled appearances will begin after the preceding scheduled agenda items, which should be about 5:30 p.m. There will be a maximum of three speakers for three minutes per speaker).

Mayor Brown advised that there were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

WAYNE BROWN, 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 20th day of December 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK