

COUNCIL MINUTES

August 5, 1996

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 August 5, 1996 at 4:01 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Pat Gilbert
John Giles
T. Farrell Jensen
Dennis Kavanaugh
Joan Payne
Jim Stapley

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Linn Adams
Don Ayers
Pauline Backer
Wayne Balmer
Cindy Barris
Neal Beets
Joe Holmwood
Lars Jarvie
Barbara Jones
Harry Kent
Ron Krosting
Larry Lines
Greg Marek
Jeff Martin
Tom Mattingly
Keith Nath
Eric Norenberg
John Oliver
Ellen Pence
Bryan Raines
John Smoyer
Mindy White
Ralph Wisz

OTHERS PRESENT

Ken Basham
Richard Manley
Sarah Murley
Dan Nowicki
Others

1. Hear and consider proposed League resolutions.

Government Relations Coordinator Jeff Martin provided Council a copy of the resolutions proposed for preliminary approval by the League Resolutions Committee. Mr. Martin advised that Council may offer amendments to the resolutions and that Councilmember Kavanaugh will represent the City at the pre-conference meeting of the Committee this year. Mr. Martin noted that two of the resolutions, #1 and #11, were introduced by Mesa and involve State mandates and transportation, respectively.

Councilmember Stapley suggested that Resolution #6 (flood control district tax) be modified to reflect "drainageway improvements and maintenance" rather than merely "drainageway maintenance" and that Resolution #18 (summer youth employment and training programs) be amended to delete wording following "training programs."

Council spoke briefly regarding tracking of issues proposed repeatedly each year.

2. Review and consider proposals concerning the improvements to Main Street in the downtown area including the colonnades.

Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer indicated that in follow-up to the recent *Connections* report, staff has considered options for improvements to Main Street in the downtown area. Mr. Balmer stated that discussions with property owners have resulted in suggestions involving lighting, facades, arcades, crosswalks, and medians. Mr. Balmer noted that \$1 million has been included in the budget for downtown improvements: \$850,000 for street improvements and \$150,000 for colonnade modifications.

Mr. Balmer referred to schematics and presented a plan to place streetlights (similar to those installed in various Mesa historic neighborhoods) and xeriscape landscaping/pavement in the median along Main Street from Country Club Drive to Hobson. Mr. Balmer estimated that given the required lead time for the streetlights, the project could be completed in the Spring of 1997 using funds from the current budget.

Mr. Balmer outlined two additional future concepts for the downtown colonnade area that would involve intersection modifications (pavers, landscaping), increased illumination, replacement of sidewalks, removal of planters (to be replaced with pavers, iron grates, and trees), and the potential removal of colonnades if supported by corresponding business owners. Mr. Balmer indicated that the proposals could require more than one year to complete and are supported by the Mesa Town Center Corporation and the Downtown Development Committee. Mr. Balmer advised that staff will be working with establishments to develop a plan for Council consideration.

Councilmember Giles reiterated concerns regarding the removal of colonnades and the perception of citizens that such action may not be an appropriate use of funds. Councilmember Giles expressed appreciation to staff for their efforts but encouraged delay of the proposed projects pending development of the Northeast Quadrant. Councilmember Giles suggested that the \$1 million budgeted for the downtown area be utilized for the acquisition of property and redevelopment.

City Manager Charles Luster clarified that staff is requesting Council direction at this time concerning only the installation of streetlights and median landscaping. Mr. Luster stated the opinion that the streetlights and landscaping will complement the proposed development of the Northeast Quadrant.

Mr. Balmer indicated that the streetlight/landscaping plan has been reviewed with Voit Companies, who favors the proposal.

Mayor Brown noted the importance of lighting in the downtown area as a safety factor.

Councilmember Stapley spoke concerning associated costs.

Councilmember Jensen commented regarding the importance of safety and spoke in favor of the proposed streetlights and landscaping.

Vice Mayor Gilbert stated agreement with the streetlight/median landscaping plan and suggested that staff proceed with the additional proposals if supported by property owners.

Councilmember Kavanaugh expressed the opinion that the streetlights and median landscaping represent a positive change for the downtown area. Councilmember Kavanaugh encouraged staff to work with business owners relative to the remaining proposals.

Mayor Brown stated that it is the consensus of the majority of Council to proceed with the streetlights and median landscaping as proposed.

3. Review the proposed interview questions to be asked of businesses impacted by Proposition 200.

Assistant City Manager Mike Hutchinson introduced Sarah Murley, a consultant who will be interviewing various business owners on behalf of the City regarding impacts of Proposition 200.

Sarah Murley, Partner, Applied Economics, 5957 East Windrose, Scottsdale, advised that she will begin scheduling interviews this week with 25 Mesa businesses. Ms. Murley stated that the interview process represents the first of two phases and will require several weeks to complete. Ms. Murley reported that the second phase, which involve sales tax analyses, will be conducted at a later date, with the entire process to be completed by the end of the year.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed interview questions. Councilmember Jensen suggested that input be obtained relative to any decrease in business prior to July 1, 1996, additional circumstances that could account for any decreases, and any positive comments received.

Councilmember Giles expressed concern that the proposed questions will elicit opinions rather than facts.

In response to a question from Councilmember Giles, Mr. Hutchinson reported that the 25 establishments were selected to represent a cross-section of businesses throughout Mesa. Mr. Hutchinson indicated that the analysis of data will begin in September and involve 125 establishments selected at random.

Vice Mayor Gilbert noted effects of seasonality and the importance of marketing efforts in the event Proposition 200 remains in place.

Councilmember Stapley stated concern that it may be inappropriate to conduct surveys at this time given the fact that the smoking measure is not yet fully effective and that sales typically decrease for many businesses during the summer months. Councilmember Stapley spoke in favor of delaying the study.

Mayor Brown indicated support for the proposed surveys and requested that Council be kept apprised as the surveys proceed.

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

- a. Transportation Committee meeting - August 2, 1996.

It was moved by Councilmember Stapley, seconded by Councilmember Jensen, to acknowledge receipt of the minutes of the Transportation Committee meeting held on August 2, 1996.

Carried unanimously.

5. Review items on the agenda for the August 5, 1996 Regular Council meeting.

All of the agenda items were reviewed among the Council and staff, with no formal action taken. There was particular discussion with regard to the following agenda items:

7. Consider the following contracts:

- *h. Gas system replacement (235 West Southern Avenue).

Mr. Luster indicated that this item will be deleted from the agenda.

- k. 110 personal computers (PCS) and associated software for City departments as requested by the Information Services Division.

Mayor Brown stated that this item will be deleted from the agenda for continuance to the August 26, 1996 Regular Council Meeting.

8. Introduction of the following ordinances and setting August 26, 1996 as the date for the public hearing on these ordinance.

- *a. Combining the Housing and Human Services Advisory Boards.

In response to a request from Vice Mayor Gilbert, Richard Manley, Executive Director of the Mesa Community Action Network, provided background information concerning the proposed combination of the Housing and Human Services Advisory Boards to satisfy federal requirements for the City's Community Action Program (CAP) Board.

- *9.1. Consider a resolution adopting ASHRAE 62A 1990 and an emergency ordinance relating to smoking and public health; amending Section 6-11-8, Mesa City Code; providing penalties for violations, and declaring an emergency. (EMERGENCY ORDINANCE.)

Mr. Luster noted that the ordinance includes an emergency clause and therefore requires six votes.

Discussion briefly ensued concerning costs associated with implementation of the provisions of the resolution/ordinance.

10. Consider the following resolutions:

- b. Approving the assessments of East Hermosa Vista Drive just west of Lindsay Road, Assessment District No. 96-85.

Mayor Brown advised that this resolution may be added to the consent agenda if there are no objections during the public hearing under Item 3.

- *10.3. Consider a recommendation from the Transportation Committee concerning the installation of a cul-de-sac in the 2300 block of North Hall Circle.

Public Works Manager Harry Kent referred to sketches and outlined a new alternative option developed by staff that would provide for a 30' radius rather than a 35' radius as recommended by the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Luster indicated that it would be the recommendation of staff at this time to support the option for the 30' radius.

Mayor Brown stated that this item will be removed from the consent agenda for consideration of the 30' radius.

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

There were no reports at this time on meetings and/or conferences attended.

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Police Chief Lars Jarvie estimated that 250 block parties will be held in Mesa for National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6, 1996. Chief Jarvie said that he has asked members of his staff to attend as many of the block parties as possible and invited any Councilmembers interested in attending to report to the Main Police Station at 6:30 p.m.

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

Monday, August 26, 1996, 5:30 p.m. - Regular Council Meeting

Monday, September 9, 1996, 5:30 p.m. - Regular Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 1996, 5:30 p.m. - Regular Council Meeting

Study Session
August 5, 1996
Page 6

8. Adjournment.

It was moved by Councilmember Stapley, seconded by Councilmember Giles, that the Study Session adjourn at 5:08 p.m.

Carried unanimously.

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 5th day of August 1996. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 28th day of August 1996

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK