

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 22, 2000

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 June 22, 2000 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Keno Hawker
Jim Davidson
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy
Claudia Walters
Mike Whalen

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Neal Beets

1. Review items on the agenda for the June 26, 2000 Regular Council Meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed by Council and staff with no formal action taken. There was specific discussion relative to the following agenda items:

2. Consider the following contracts:

*n. Falcon Field Drainage Improvements. City of Mesa Project No. 99-74 & 97-46.

This project is the first phase of the implementation of the drainage master plan for Falcon Airport in which storm drain facilities will be installed throughout the airport.

Mayor Hawker indicated that he had a potential conflict of interest in connection with the matter now under discussion which he wanted reported in the minutes of the meeting, and because of such conflict of interest, he would refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in any manner in connection with same.

Vice Mayor Davidson stated that this item will be removed from the consent agenda.

*o. Countryside Community Park. City of Mesa Project No. 99-24

The purpose of this project is to construct a neighborhood park in the vicinity of Southern Avenue and 32nd Street.

Mayor Hawker indicated that he had a potential conflict of interest in connection with the matter now under discussion which he wanted reflected in the minutes of the meeting, and because of such conflict of interest, he would refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in any manner in connection with same.

Vice Mayor Davidson stated that this item will be removed from the consent agenda.

*p. Screen Wall at the Commons. City of Mesa Project No. 00-102.

The "Commons" is an industrial subdivision located north of McDowell Road, east of Val Vista Drive. The purpose of this project is to install landscaping and a screen wall along the western edge of the Commons.

Councilmember Jaffa indicated that he had a potential conflict of interest in connection with the matter currently under discussion which he wanted reflected in the minutes of the meeting, and because of such conflict of interest, he would refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in any manner in connection with same.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda item *p will be removed from the consent agenda.

3. Consider the following resolutions:

a. Approving a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years ending 2001-2005.

In response to a question from Councilmember Walters, Budget Director Jamie Warner clarified that Council approval of the operating budget also includes the First-Year Capital Improvement Program. Mr. Warner stressed that the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program includes said First-Year Improvement Program and also recommendations for the additional Four-Year Capital Improvements. Mr. Warner added that as the accounts are reviewed at the yearly budget hearings, the Council and staff may recommend adjustments.

Councilmember Walters emphasized that her approval of the above-agenda item does not constitute an endorsement of all projects that are included in the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program. Councilmember Walters also expressed concerns relative to the continued street widening of all major arterial streets within the City of Mesa.

*d. Approving the 2000/2001 annual assessments for the Mesa Town Center Improvement District No. 228.

Councilmember Jaffa indicated that he had a potential conflict of interest in connection with the matter now under discussion which he wanted reported in the minutes of the meeting, and because of such conflict of interest, he would refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in any manner in connection with same.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda item *d will be removed from the consent agenda.

*g. Approving and authorizing the City Manager to execute a Fiber Optics Communication System License to PF.NET Network Services Corp.

Management Services Manager Dan Brewer provided Council with a brief update of the above-agenda item. Mr. Brewer discussed the salient points of a June 14, 2000 memo (See Attachment).

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that Columbia Corporation, the City's telecommunications consultant, conducted a study of the City's need to transport data, voice and video between City facilities, the fact that in November, 1998 the consultants reported that the City organization had a need for a substantially enhanced Fiber Optic network; the fact that fiber optic strands will be utilized to tie together the dispatch centers of Mesa and the Phoenix Police Department and Phoenix Fire Department; the fact that the City of Phoenix has indicated a willingness to make cross connections to the Mesa fibers with fibers that already exist in Phoenix to extend connectivity to the Phoenix City Hall, to the Calvin Goode Building, to the Phoenix Fire Department dispatch and to the Maricopa County Courthouse complex and possible alternatives and proposed costs.

Mr. Brewer requested that the Council approve staff's recommendation as proposed.

Mayor Hawker expressed appreciation to Mr. Brewer for his concise presentation.

4. Consider the following ordinances:

- *b. **A00-3** Annexing the areas west of Meridian Road to the Mountain Road Alignment and North of Adobe Road to Brown Road.

Councilmember Jaffa expressed concerns relative to prospective developers adhering to appropriate design standards to ensure preservation of the desert.

Mayor Hawker stated that at the request of Councilmember Jaffa, agenda item *b will be removed from the consent agenda.

5. Consider entering into an agreement with the Greater Phoenix Economic Council for FY 2000-01 at a cost of \$165,552.00.

Economic Development Director Dick Mulligan provided the Council with a brief overview of Megacorp's achievements for the past fiscal year. Mr. Mulligan advised that Megacorp was responsible for the completion of 48 projects, including 33 corporate locates and 15 expansion projects. Mr. Mulligan informed the Council that these projects allowed for the creation of approximately 1,300 new jobs, the retention of 1,000 jobs and generated over \$200,000,000 in capital investments. Mr. Mulligan added that the Economic Development Advisory Board voted unanimously to support the renewal of the agreement between Megacorp and the Greater Phoenix Economic Council (GPEC).

Mr. Mulligan emphasized that Megacorp has endeavored to integrate its efforts with those of GPEC and also expressed the opinion that the partnership and collaboration between the two entities will result in Mesa's continued success in the new economy. Mr. Mulligan stressed that GPEC is assuming a strong leadership role not only for the benefit of Mesa or the region, but also for all of Arizona.

GPEC President and Chief Executive Officer Rick Weddle expressed appreciation to the Mayor, the Council and City staff for their continued support and feedback and pledged that GPEC will continue its efforts to bring new business opportunities into the region.

Councilmember Kavanaugh spoke in support of the recommendation of the Economic Advisory Board and emphasized the fact that GPEC is a valuable collaborator with the City in its pursuit of economic growth and development.

Vice Mayor Davidson concurred with the comments of Councilmember Kavanaugh and expressed his appreciation for the development of Megacorp's performance measures.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Davidson, Mr. Weddle clarified that GPEC does not report specific disaggregated goals for each community with regard to overall performance objectives, but emphasized the fact that GPEC's marketing program endeavors to ensure that potential prospects conform with the opportunities that exist within a specific region.

Councilmember Walters thanked Mr. Mulligan and Mr. Weddle for their continued efforts in educating the public relative to the integral relationship between GPEC and Megacorp.

Councilmembers Pomeroy and Jaffa spoke in support of the recommendation.

In response to a question from Councilmember Jaffa relative to the proposed Multi-Use Stadium Project, Mr. Weddle stated that GPEC's involvement is limited to regional projects, but said that on occasion the organization will participate in a local issue. Mr. Weddle said that GPEC has not addressed the stadium issue, but would consider future involvement. Mr. Weddle added that with regard to Williams Gateway Airport, on a federal level, GPEC could potentially be an appropriate vehicle to generate consensus on various issues including water, transportation funding and growth.

Mayor Hawker stated that this item will be added to the consent agenda.

6. Consider entering into an agreement with Ernst & Young to complete an economic impact study regarding the proposed Multi-Use Stadium Project at a cost of \$37,500.00. (The total cost of the study is \$75,000, one-half will be paid by the City of Tempe.)

Mayor Hawker spoke in support of the above-agenda item. Mayor Hawker expressed the opinion that it is incumbent upon the City of Mesa to determine the feasibility of locating a Multi-Use Stadium at a site located on the Mesa-Tempe border. Mayor Hawker noted that the stadium would consist of specific defined areas under the Stadium Authority's control and the surrounding property would remain within the control of the City.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that the City of Mesa would have the ability to recapture funding from the project, the fact that the City of Tempe has a property tax and the possibility of entering into a joint use agreement with Tempe regarding revenues generated at the facility and Mayor Hawker's opinion that the land, parking and infrastructure improvements be provided by the host city.

Mayor Hawker stated the opinion that the study would be an informative tool and assist the voters prior to the November election in evaluating whether the economic development and the sales tax the City would acquire from development of the City-owned parcels would service the debt load for the up-front infrastructure.

Mayor Hawker commented that if the proposed plans for the stadium are ultimately approved, the current neighborhood amenities would remain intact.

7. Discuss and consider the following recommendations from the Finance Committee.

- *a. Recommend the firm of Deloitte and Touche be selected as the City's external auditors for the next five fiscal years.

Councilmember Jaffa indicated that he had a potential conflict of interest in connection with the matter now under discussion which he wanted reported in the minutes of the meeting, and because of such conflict of interest, he would refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in any manner in connection with same.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda item *a will be removed from the consent agenda.

- *b. Recommend staff's proposal that would increase cemetery fees to approximately 10% below the Valley's market average.

In response to a question from Councilmember Pomeroy, Parks and Recreation Administrator Mark Woodward provided background information relative to comparative cemetery fees throughout the Phoenix metropolitan area.

Mayor Hawker encouraged staff to consider increasing the cemetery fees to 5% below the Valley's market average. Mayor Hawker also commented that the initial motivation for the rate increase was the establishment of a perpetual maintenance fund so that when the cemetery reached build-out, the City's General Fund would not be required to subsidize the fund.

Mayor Hawker stated that agenda item *b will be removed from the consent agenda.

8. Discuss the following recommendations regarding the Mesa Town Center contracts:

- a. Public Space Management
- b. Parking Maintenance

Mayor Hawker and Councilmembers Jaffa and Pomeroy indicated that they had potential conflicts of interest in connection with the matter now under discussion which they wanted reported in the minutes of the meeting, and because of such conflicts of interest, they would refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in any manner in connection with same.

Assistant to the City Manager Bryan Raines advised that staff is seeking consensus from the Council relative to the above-agenda items.

Mr. Raines noted that the City currently has a "for incurred cost" contract for parking management with the Mesa Town Center Corporation (MTCC) which totals \$127,000. Mr. Raines advised that because there are no proposed changes to the contract amount, it is the recommendation of staff that the contract be approved.

Mr. Raines stated that with respect to the public space management contract, the contract has been a combination of a negotiated contract, a \$0.0075 per square foot base assessment and in-kind, Clean Sweep, bin services. Mr. Raines added that due to a revised assessment rate, streetscape improvements and increased City ownership of land, it is proposed that the City's contract for public space management activities be increased and also based on an equivalent assessment rate of \$0.015 per square foot of land and public right-of-way owned by the City.

Councilmember Kavanaugh spoke in support of staff's recommendation and noted that the proposed changes are grounded in equity issues and responsive to concerns expressed by the private sector owners in the Town Center.

Discussion ensued relative to the Town Center street sweeping contract and possible long-term parking solutions.

Councilmember Whalen indicated support for staff's recommendation.

Vice Mayor Davidson recommended that staff implement an updated parking study and expressed appreciation to staff for their presentation.

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

- a. Parks and Recreation Board meeting held June 8, 2000.

It was moved by Councilmember Pomeroy, seconded by Councilmember Kavanaugh, that receipt of the minutes of the above-listed board be acknowledged.

Carried unanimously.

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

Vice Mayor Davidson discussed his recent attendance at the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) annual Desert Peaks Award dinner. Vice Mayor Davidson noted that the City was an award recipient for the Mesa Police Department's Gang Intervention Program. Vice Mayor Davidson also stated that although Mesa's Center Against Domestic Violence did not receive an award, the agency deserves regional attention for its efforts. Vice Mayor Davidson recommended that staff extend an invitation to the organizers/staff of the Gang Intervention Program to attend the June 26th City Council Meeting and be formally recognized for their achievements.

Councilmembers Jaffa and Walters concurred with the remarks of Vice Mayor Davidson. Councilmember Walters suggested that the Center Against Domestic Violence also receive public recognition.

Mayor Hawker stated that he recently attended a meeting of the Arizona Multiple Water Users Association (AMWUA). Mayor Hawker noted that one of the issues the Association is currently pursuing is the modification of Federal standards relative to the level of arsenic in the State's water supply.

Mayor Hawker indicated that he and Vice Mayor Davidson attended an Economic Development Conference in Flagstaff.

11. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Acting City Manager Neal Beets advised that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, June 26, 2000, 4:30 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, June 26, 2000, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, June 29, 2000, 7:00 a.m. – Megacorp’s Annual Meeting

Thursday, July 6, 2000, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, July 10, 2000 – Study Session

Monday, July 10, 2000, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

12. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

Mayor Hawker advised that there were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

13. Items from citizens present.

Mayor Hawker advised there were no items from citizens present.

14. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:13 a.m.

KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

Attachment

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 22nd day of June, 2000. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2000

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK