

# COUNCIL MINUTES

May 17, 2007

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 May 17, 2007 at 7:30 a.m.

**COUNCIL PRESENT**

Mayor Keno Hawker  
Kyle Jones  
Tom Rawles  
Scott Somers  
Mike Whalen

**COUNCIL ABSENT**

Rex Griswold  
Claudia Walters

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

(Mayor Hawker excused Vice Mayor Walters and Councilmember Griswold from the entire meeting.)

1. Review items on the agenda for the May 21, 2007 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: 6a and 6b (Hawker), (Whalen); 9g (Hawker)

Items deleted from the consent agenda: 15a, 15e and 15f

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

Items added to the consent agenda: None

Councilmember Whalen acknowledged Police Commander Rick Clore, who was present in the audience. He stated that Commander Clore is retiring from the City of Mesa after more than 29 years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

2. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on traffic control devices at schools on arterial streets.

Assistant Transportation Director Dan Cleavenger stated that the purpose of today's presentation is to report on the effectiveness of traffic control devices that were installed on

Baseline Road adjacent to Rhodes Junior High School; review the objective criteria that staff has established, with the assistance of the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), for the installation of “reduced speed school zones” on arterial streets; and discuss staff’s recommendations concerning the installation of traffic control devices in other “reduced speed school zones” on arterial streets. (i.e., reduced speed of 35 miles per hour (mph) during school day.)

Mr. Cleavenger displayed a PowerPoint presentation (available for review in the City Clerk’s Office) and reported that in 1987, “reduced speed school zones” were first established at Mesa high schools and in 2000 implemented at a number of elementary schools and junior high schools. He explained that the use of such zones at non-traditional schools is considered on a case-by-case basis.

Mr. Cleavenger advised that in 2000, Rhodes Junior High School was selected as the site for a “reduced speed school zone.” He commented that in 2006, as a result of a fatal collision that occurred at the school the prior year, a series of traffic control changes were implemented. He said that such changes included extending the hours for the 35 mph speed limit and the installation of yellow flashing lights, Driver Speed Feedback Signs (DSFS), reflective strips, “End School Zone” signs, and additional school advance warning signs.

Discussion ensued relative to staff’s one-year evaluation of the changes in driver speed at Rhodes Junior High since the above-referenced modifications were implemented; that prior to the changes at the “reduced speed school zone,” the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed was 46.6 mph during the hours when the 35 mph speed was in effect; that shortly after the changes were implemented, the speed decreased to 39.1 mph; and that one year later, the speed increased to 40.1 mph.

Mr. Cleavenger commented that since 2000, all schools with frontage on arterial streets with a speed limit of 40 mph or higher are eligible for “reduced speed school zones.” He noted that per the TAB’s request, staff established specific criteria for the objective evaluation of requests for such zones. Mr. Cleavenger noted that the criteria, which was approved by the Board in 2006, includes the following: traffic speed and volume; the number of student crossings on arterial streets adjacent to the school; the number of students walking/bicycling along the arterials; and the number of teen drivers (at high schools only).

Mr. Cleavenger further noted that staff considered various control devices that would call attention to the “reduced speed school zones” in place throughout the City. He referred to the PowerPoint presentation and highlighted staff’s recommendations as follows:

- Installing reflective strips to all sign posts holding “SCHOOL 35 MPH, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. SCHOOL DAY” signs and “SCHOOL” warning signs on arterial streets.
- Installing “AHEAD” plaques below “SCHOOL” warning signs located in advance of “reduced speed school zones.” (\$17,550 total cost for the strips and plaques)
- Installing yellow flashers to operate between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. at Fremont and Brimhall Junior High School “reduced speed school zone” sites (\$40,000 total cost). An evaluation would be conducted in one year regarding the installation.
- Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) monies are available to fund the recommended changes.

Mr. Cleavenger added that photo enforcement was considered as a control device, but noted that the cost of implementing such a program within a school zone was estimated at \$1.8 million/year total annual recurring fee.

Councilmember Rawles expressed support for staff's recommendations. He commented, however, that there appears to be "something different" about driver behavior along Baseline Road near Rhodes Junior High that warrants the installation of the additional traffic control devices. Councilmember Rawles added that the driving pattern at other schools does not justify similar measures.

Further discussion ensued relative to speed data collected by staff at Mountain View High School; that staff assigns points with regard to the "reduced speed school zone" criteria; and that 50 points are needed to justify the installation of such a zone.

Mayor Hawker stated that there is Council concurrence with regard to staff's recommendations.

Mayor Hawker expressed appreciation to staff for the presentation.

3. Hear an update and discuss pandemic preparedness.

Assistant Fire Chief Gil Damiani referred to a PowerPoint presentation (available for review in the City Clerk's Office) and provided a brief overview of the Fire Department's efforts concerning pandemic preparedness, of which avian flu is a significant concern. He explained that avian flu is spread through contact with infected birds and that death is usually caused by complications to the respiratory system. Chief Damiani stated that with regard to an avian flu pandemic in the City of Mesa, it is estimated that the vulnerable population impacted by the strain could reach 148,000, with a potential death rate of close to 2,900.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that Mesa's Emergency Management staff monitors current information regarding avian flu from the World Health Organization (WHO), the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS); that staff also engages in dialogue and coordinates with other agencies (i.e., Mesa Public Schools, Banner Health); that Mesa has been designated as a Point of Dispensing/Distribution (POD) for the distribution of vaccines/medication to at-risk populations; and that the CDC has an adequate supply of antiviral medication that would be distributed throughout the country wherever necessary.

In response to a question from Councilmember Somers, Chief Damiani clarified that if Governor Napolitano declared a state of emergency with regard to a flu pandemic, the State could incur the costs with regard to the distribution of flu vaccines.

Councilmember Whalen said that he is aware that many drug companies are unwilling to manufacture flu vaccines because it is not profitable and there is a high disposal rate. He inquired whether the Federal government has taken any action to subsidize such industries.

Chief Damiani responded that he was not aware of such action, but would research Councilmember Whalen's inquiry.

Further discussion ensued relative to future emergency management exercises that Emergency Management staff intends to participate in with Mesa Public Schools; programs to educate the

public with regard to preventing the spread of the flu; stockpiling sufficient equipment to meet the day-to-day needs of critical government infrastructure during a pandemic; completion of a City Continuity of Operations Plan; educating City departments regarding a flu pandemic; updating the City website; and developing a community ethical triage planning project.

Mayor Hawker thanked Chief Damiani for the presentation.

4. Hear a presentation and discuss the West Nile virus.

Environmental Programs Administrator Scott Bouchie introduced Julie Symopoulus, Relations Director for the Regional Development Services Agency in Maricopa County, and John Townsend, Maricopa County Vector Control Manager, who were prepared to address the Council.

Ms. Symopoulus displayed a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Fight the Bite" and reported that 80% of the population that contracts West Nile virus (WNV) are asymptomatic, approximately 20% feel flu-like symptoms, and for a small percentage the virus can be fatal. She explained that there are three different species of mosquitoes that are the vector of the disease.

Ms. Symopoulus spoke regarding Maricopa County's three-prong approach to its integrated pest management that includes education, surveillance and mitigation (fogging). She noted that backyard breeding of the mosquitoes is the primary source of the vector and commented that as little as four ounces of water, if left stagnant, can "bloom" thousands of mosquitoes. Ms. Symopoulus also advised that individuals should avoid being outside at dusk and dawn and at other times of heavy mosquito activity.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that Maricopa County has more than 40 staff members who perform surveillance activity year around and primarily focus on mosquito stagnant water and green pools; that routine site inspections are completed on a monthly basis; that last year, there were 75 confirmed human cases of WNV, including six deaths; that the County received over 14,000 WNV complaints last year; and that sample traps are set across Maricopa County, of which 102 WNV positive samples were obtained in 2006.

Ms. Symopoulus commented that in the City of Mesa, there have been over 1,700 complaints filed, of which 684 sites were inspected. She stated that 26 routine traps have been set in Mesa and 14 WNV positive samples were obtained. Ms. Symopoulus added that the "hot sections" of Mesa are located between Southern Avenue and Broadway Road and Val Vista Drive and Greenfield Road.

In response to a series of questions from Councilmember Whalen, Mr. Townsend clarified that several traps have been set in the area of Tempe Town Lake, which are sampled on a weekly basis. He stated that the lake is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and explained that the County is working with various governmental entities to alleviate the problem. Mr. Townsend also commented that citizens can register with the County to receive notification when fogging will occur in their neighborhood.

Councilmember Whalen suggested that it might be appropriate for Mesa Channel 11 to advise residents when fogging will take place in various areas of the City.

Mayor Hawker thanked everyone for the presentation.

5. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

- a. Mesa Housing Services Governing Board meeting held March 29, 2007
- b. Board of Adjustment meeting held April 10, 2007
- c. Transportation & Infrastructure Committee meeting held April 16, 2007
- d. Audit & Finance Committee meeting held April 19, 2007

It was moved by Councilmember Somers, seconded by Councilmember Whalen, that the above-referenced minutes be acknowledged.

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

Councilmember Jones: Kerr Elementary School visit

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, May 21, 2007, TBA – Study Session

Monday, May 21, 2007, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, May 24, 2007, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, May 31, 2007, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, June 4, 2007, TBA – Study Session

Monday, June 4, 2007, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Monday, June 25, 2007, TBA – Study Session

Monday, June 25, 2007, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

8. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:06 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 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2007. 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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