

# COUNCIL MINUTES

September 17, 1998

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 September 17, 1998 at 7:36 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Jim Davidson  
John Giles  
Keno Hawker  
Bill Jaffa  
Dennis Kavanaugh

## COUNCIL ABSENT

Mayor Wayne Brown  
Pat Pomeroy

## STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster  
Vince Anderson  
Don Ayers  
Pauline Backer  
Wayne Balmer  
Cindy Barris  
Neal Beets  
Denise Bleyle  
Gary Bradbury  
Jamie Brennen  
Dennis Compton  
Fred Conway  
Mark Coon  
Gil Damiani  
Bob DeLeon  
Carl Geis  
Pat Harman  
Mike Hutchinson  
Barbara Jones  
Harry Kent  
Wayne Korinek  
Ron Krosting  
Dorinda Larsen

## STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Larry Lines  
Rich Lorig  
Jeff Martin  
Sandy Mason  
Chuck Monroe  
Ellen Pence  
David Plumb  
Andrea Rasizer  
Tom Remes  
Alan Sanderson  
Sharon Seekins  
Jenny Sheppard  
Jerry Suftko  
Paul Wilson  
Jim Wright

## OTHERS PRESENT

Wulf Grote  
Pierre Pretorius  
Robbie Sherwood  
Marc Soronson  
Others

Vice Mayor Giles excused Mayor Brown and Councilmember Pomeroy from the meeting.

(Items were discussed out of order, but for purposes of clarity will remain as listed on the agenda.)

### 1. Review items on the agenda for the September 22, 1998 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items 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.

- \*g. Annual supply contracts for Gateway Notebook computers for City Departments as requested by the Information Services Division (ISD).

City Manager Charles Luster stated that this item has been deleted from the agenda.

5. Consider the following ordinance.

- a. **A98-4** The proposed annexation of an area around the southeast corner of Elliot and Power Roads (154+/- acres). Initiated by property owner. **CONTINUED FROM THE SEPTEMBER 8, 1998 COUNCIL MEETING.**

Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer advised that the property being purchased by Northgate Properties is not located within the boundaries of this annexation and that a letter withdrawing their protest will be forwarded to staff. Mr. Balmer said that staff is unaware of any additional opposition to the proposed annexation.

Vice Mayor Giles stated that this item will be added to the consent agenda.

7. Consider the following cases from the Planning and Zoning Board and possible adoption of the corresponding ordinances.

- a. **Z98-52** The southeast corner of Signal Butte and Adobe. Rezoned from R1-43 to R1-9 PAD (53.8 acres). This case involves development of a single-residence subdivision with approximately 153 lots. Roger Nelson, owner; Ralph Pew, applicant. **CONTINUED FROM THE AUGUST 31, 1998 COUNCIL MEETING.**

Mr. Balmer said that the applicant has requested that this case be continued to the October 19, 1998 Regular Council Meeting to allow all parties sufficient time to complete and review a revised site plan.

Vice Mayor Giles stated that this item will be added to the consent agenda for continuance to the October 19, 1998 meeting.

- b. **Z98-54** The southwest corner of Country Club Drive and Juanita. Site plan modification (10.25 acres). This case involves development of a retail pad building, a drive-through restaurant, a gas station, and an industrial/office building. Kenneth Roth, owner; Ralph Pew, applicant. **CONTINUED FROM THE AUGUST 31, 1998 COUNCIL MEETING.**

Mr. Balmer distributed a letter on behalf of the applicant referencing plan revisions but indicated that the case remains scheduled for consideration at the September 22, 1998 Regular Council Meeting.

2. Hear a report, discuss, and consider planning for a light rail system (Valley Connections).

Transit Coordinator Jim Wright introduced Wulf Grote, Director of Capital Development for the Regional Public Transportation Authority (RPTA), and Marc Soronson, Environmental Planning Manager for SR Beard & Associates. Mr. Wright stated that Mr. Grote and Mr. Soronson are present to provide a status report concerning the Valley Connections (light rail system) project and to review a proposed intergovernmental agreement (IGA) between the City and RPTA for the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Impact Statement (PE/EIS) for the Valley Connections project.

Mr. Grote advised that Valley Connections was initiated approximately two years ago to address transportation needs within the region's highest-travel-demand corridor (from approximately I-17/Northern Avenue to Mesa Drive between University Drive and the Superstition Freeway). Mr. Grote said that the objective of Valley Connections is to identify a viable design concept and scope for a fixed-guideway transit system within the corridor linking Phoenix with Tempe and Mesa and that a major investment study (MIS) for Valley Connections completed in May 1998 has determined that light-rail transit (LRT) is the most appropriate solution.

Mr. Grote described the LRT concept (elevated and/or street level) and FY1998 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding appropriations (to be matched with local funding) for the PE/EIS relative to the 20-mile base system (Central/Camelback to Dobson Road). Mr. Grote said that funding for the extension from Dobson Road to Mesa Drive is anticipated for the FY2000 appropriation but could be accelerated with increased local funding.

Mr. Grote displayed a photo simulation of the LRT proposal and outlined the implementation process, including the MIS study, PE/EIS, final design, grant approval, construction, and operation.

Discussion ensued concerning the importance of a regional approach and federal/local funding.

Councilmember Jaffa expressed concern relative to the appropriateness of LRT for this area. Mr. Grote responded to questions from Councilmember Jaffa concerning systems utilized in other communities. Councilmember Jaffa encouraged the development of a high-quality product.

Councilmember Kavanaugh commented concerning the City's efforts and commitment to transit. Councilmember Kavanaugh noted a preference to extend the system to downtown Mesa and stated support for the proposed IGA.

In response to a question from Councilmember Davidson, Mr. Grote advised that several options are under review relative to the provision of utility service for the proposed system. Councilmember Davidson expressed appreciation for the presentation and spoke in favor of the proposal.

Councilmember Hawker stated support for the IGA to proceed with the PE/EIS, particularly if the study will remain of value should an alternate system (e.g., commuter rail) be proposed in the future.

Mr. Soronson noted efforts to coordinate the transit proposal with local planning and economic development activities. Mr. Soronson expressed appreciation for the assistance of City staff.

The Council spoke in favor of initially extending the transit system to Mesa Drive rather than Dobson Road.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh, Public Works Manager Harry Kent stated that a resolution has been prepared which would authorize the City Manager to execute an intergovernmental agreement with RPTA. Mr. Luster advised that the resolution will be placed on the agenda for consideration at the September 22, 1998 Regular Council Meeting.

Vice Mayor Giles thanked Mr. Wright, Mr. Grote, and Mr. Soronson for the report.

3. Hear a presentation by Transportation concerning the Aztec program.

Traffic Engineer Alan Sanderson introduced Pierre Pretorius, Aztec Program Manager for the Maricopa County Department of Transportation (DOT).

Mr. Sanderson explained that the Aztec program is an intelligence transportation system (ITS) funded by a \$7.5 million federal grant and scheduled to be officially launched on September 28, 1998. Mr. Sanderson informed Council that Aztec is one of four such programs to be implemented across the nation.

Council viewed a videotape demonstrating components of the Aztec program, designed to establish a regional transportation system utilizing advanced technology and information sharing in an effort to improve traffic safety and quality of life.

Mr. Pretorius noted that various elements have already been deployed in Mesa and that cameras, equipment, and kiosks become the property of the City when installed. Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Pretorius highlighted benefits of the Aztec program and regional cooperation.

In response to questions from Councilmember Davidson, Mr. Pretorius presented statistical data relative to the impact of programs such as Aztec on air quality.

Vice Mayor Giles expressed appreciation to Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Pretorius for the presentation.

4. Consider the proposed League resolutions.

Assistant to the City Manager Jeff Martin stated that the League Resolutions Committee is scheduled to meet on September 18, 1998 to review proposed resolutions for inclusion in the 1999 legislative program, with final consideration of resolutions scheduled for October 21 at the League Annual Conference. Mr. Martin advised that Mesa has sponsored Resolution #21 relating to a Public Safety communications network and has co-sponsored additional resolutions. Mr. Martin said that a resolution submitted by the City pertaining to state-shared revenues has been withdrawn and will be resubmitted as a special resolution by all jurisdictions.

At the request of Councilmember Davidson, Mr. Martin provided background information concerning the process for developing and considering resolutions as a guideline for League activities. Mr. Martin noted that many resolutions are defensive, rather than offensive, in form.

In response to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh, Mr. Martin indicated that the City will likely oppose several of the resolutions submitted.

Mr. Martin provided clarification and responded to questions from Councilmembers concerning specific resolutions. Mr. Martin commented that the City may co-sponsor additional resolutions as discussions progress.

Vice Mayor Giles suggested that consideration be given to submitting a resolution proposing amendments to the Fair Housing Act/Americans with Disabilities Act relative to group homes.

Vice Mayor Giles thanked Mr. Martin for the presentation.

5. Hear a report, discuss, and consider planning for electric deregulation.

Mr. Martin provided background information pertaining to the City's decision not to participate in recent legislation concerning electric deregulation and efforts to develop new legislation containing satisfactory terms and conditions for the City to begin providing electricity outside its service territory. Mr. Martin outlined key components under consideration by the City for presentation at the next legislative session.

Councilmember Jaffa requested that the proposed legislation be presented to the Utility Committee for further review and discussion.

Special Assistant to the City Manager Jenny Sheppard presented a status report concerning anticipated customer service and utility billing enhancements, including a program to allow citizens to make credit card payments 24 hours a day. Ms. Sheppard responded to questions from Council pertaining to efforts to remain competitive, Internet capabilities, and security measures.

Utilities Manager Dave Plumb advised that a team has been established to review the implications of electric deregulation for the City. Mr. Plumb said that a list of related issues has been developed, which includes: a) surveys of existing and potential customer wants and needs, b) marketing to aggregated loads, c) capital investment in electric utility facilities, d) utility governance, e) customer information systems, f) a conservation program, g) public relations and brand identity, g) purchased power agreements, h) gas-fired generation, i) gas/electric integration, j) service efficiency, k) reorganization, and l) technological innovation. Mr. Plumb stated that these items will be reviewed by staff during the next several months.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jaffa, Mr. Luster stated that the City is analyzing and evaluating whether the City should retain or sell the City's utility system.

Discussion ensued concerning the list of issues to be reviewed, inclusion of items as part of the City's upcoming citizen survey, and the feasibility of solar generation.

Vice Mayor Giles thanked staff for the update.

6. Consider approving unmarked vehicles for the Police Department.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Councilmember Jaffa, to approve unmarked vehicles for the Police Department.

Vice Mayor Giles declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

- a. Board of Adjustment meeting held September 1, 1998.
- b. Design Review Board meeting held September 2, 1998.
- c. Downtown Development Committee meeting held August 20, 1998.

Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer presented a brief update concerning Case No. DR98-35 (addition to Martin Landscaping), which had been referred by Council back to the Design Review Board. Mr. Balmer advised that agreement has been reached between Mr. Martin and Mr. Perkinson.

Councilmember Davidson commended the Design Review Board for their work.

Councilmember Davidson noted that the Downtown Development Committee (DDC) has designated work subcommittees. Councilmember Davidson invited Committeemembers to contact Council regarding various projects.

It was moved by Councilmember Hawker, seconded by Councilmember Davidson, to acknowledge the receipt of the minutes of the above-listed meetings.

Vice Mayor Giles declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

8. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Mr. Luster stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, September 17, 1998 - Fire Committee Meeting (following Study Session)

Tuesday, September 22, 1998, 5:45 p.m. - Regular Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 1998, 9 a.m. - Groundbreaking Ceremony (Sossaman Road/Williams Gateway Airport project)

Mr. Luster advised that the Study Session scheduled for Thursday, September 24, 1998, has been canceled.

Mr. Martin said that a meeting with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will be held at 6 p.m. on September 24, 1998 at the Lehi Elementary School to discuss the Red Mountain Freeway alignment.

Councilmember Kavanaugh reported on the recent visit by Councilmembers to Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada, to explore a potential sister city relationship.

Councilmember Jaffa noted two pending zoning cases in the Queen Creek/Gilbert/Pinal County area. Councilmember Jaffa spoke concerning the importance of diversity/densities and the significance of the cases for the East Valley. Following discussion, Councilmember Jaffa requested a briefing from staff and an opportunity to supplement comments previously expressed by staff to the communities.

Mr. Balmer stated that materials will be provided in the next Council packet.

9. Prescheduled public opinion appearances (maximum of three speakers for three minutes per speaker).

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

10. Items from citizens present (maximum of three speakers for three minutes per speaker).

There were no items from citizens present at this time.

11. Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilmember Jaffa, seconded by Councilmember Davidson, that the Study Session adjourn at 9:30 a.m.

Carried unanimously.

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JOHN GILES, VICE 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 17th day of September 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1998

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BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK