

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 28, 1998

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Budget Review Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on May 28, 1998 at 7:32 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
John Giles
Dennis Kavanaugh
Claudia Walters

COUNCIL ABSENT

Pat Gilbert
Joan Payne
Wayne Pomeroy

COUNCIL-ELECT PRESENT

Jim Davidson
Keno Hawker
Bill Jaffa
Pat Pomeroy

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Wayne Balmer
Kathy Barrett
Cindy Barris
Denise Bleyle
Jack Caroline
Tanya Collins
Dennis Compton
Gerry Gerber
Joe Holmwood
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Wayne Korinek
Karen Kurtz
Laura Manley
Tray Mead
Lenny Montanaro
Ruth Anne Norris

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Ellen Pence
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer
Jackie Redpath
Tom Remes
Sherri Slaughter
Ursula Strehans
Walter Switzer
Jamie Warner

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Brinton
Theresa Carmichael
Margie Frost
Dave Muth
Tom Verploegen

Mayor Brown excused Vice Mayor Gilbert and Councilmembers Payne and Pomeroy from the meeting.

Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Kavanaugh from the beginning of the meeting. Councilmember Kavanaugh arrived at 8:53 a.m.

(Items 1-11 were discussed at the May 26 and 27, 1998 Budget Review Sessions.)

12. City Court - Walter Switzer.

a. Judicial Program #5300

Presiding City Magistrate Walter Switzer introduced staff present at the meeting and described the function and responsibilities of the City Court. Judge Switzer presented an organizational chart for the City Court, reflecting a total of 70 employees, and provided a comparison of full-time judges for surrounding communities.

Judge Switzer reviewed statistical data pertaining to case filings, motions, and misdemeanor appearances requiring the utilization of an interpreter. Judge Switzer stated that a third Spanish interpreter is being requested to alleviate a backlog of cases.

Judge Switzer spoke concerning the impact of population growth, the new DUI law, and the addition of police officers on the activities of the City Court. Judge Switzer related the increase in gross/net Court receipts from FY1993-94 through FY1997-98 (July 1 through March 31), noting that \$9 million in gross receipts is anticipated for the current year.

Judge Switzer advised that a proposal concerning court user fees is included on the agenda for the June 1, 1998 Regular Council Meeting and that the proposed budget for the City Court includes a request for an automated call disbursement system and a tape recorder.

Discussion ensued pertaining to computer leases, efforts to recoup costs, the need for additional courtrooms within the next 10 years, and diversion and education programs.

Council and Council-Elect requested input from staff should the new DUI legislation and issues such as photo radar have a significant impact on the City Court. Council and Council-Elect encouraged the implementation of diversion programs and education programs, possibly as an element of DARE.

13. City Attorney and City Prosecutor – Neal Beets.

- a. Legal Program #5400

This item was discussed at the May 27, 1998 Budget Review Session.

14. Community Development Department - Wayne Balmer.

- a. Redevelopment Program #5260
- b. Economic Development Program #5550
- c. Planning Program #5900
- d. Community Development Program #8060
- e. Airports
 - Falcon Field Program #8800
 - Williams Gateway Airport #5250
- f. Code Compliance #6700

Community Development Manager Wayne Balmer reviewed the function of each responsibility center included within the Community Development Department. Mr. Balmer presented statistical data pertaining to Planning and Zoning, Design Review, and Board of Adjustment/Zoning Administrator cases for the past year, as well as Code Compliance activities.

Mr. Balmer outlined the proposed FY1998-99 budget, advising that two additional full-time employees have been requested for the Planning Division (a Planner I and a Planning Assistant).

Mr. Balmer noted potential impacts on the department should a housing code be approved by voters or Council increase the focus on neighborhood cleanups.

Council, Council-Elect, and staff spoke concerning airport operations, proposed expansion of the notification process relative to zoning cases, code compliance and enforcement efforts, coordination among agencies (Chamber of Commerce, Town Center, Economic Development, etc.) to avoid duplication of services, and requests for assistance from local social service agencies. Council and Council-Elect recommended that a tour of Williams Gateway Airport be scheduled in the near future and that consideration be given to the development/analysis of a long-term strategic plan (Year 2025). Discussion ensued regarding the possible exploration of a pilot program utilizing professional mediation services in relation to zoning.

15. Break.

At 9:06 a.m., Mayor Brown called for a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 9:22 a.m.

(Mayor Brown excused Councilmember Giles from the meeting at this time.)

16. Community Aid Issues.

a. Arts and Cultural Community Aid Grant Requests

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Director Joe Holmwood introduced members of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Division present at the meeting.

Arts Administrator Gerry Gerber outlined the FY1998-99 arts and cultural community aid grant requests and the recommendations of the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board. Ms. Gerber provided background information relative to each organization and noted that no City funding was requested by the City Band for the upcoming year. Ms. Gerber provided an overview of contingency funds allocated for mini-grants.

Councilmember Kavanaugh advised that he has served as a Boardmember for Southwest Shakespeare and that his term expires this month.

Council and Council-Elect commended staff and the Museum and Cultural Advisory Board for their efforts.

Mr. Holmwood and Museum Administrator Tray Mead presented a request for funding from the Mesa Historical Society in the amount of \$80,000. Mr. Holmwood and Mr. Mead responded to questions from Council-Elect concerning the organization's operations, activities, and funding.

b. Housing and Human Services Funding Requests

Neighborhood and Community Assistance Director Tanya Collins introduced members of the Neighborhood and Community Assistance Department present at the meeting.

Human Services Coordinator Karen Kurtz presented housing and human services funding recommendations for FY1998-99 as proposed by the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board. Ms. Kurtz stated that the recommendations represent a 5.8 percent increase over the current year, but noted that at the request of Council, level funding had been maintained for FY1997-98. Ms. Kurtz provided background information pertaining to the applicants.

(Councilmember Giles returned to the meeting at 9:50 a.m.)

Discussion ensued concerning diversion programs and the importance of services provided by the various agencies.

Council and Council-Elect expressed appreciation to staff and the Housing and Human Services Advisory Board for their efforts.

17. Miscellaneous Issues.

a. Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB)

Councilmember Giles and Councilmember-Elect Jaffa advised that they serve on the Board of Directors for the Convention and Visitors Bureau but that no legal conflict exists because the position is not compensated.

Dave Muth, President of the CVB and General Manager of the Mesa Pavilion Hilton, spoke concerning the impact of the change in the City's bed tax approved by voters in 1996 and highlighted areas of focus during 1997, including the development of a tourism strategy, education program, and crime-free program. Mr. Muth briefly outlined the proposed FY1998-99 budget.

Robert Brinton, Executive Director of the CVB, provided background information concerning the CVB and funding and presented statistical data pertaining to room growth, occupancy levels, average rate, CVB leads/confirmed bookings, number of room nights, requests for information, and advertising campaigns.

b. Mesa Town Center Corporation (MTCC) Funding

Theresa Carmichael, President of the Mesa Town Center Corporation, noted three contract budgets recommended for final review and approval by the MTCC Board: a) Town Center Improvement District, b) Public Space Management, and c) Parking Management. Ms. Carmichael outlined the proposed MTCC FY1998-99 budget for all contracts.

Discussion ensued concerning overhead fees and approval/protest procedures relative to the improvement district.

18. Direction from the City Council and Council-Elect.

Council and Council-Elect presented various policy issues for additional consideration in finalizing the budget and requested follow-up materials. Council and Council-Elect expressed concern relative to the proposed increase in water/sewer fees given the recent approval of the half-cent sales tax adjustment.

Mr. Luster stated that adoption of the tentative FY1998-99 budget is scheduled for June 15, 1998, and final adoption is scheduled for June 29, 1998.

19. Adjournment.

Council and Council-Elect commended staff for their work within each department and expressed appreciation for their efforts in preparing the budget.

Without objection, the Budget Review Session adjourned at 11:24 a.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 Budget Review Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 28th day of May 1998. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1998

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK