

# COUNCIL MINUTES

November 10, 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 November 10, 2005 at 7:30 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

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

## COUNCIL ABSENT

Tom Rawles

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

(Mayor Hawker excused Councilmember Rawles from the meeting.)

### 1. Hear and accept a report from representatives of the 2005 Citizen Bond Committee.

Eric Jackson, 2005 Citizen Bond Committee Chairman, and Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo, Vice Chairman, addressed the Council relative to this agenda item. Mr. Jackson reported that the Bond Committee met for three months to evaluate and review a wide range of staff recommendations for a multi-year bond program.

Mr. Jackson referred to the November 10, 2005 City Council Report entitled "Recommendations of the 2005 Citizen Bond Committee" and briefly highlighted the Committee's priorities and action taken during its tenure. (A complete copy of the report is available for review in the City Clerk's Office.) He commented that the Committeemembers were keenly aware of the City's current financial situation and said that they examined not only the capital costs of potential projects, but also the future operation and maintenance costs. Mr. Jackson noted that because the bond programs for Mesa's utility operations are paid by the revenue from those programs, the Committee felt it was important that those systems have the bond authorization to continue to support new development in Mesa and also replace aging infrastructure.

Mr. Jackson further indicated that throughout the review process, the Committee understood that its recommended bond program was a request to seek voter authorization for the City to issue bonds and not a guarantee that the projects would be built or purchased. He stated that the Committee recommended that the Council place the following bonds, which total \$584,890,000, before the voters in the 2006 election: Electric System; Gas System; Water System; Wastewater System; Neighborhood/Street Flood Control; Emergency Fire Protection and Medical Response; Public Safety; Parks, Open Space and Recreation; Municipal Service Facilities and Technology; and Neighborhood and Arterial Street Improvements.

Mr. Jackson also discussed funding that was added by the Committee to the bond program for the following projects:

- Undergrounding of electric and other utility lines. (Approximately one mile of power lines along arterial streets annually.)
- Landscaping around the Northwest Water Reclamation Plant.
- Neighborhood Park at Medina/Hawes.
- Mesa Grande Archeological Park/Visitor Center. (Committeemembers Hisserich, Holtz and Ahlstrom voted nay.)
- Countryside Park Recreation Center. (Committeemembers Coons, Ahlstrom, Hisserich and Holtz voted nay)
- Va' Shlyay Akimel (Project 1). (Committeemembers Hisserich and Holtz voted nay.)
- Neighborhood infrastructure improvements.

Mr. Jackson thanked the Council for the opportunity to participate in the bond program process and also acknowledged staff for their efforts and dedication in this regard.

Ms. Villanueva-Saucedo stated that throughout the Committee's tenure, the members engaged in "healthy discussion" regarding the various projects. She noted, in particular, that it was the desire of many of the Committeemembers that a specific amount of funding be earmarked to address neighborhood improvements, especially in the older areas of the community.

Councilmember Jones stated that it is important for Mesa residents to realize that even if the voters approve the proposed bond authorization in 2006, it does not mean that the City has the revenue to move forward with such projects.

City Manager Mike Hutchinson recommended that this agenda item be brought back to the Council for further discussion after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Vice Mayor Walters thanked the Committeemembers for their hard work and efforts during this process. She commented that because of Mesa's current budget crisis, she would be hesitant to support all of the Committee's recommendations but noted, however, that her ultimate decisions in no way negatively reflect upon the Committee's work.

Mayor Hawker expressed appreciation to Mr. Jackson and Ms. Villanueva-Saucedo for the presentation.

2. Hear a presentation from Dr. Rufus Glasper, Chancellor of the Maricopa Community College District.

Dr. Rufus Glasper, Chancellor of the Maricopa Community College District, addressed the Council and provided a brief overview of the District's partnerships with public, private and community organizations throughout the Valley. He played a videotape which highlighted, as an example of such partnerships, several Mesa Community College (MCC) students who participated in a biotechnology internship program at the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen).

Dr. Glasper reported that in November of 2004, the voters of Maricopa County approved a \$951 million General Obligation Capital Bond Program for the Maricopa Community Colleges. He explained that of that amount, it is anticipated that MCC would receive \$111 million. Dr. Glasper

also spoke regarding the proposed future construction of a Math/Science Building at MCC; the expansion of the Williams Gateway campus; and the District partnering with the City of Mesa on a future downtown Mesa campus.

Vice Mayor Walters expressed support for a partnership between the Community College District and the City of Mesa, especially with regard to the joint use of facilities, and said that it is an appropriate use of taxpayer money. She thanked Dr. Glasper for taking the time to meet with the Council.

Councilmember Griswold also voiced support for the synergism and potential cost savings to the City and the Community College District through the joint use of facilities.

Mayor Hawker thanked Dr. Glasper for his presentation.

3. Hear a status report, discuss and consider issues associated with Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME) and Emergency Shelter (ESG) Federal programs.

Community Revitalization Director Kit Kelly introduced Community Revitalization Specialists Rob Bohr, Lisa Hambree and Stella Hansen to the Council. She displayed a PowerPoint presentation in the Council Chambers and provided a detailed analysis of the purpose, objectives and benefits of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs. (The PowerPoint presentation is available for review in the City Clerk's Office.)

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that in the last 30 years, Mesa has been allocated over \$86 million in Federal dollars that have contributed to the quality of life for many residents in the community; that the CDBG program benefits low and moderate income persons and/or households and prevents or eliminates slums or blight; that the purpose of the HOME Program is to expand the supply of decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low and moderate income households, strengthen partnerships among all levels of government and the private sector, and mobilize community resources in support of affordable housing; and that the ESG Program offers facilities and services to meet the needs of homeless people and that its contracts are administered by the Office of Human Services.

Vice Mayor Walters stated that she currently serves on the National League of Cities' Community and Economic Development Steering Committee and commented that the Committee is working to urge the Congress to reassess the funding formula for the CDBG Program. She explained that in particular, certain criteria including the age of a community's housing stock, as well as the manner in which its low-income persons are accounted for, could be somewhat distorted resulting in communities appearing to be slum/blighted areas when, in fact, they are not.

Further discussion ensued relative to the 2005-09 Strategic Plan; the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER), which provides a specific assessment of activities undertaken during the previous year in addressing priorities and strategies in the 2000-2004 Consolidated Plan; the CDBG and HOME Programs application process for funding for fiscal year 2006/07; and various operational challenges confronting the Community Revitalization Division.

Vice Mayor Walters expressed growing frustration regarding the use of CDBG funds for the City's streetlighting projects and suggested that it may be appropriate to utilize bond funding for that purpose. She also commented that she would favor funding larger projects with CDBG monies that would "make a difference in the community" from an economic development perspective. Vice Mayor Walters further requested that the Council have additional time to consider these issues and that the matter be brought back at a future Study Session.

Councilmember Whalen stated that he would prefer to see nonprofit organizations demonstrate to the Council "a level of accountability" relative to the programs that the City is funding through various Federal programs.

Mayor Hawker expressed appreciation to staff for the presentation.

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

- a. 2005 Citizen Bond Committee meeting held October 26, 2005

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

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

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

Vice Mayor Walters	Citizen Police Academy Graduation
Councilmember Griswold	City Manager "Meet and Greet"
Councilmember Thom	Meridian Elementary School Dedication

City Manager Mike Hutchinson briefly reported on last weekend's Community Spirit Golf Tournament, which raised an estimated \$10,000. He stated that the proceeds would be allocated to Mesa's adopted city of Gautier, Mississippi, a community severely impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

Mayor Hawker acknowledged City Clerk Barbara Jones and City Attorney Debbie Spinner for their efforts and hard work regarding the recruitment process for the new City Manager. He commented that the candidates appreciated becoming familiarized with Mesa and afforded the opportunity to meet citizens from throughout the community.

Vice Mayor Walters concurred with Mayor Hawker's comments and noted that Ms. Jones and Ms. Spinner "did an outstanding job."

6. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

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

Tuesday, November 15, 2005, 6:00 p.m. – Joint Meeting with Tempe City Council

Thursday, November 17, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, November 21, 2005, TBA – Study Session

Monday, November 21, 2005, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, December 1, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, December 5, 2005, TBA – Study Session

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

7. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

8. Items from citizens present.

Sheila Mitton, 1615 W. Pueblo Avenue, addressed the Council and commented on the importance of Mesa generating greater economic growth opportunities in the community. She also spoke regarding the need for a City property tax.

9. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:02 a.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 10th day of November 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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