

# UTILITY COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 10, 2002

The Utility Committee of the City of Mesa met in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on October 10, 2002 at 9:40 a.m.

## COMMITTEE PRESENT

Janie Thom, Chairman  
Kyle Jones  
Mike Whalen

## COUNCIL PRESENT

None

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Paul Wenbert

### 1. Discuss and consider Solid Waste collection boundary changes.

Solid Waste Management Director Tim Mahon and Operations Research Analyst Peter Klimoski addressed the members of the Committee relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Mahon explained that the purpose of today's presentation is to seek approval from the members of the Utility Committee, in the form of a recommendation to Council, to reconfigure the Solid Waste Division's three collection zones, which are scheduled to become effective November 18, 2002. (See Attachment)

Mr. Mahon commented that continued growth in the community has burdened the City's resources to the point where the Solid Waste Division delivers approximately 80 to 100 trash barrels and 50 to 80 new green waste barrels on a weekly basis. He also stated that periodic changes to the solid waste collection boundaries enable staff to accommodate growth and to more efficiently utilize City equipment. He added that the previous boundary changes in October 2000 affected approximately 7,500 residents.

Mr. Mahon advised that it is the recommendation of staff that the boundary lines for Zone 1 from Stapley Drive to Gilbert Road, south of Broadway be changed. This will impact approximately 3,200 customers in Council District 4. In addition, it is also the recommendation of staff that Zone 2 boundary lines from Greenfield Road to Recker Road, south of University Drive and Higley Road to Recker Road, north of University Drive to Brown Road be changed. This will impact approximately 2,000 customers from Council District 5 and 4,000 customers in Council District 6.

Mr. Mahon further commented that three weeks prior to the boundary changes, the Solid Waste Division will mail letters to the residents who will be impacted by the modifications. He advised

that the correspondence will detail the reason for the changes, outline when the boundary changes will occur, and list the new garbage collection dates. Mr. Mahon added that one week prior to the boundary changes, a follow-up postcard will be mailed to further remind the homeowners of the route changes. He also stated that during the first two weeks subsequent to the boundary changes, the Solid Waste Division will dispatch additional vehicles to the affected areas to accommodate residents who may have forgotten to place their garbage barrels at the curb on the new collection day.

Committeemember Whalen noted that although Mesa residents sometimes consider the changing of solid waste collection boundaries a contentious issue, he believes the revisions are justified and concurs with the recommendations of staff at this time. He also agreed that it is crucial that the affected residents are given advanced notification of the proposed collection boundary changes. Committeemember Whalen commended the staff of the Solid Waste Division for their hard work and the quality service they provide to the entire community.

It was moved by Committeemember Whalen, seconded by Committeemember Jones, to recommend to the Council that the reconfiguration of the Solid Waste Division's three collection zones, be approved.

Carried unanimously.

Chairman Thom thanked staff for the informative presentation.

2. Hear a status report on 2003 water allocations to the City of Mesa.

Utilities Director Dave Plumb and Water Resources Coordinator Kathryn Sorenson addressed the Committee relative to this agenda item.

Mr. Plumb reported that the Salt River Project (SRP) Board has elected to reduce Mesa's water allocations to two acre-feet per acre in 2003. He stated the fact that the City's normal allocation of SRP water is three acre-feet per acre; that this year, SRP has decreased that amount from three to two acre-feet per acre; that Mesa normally uses between two and 2.2 acre-feet per acre, and that the proposed allocation will most likely be comprised of 1.3 acre-feet per acre of groundwater and .7 acre-feet of surface water.

Ms. Sorenson explained that Arizona law dictates that as of 2001, any groundwater use in the Phoenix Active Management Area must be replenished, and that the water that Mesa will receive through the SRP system in 2003 will be counted as groundwater. She commented that although there are specific rules that allow municipalities to pump groundwater without a replenishment obligation during drought, it is unclear at this time whether Mesa or other Valley cities will be eligible for the exemption. Ms. Sorenson added that if the drought pumping exclusion is not available to Mesa, the City's replenishment obligation will be a minimum of 25,000 acre-feet, with current cost projections between zero and \$550,000. She also stated that while Mesa has a current store of Long-Term Storage Credits from which it can accomplish replenishment, it will ultimately be necessary to replace the credits to maintain compliance with Mesa's Assured Water Supply designation.

Discussion ensued relative to the groundwater replenishment process, the fact that the Phoenix Active Management Area encompasses most of Maricopa County and parts of Pinal County, and the feasibility of completing the CAP canal project in order to access water from the Pinal County Water Farm.

Chairman Thom thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Discuss and consider City of Mesa water conservation activities.

Management Assistant Denise Bleyle addressed the members of the Committee and provided a short synopsis of the newly created Citywide Water Management Team (CWMT). She explained that although Mesa currently has a sufficient water supply to meet the needs of its citizens, due to a recent proposal from Salt River Project (SRP) to lower its water allocations, the City may be compelled to rely on more costly water sources. Ms. Bleyle advised that in an effort to address this issue, the CWMT, which is composed of staff representing all City facilities, was established in August to study the City's internal water management measures. She stated that the group has been charged with the responsibility of conducting a survey of water usage at City buildings and grounds, compiling an inventory of measures currently utilized by the City to manage its water usage, and developing an employee education program.

Ms. Bleyle further commented that the CWMT has recently approved a series of recommendations, including the implementation of an immediate "no overseeding" policy for all City facilities (excluding only those areas that generate revenue for the City or areas where public safety is a concern); a reduction in overseeding areas at City golf courses, and an increased public awareness program regarding the issue of water conservation. She added that the CWMT has also established a number of short and long-term recommendations and goals and will continue to review City policies and water usage.

Utilities Resources Division Director Frank McRae and Utilities Conservation Specialist Donna Difrancesco addressed the Committee and provided a brief overview of the City's numerous water conservation programs.

Ms. Difrancesco reported that in an effort to promote water conservation throughout the community, the City of Mesa has implemented a variety of educational programs for the public schools and the community in general. She noted, by way of example, that on a daily basis, staff responds to public inquiries regarding water conservation; has created a series of public relations and promotional materials; worked in conjunction with other Valley municipalities to develop and distribute brochures for educational incentives; assessed the transportation and public rights-of-way for landscaping water usage, and integrated water conservation curriculum into second and fourth grade classes in Mesa's public schools.

Ms. Difrancesco further commented that the "Water Use It Wisely" campaign, initiated by the City of Mesa, has become a regional water conservation program utilized throughout the western United States. She also briefly described a number of other educational programs that address water conservation such as landscape workshops, xeriscaping, and rebate programs for low water usage planting.

Mr. McRae provided a short synopsis of recent enhancements to the City's water conservation efforts including the CWMT's internal water use assessment; the posting of frequently asked questions on the City's web site; Public Service Announcements (PSAs) on Mesa Channel 11; letters sent to Mesa homeowners' associations requesting that the residents do not overseed their lawns, and City efforts to highlight various irrigation and drought issues in the Open Line.

(Committeemember Whalen left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.)

Chairman Thom voiced appreciation to staff for the informative presentation.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Utility Committee Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Utility Committee meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2002. 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