

# COUNCIL MINUTES

September 6, 2005

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 6, 2005 at 4:28 p.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker  
Rex Griswold  
Kyle Jones  
Tom Rawles  
Janie Thom  
Claudia Walters  
Mike Whalen

## COUNCIL ABSENT

None

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

### 1. Review items on the agenda for the September 6, 2005 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: 4f (Hawker)

Items added to the consent agenda: 7.1a, b and c

Items removed from the agenda: 6c, 6d

### 2. Hear a presentation on the Emergency Management Program.

Interim Assistant Fire Chief/Director of Emergency Management Paul Carbajal displayed a PowerPoint presentation and provided a brief update regarding various programs and activities within the Mesa Fire Department's Emergency Management Division. (The complete PowerPoint presentation is available for review in the City Clerk's Office.) He highlighted a number of components of the Department's Emergency Management Strategy for the first 72 hours after an incident occurs and before the arrival of Federal assistance to the community. Chief Carbajal also outlined the All Hazard Response Program, and discussed different types of threats the Department is trained to respond to including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives, structural collapse, major medical, and natural disasters.

Discussion ensued relative to the Rapid Response Team (RRT); the Bomb Response Team; the SWAT Team; and Weapons of Mass Destruction and Hazardous Material Response Team.

Chief Carbajal discussed the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) Program and reported that in a mass casualty situation, the program would “bridge the gap” between the first responders and deployment of the Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). He explained that the goal of the MMRS is to establish treatment sectors for a minimum operational time period of two hours; support and supply treatment sectors pending DMAT’s arrival; maintain sufficient supplies to treat 1,000 patients; and treat adult and pediatric victims of traumatic injury and chemical, radiological and biological exposures.

Further discussion ensued relative to the Statewide response to the MMRS; an overview of the 100 Patient Treatment Modules; the City’s role as an MMRS government liaison; the National Incident Management System (NIMS), which provides a consistent nationwide approach for responding to various incidents; the fact that a resolution was recently adopted by the Council recognized NIMS as the “Incident Management System” for the City of Mesa; and a number of grant funding programs including the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative, Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, Fire Act Grant, and Health Resources and Services Administration.

Chief Carbajal referred to a document entitled “Operation Good Neighbor Update 09/06/05” and provided the Council with a short synopsis of the assistance the Mesa Fire Department has provided to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Councilmember Griswold expressed appreciation to staff for the informative presentation, but commented that he did not see anything in the materials that discussed an evacuation plan for Mesa residents to leave the Valley in case of an emergency.

In response to Councilmember Griswold’s comments, Chief Carbajal advised that in the event of a mass evacuation from Mesa, the City would rely upon Maricopa County to implement such a plan. He explained that the County currently has a conceptual plan and is in the process of developing an operational plan.

Vice Mayor Walters voiced concerns that the County is “just now talking about an evacuation plan” and noted that the Council discussed this matter a few years ago. She stated the opinion that not only should Mesa coordinate evacuation efforts with the County, but also on a local level, for instance, with Mesa Public Schools and RPTA to accommodate those individuals in an emergency who would require transportation in order to leave the City.

Chief Carbajal indicated that the City has entered into an agreement with Mesa Public Schools to utilize their buses in the event of an evacuation. He added that he does not want to mislead the Council that the County is not doing its part in the creation of an operational evacuation plan, but noted that he personally has not seen it.

Fire Chief Harry Beck commented that one of the primary issues that must be resolved concerning the development of an evacuation plan is access to the transportation system in the event thousands of citizens must leave the City. He explained that Mesa would be required to coordinate such efforts on a Valley wide basis. Chief Beck stated that it is an extremely complex issue and of great concern to the County and State emergency management. He added that with the recent events of Hurricane Katrina, he is hopeful that will serve as the catalyst to implement a plan sooner rather than later.

Vice Mayor Walters reiterated her previous comments and said that it is important that the City of Mesa educate its residents with regard to emergency preparedness in their own homes, including maintaining sufficient quantities of water, food and supplies. She also requested that the City consider options for those citizens who would not have transportation and be unable to leave Mesa if an evacuation was ordered.

In response to a question from Councilmember Whalen, Chief Carbajal clarified that according to the Emergency Operations Plan, the Mayor would have the legal authority in the City of Mesa to order an evacuation. Chief Beck added that the City would also have the authority to remove citizens from their homes if they were unwilling to leave after an evacuation order was issued.

Mayor Hawker thanked staff for the informative presentation.

3. Discuss and consider providing direction on the proposed downtown holiday lighting program.

- a. Location of holiday lights in the Downtown area
- b. Approval to proceed with the installation of holiday lights

City Manager Mike Hutchinson reported that this item was considered by the Council at the August 29, 2005 Regular Council meeting, wherein direction was given by some of the Councilmembers that it may be appropriate to extend the holiday lighting program beyond the one block area where the Mesa City Plaza and Mesa Arts Center (MAC) are located. He explained that since that time, Tom Verploegen, President of the Downtown Mesa Association (DMA), has met with the holiday lighting contractor in an effort to provide the Council with lighting alternatives.

Mr. Verploegen addressed the Council and stated that in previous years, there has been a budgeted deposit of approximately \$10,000 earmarked for the purpose of ordering the City of Mesa's holiday lights, which generally occurred in February. He explained that as a result of delays this year due to budget concerns, Mr. Doug Topham, the holiday lighting contractor, eventually traveled to China in June to select the lights, which are now stored on 10 foot by 30 foot pallets in his warehouse.

Mr. Verploegen referred to a map in the Council Chambers and stated that after consulting with Mr. Topham, he would recommend an alternative to the holiday lighting program as follows: a tree-lighted gateway at Country Club Drive and Main Street; lighting trees at the other six intersection corners from County Club Drive to Mesa Drive; full decorations at the Mesa City Plaza; and 46 holiday pole banners for the entire one mile. He stated that the project could be accomplished within the Council-approved \$50,000 budget.

Mr. Verploegen further noted that in response to additional Council inquiries during the August 29<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, if the contractor cancelled the holiday lighting contract with Mesa, it would cost the City approximately \$39,000.

Vice Mayor Walters thanked Mr. Verploegen for developing an alternative to extend the lighting program, and stated the opinion that such an alternative would provide a greater emphasis on the downtown area. She added that it would not make sense for the City to cancel the contract and receive nothing for its \$50,000.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Walters, seconded by Councilmember Thom, that the location of the holiday lighting program be amended per the above-referenced recommendation of Mr. Verploegen.

Councilmember Griswold voiced support for the motion and commended Mr. Verploegen on his efforts and hard work in this regard.

Councilmember Whalen stated that he would support the motion. He also questioned whether the downtown merchants would be willing to decorate their storefronts in an effort to augment the City's holiday lighting project. He acknowledged, however, that there might be liability issues associated with the merchants utilizing the City's electrical devices to decorate the trees outside their establishments.

In response to Councilmember Whalen's inquiry, Mr. Hutchinson stated that staff would review the liability issues regarding the electrical devices.

In response to a question from Mayor Hawker, Mr. Verploegen explained that he has always recommended that the merchants follow a common theme for decorating their businesses and thereby avoid a "hodgepodge" appearance in the Town Center area. He indicated that he would confer with the property owners in this regard, but not encourage them to decorate the trees because of City liability issues.

Councilmember Rawles voiced frustration regarding his inability to abstain from voting on the matter, especially because the holiday lighting program started before he joined the Council. He stated, however, he would support the motion to amend the location of the holiday lights and added that he would make further comments at the Council meeting when agenda item 6h was considered.

Councilmember Thom said she is pleased that Mr. Verploegen intends to approach the downtown merchants regarding the issue of decorating their businesses and added that she would also like the property owners to have the opportunity to decorate the trees in front of their establishments if they choose to do so.

Mayor Hawker called for the vote.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Griswold-Jones-Rawles-Thom-Walters-Whalen  
NAYS - Hawker

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried by majority vote.

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

a. 2005 Citizen Bond Committee held August 17, 2005

It was moved by Vice Mayor Walters, seconded by Councilmember Jones, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Carried unanimously.

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

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

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, September 8, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Wednesday, September 14, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Joint Meeting with the Mesa Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Thursday, September 15, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, September 15, 2005, TBA – Utility Committee

Monday, September 19, 2005, TBA – Study Session

Monday, September 19, 2005, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, September 22, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Mesa Arts Center Executive Director Gerry Fathauer highlighted the time and date of various activities associated with the opening of the Mesa Arts Center.

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

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KENO HAWKER, 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 6th day of September 2005. 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

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