

# COUNCIL MINUTES

February 27, 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 February 27, 1998 at 7:30 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown  
Pat Gilbert  
Dennis Kavanaugh  
Joan Payne  
Wayne Pomeroy  
Claudia Walters

## COUNCIL ABSENT

John Giles

## STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster  
Joan Baier  
Neal Beets  
Denise Bleyle  
Mike Claspell  
Dennis Compton  
Linda Crocker  
John Gendron  
Joe Holmwood  
Mike Hutchinson  
Lars Jarvie  
Barbara Jones  
Harry Kent  
Wayne Korinek  
Ron Krosting  
Dorinda Larsen  
Greg Marek  
Jeff Martin  
Tracy Mead  
Ellen Pence  
Bryan Raines  
Andrea Rasizer  
Tom Remes  
Donna Salemi  
Mindy White  
Others

## OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Davidson  
Charlie Deaton  
Bev Hart  
Keno Hawker  
Robbie Sherwood  
Others

Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Giles from the meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the March 2, 1998 Regular Council meeting.

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

4. Consider the following contracts:

- \*b. One year renewal of the annual supply contract for leather gloves for warehouse inventory to be used by various departments.

In response to a question from Mayor Brown, Senior Purchasing Buyer Joan Baier advised that the contract is for work gloves to protect employees against certain harmful chemicals.

- 5. Introduction of the following ordinances and setting March 16, 1998 as the date for the public hearing on these ordinances.
  - \*a. Code Amendment: Pertaining to the Zoning Ordinance and the building regulations of the Mesa City Code, amending Title 11, Chapter 13, Section 2 regarding swimming pool enclosures; and adopting a new Chapter 7 of Title 4. (Two Options.)

In response to a question from Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer, Mayor Brown directed staff to leave this item on the consent agenda and stated that Councilmember Giles may remove this item for discussion at the Regular Council Meeting.

- 7. Consider the following ordinances:
  - \*b. Increasing in the year 2000 and thereafter the salary for the Office of Mayor to \$2,800 per month and City Councilmember to \$1,400 per month, but not increasing the salary for the current Mayor and City Councilmembers.

In response to a request from Councilmember Payne, Mayor Brown advised that this item will be removed from the consent agenda.

2. Hear a report concerning the construction of the Main Police Station addition and garage.

Police Chief Lars Jarvie presented the Council with a brief overview of the proposed construction of the Main Police Station addition and garage. Chief Jarvie informed the Council that staff has met with neighbors and has appeared before the Downtown Development Committee and the Police Committee relative to this agenda item.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the current Police building was built in 1975 and has undergone two expansions since that time; staffing levels and the need for additional space; the fact that voters approved the sale of bonds for construction of the new station and holding facility; parking; the fact that police vehicles will be located below ground level in a parking garage; the construction of a heliport on the top of the building; landscaping and elevations.

Assistant Chief Mike Whalen assisted Chief Jarvie in highlighting a brief video/architect's rendering of the proposed addition and reported that project completion is estimated to occur in March 2000.

Mayor Brown thanked Chief Jarvie and Assistant Chief Whalen for their presentation.

3. Further discussion and consideration concerning the KPMG Peat Marwick proposal to conduct a management review of the Police Department.

Chief Jarvie introduced KPMG Peat Marwick Partner Kurt Ramey to the Council and stated that Mr. Ramey's firm has been engaged to conduct a management review of the Police Department.

Mr. Ramey briefly highlighted a proposed work plan which includes evaluating the need for the Police Department expansion; analyzing issues on a community and business basis at site locations, the overall evaluation of department staffing levels and the Department's organizational structure.

Mr. Ramey provided the Council with a brief overview of his firm's experience in conducting management reviews and thanked the Council for the opportunity to serve the City of Mesa.

Discussion ensued relative to the feasibility of using the underutilized County holding facility rather than constructing a separate facility.

Councilmember Walters expressed the opinion that sites outside of existing neighborhoods should be considered for the holding facility and stressed the importance of anticipating future growth and requirements when developing siting plans..

Councilmember Kavanaugh commented on the importance of avoiding negative impacts on neighborhoods and agreed that the City should pursue the possibility of utilizing the County's facility.

Mayor Brown stressed the importance of conducting an impartial review of the Police Department and commented on the need to evaluate the operations and effectiveness of the Police Department.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Gilbert, seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy, that staff be directed to proceed with the study as outlined in the report submitted to Council.

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

4. Discuss and consider placing a question on the general election ballot which would permit increasing the City Transaction Privilege Tax.

Mr. Bob Grossfeld and Christa Severns, representing Grossfeld/Severns, Inc. referred to charts and provided the Council with a brief overview of a survey which was recently conducted to gauge the feasibility of placing a question on the May 19, 1998 General Election ballot relative to increasing the City's Transaction Privilege (Sales) Tax.

Mr. Grossfeld reported that a majority of Mesa's citizens are content with the services provided by the City and added that major citizen concerns centered around traffic congestion, juvenile crime; transportation; and growth/redevelopment issues. Mr.

Grossfeld noted that although citizens are content with current services, they also expressed the opinion that services will need to be enhanced in order to meet the increasing demands generated by rapid growth.

Mr. Grossfeld reported that minimal difference exists between citizen support for a 1/4 cent sales tax increase and a 1/2 cent sales tax increase. Mr. Grossfeld added that the citizens also clearly support the proposed increase to expand police/fire/paramedic services, left turn arrows at intersections, computerized traffic signals, expanded recreational programs, library services, and bus pullouts.

Mr. Grossfeld stated that as part of the focus group portion of the survey, it was determined that 23% of the respondents would prefer an 800 seat and 250 seat performing arts/entertainment facility and nearly double that number would support a 1600 seat and 250 seat facility. Mr. Grossfeld advised that this number represents citizen emphasis on future planning which was present throughout all of the research that was conducted.

Mayor Brown thanked Mr. Grossfeld for his input.

In response to a request from Mayor Brown, Assistant City Manager Mike Hutchinson advised that staff is recommending that a 1/2 cent sales tax question be placed on the ballot of the May 19, 1998 General Election for voter approval and explained that the proposed sales tax would be divided into two categories: 1/4 cent for operational costs and 1/4 cent for capital costs. Mr. Hutchinson added that the 1/4 cent increase for capital costs would be eliminated in approximately eight years and the remaining 1/4 cent tax would remain in effect.

Discussion ensued relative to proposed projects which include increased library services, expanded parks and recreation projects, neighborhood park and museum improvements; bike paths, fire protection, a joint Police/Fire training facility, and arts and entertainment facilities.

Arts Administrator Gerry Hulcher discussed the various user groups that would utilize an arts and entertainment facility in Mesa and expressed the opinion that two separate and distinct needs must be met, a facility for larger groups and productions, and a smaller one for events such as chamber music festivals. Ms. Hulcher added the opinion that the construction of both a 1600 seat and a 600 seat arts and entertainment facility should be considered by the Council.

Discussion ensued relative to acoustics and technical quality issues, ticket prices, and the fact that the two proposed facilities would meet Mesa's current and future needs.

It was moved by Councilmember Walters, seconded by Councilmember Pomeroy, that staff be directed to prepare a resolution relative to the placement of a question on the May 19, 1998 General Election ballot increasing the City's Transaction Privilege (Sales) Tax for Council consideration at the March 2, 1998 Regular Council Meeting.

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

Mayor Brown thanked Ms. Hulcher for her input and requested that Mr. Grossfeld and Ms. Severns provide a brief presentation on the survey findings at the March 2, 1998 Regular Council Meeting.

4.1. Review and consider providing employee commuter insurance.

Employee Benefits Administrator Donna Salemi provided the Council with brief background information relative to providing employees with commuter insurance. Ms. Salemi explained that the insurance would provide a \$250,000 death benefit for employees who are killed on their way to or from work. Ms. Salemi noted that the total cost of the insurance, which will be paid for by the City of Mesa without cost to the employees, is approximately \$13,000 annually.

Councilmember Kavanaugh spoke in support of approving employee commuter insurance and stated that this relatively inexpensive benefit will provide an added measure of security to the families of City employees. Councilmember Kavanaugh expressed appreciation to staff for their research into the commuter insurance proposal.

It was moved by Councilmember Kavanaugh, seconded by Vice Mayor Gilbert, that a proposal to provide employee commuter insurance be approved.

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

- a. Crime Prevention Advisory Board meeting held February 18.
- b. Design Review Board meeting held February 18.
- c. Judicial Advisory Board meetings held December 3, December 10, December 30, and January 14.
- d. Police Committee meeting held January 30.

It was moved by Councilmember Pomeroy, seconded by Councilmember Walters, that receipt of the above listed minutes be acknowledged.

Mayor Brown declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

Mayor Brown advised that there were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Monday, March 2, 1998, 5:45 p.m. - Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, March 5, 1998, 4:00 p.m. - Policy Session

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

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

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

Mayor Brown advised that there were no items from citizens present.

10. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:07 a.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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on 27th day of February 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