

COUNCIL MINUTES

May 5, 1999

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 5, 1999 at 7:00 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Wayne Brown
Jim Davidson
John Giles
Keno Hawker
Bill Jaffa
Dennis Kavanaugh
Pat Pomeroy

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

C.K. Luster
Vince Anderson
Lisa Andrews
Ed Archibald
Cindy Barris
Randy Bee
Denise Bleyle
Jamie Brennen
Dan Brewer
Jerry Brouwer
Jack Caroline
Tanya Collins
Lauren Devuyst
Wayne Evans
Gerry Gerber
Bill Haney
Joe Holmwood
Mike Hutchinson
Barbara Jones
Ken Jones

STAFF PRESENT (CONT.)

Karl Kohlhoff
Wayne Korinek
Karen Kurtz
Eric Norenberg
Ray Pittman
Jerry Paulus
Ellen Pence
Dave Plumb
Bryan Raines
Andrea Rasizer
Jackie Redpath
Tom Remes
Becky Richardson
Mel Ruska
Jenny Sheppard
Larry Talley
Jamie Warner
Kim West
Mindy White
Brenda Yost

(Mayor Brown excused Councilmembers Jaffa and Davidson from the beginning of the meeting. Councilmember Jaffa arrived at the meeting at 7:13 a.m., and Councilmember Davidson arrived at 7:30 a.m.)

1. Utilities Department.

Utilities Manager Dave Plumb introduced staff members present at the meeting.

Mr. Plumb advised that the electric, natural gas, and water programs represent the largest component of the Utilities Department budget. Mr. Plumb noted impacts of weather and growth on demands for service.

Mr. Plumb stated that the 2.66 percent reduction in the Electric program is primarily attributed to the completion of the Lewis Substation expansion. Mr. Plumb indicated that the 10 percent increase in the Gas program is the result of the projected increased cost for natural gas purchases, contract builder rebates, the replacement of mechanical recorders with electronic recorders, and the installation of gas mains, excess flow valves, and five natural gas system regulators.

Mr. Plumb reported that the 8.75 percent adjustment in the budget level for the Water program is principally due to the increase in debt service, replacement/repair of 10 water meter vaults, and personnel and equipment costs. Mr. Plumb said that increases in the Wastewater program are attributed to additional debt service and personnel and equipment costs.

Mr. Plumb outlined anticipated capital expenditures and highlighted components of each of the divisions within the Utilities Department. Mr. Plumb noted the addition of a new responsibility center known as Wastewater Collections, RC393.

Mr. Plumb reported an overall increase in the Utilities Department budget of 17 percent and referred to the significant projected bond expenditures for the 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Discussion ensued concerning fluoridation, 6th Street facility improvements, activities at the 91st Avenue WWTP, recharge, the Pinal County water farm, a potential bond election in March 2000, the feasibility of an additional water treatment plant, marketing efforts, riparian habitats, and deregulation. Mr. Plumb advised that the proposed budget does not include funding within the CAP Water Treatment Plant division for additional carbon for enhanced taste and odor removal.

Mayor Brown expressed appreciation to Mr. Plumb and staff for their efforts.

2. Break.

At 8:25 a.m., Mayor Brown called for a short recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:47 a.m.

3. Community Services Department.

Community Services Manager Wayne Korinek introduced staff members present at the meeting and provided an overview of the proposed FY 1999/00 budget for the Community Services Department.

Mr. Korinek advised that the Golf program includes funding for ongoing expenses related to the Dobson Ranch and Riverview Golf Courses. Mr. Korinek reported that increases reflected in the Parks and Recreation program relate to the recent opening of new facilities (e.g., Red Mountain Multigenerational Center) and additional facilities to be developed during the upcoming fiscal year (e.g., Superstition Skyline Park).

Mr. Korinek displayed a map of proposed 1999/00 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects, including: a) athletic field lighting (Highland Junior High School, Red Mountain Park, and Superstition Skyline Park), b) design (arts and entertainment center, aquatics center, Museum for Youth, Recker/Thomas Road park site), c) expansions (East Mesa Branch Library, Southwest Museum, and Escobedo Park), d) future library site (North Central Branch Library), e) new developments (Brimhall Pool, Countryside Park, east district offices, future park site at Greenfield Road/Adobe, canal bank multiuse pathway, Reed Skate Park, Red Mountain Park [continued phased development], Summit Park, Superstition Skyline Park), and f) renovations (Mesa Cemetery, Dobson Ranch Golf Course, Evergreen Park, Falcon Field Pool, Fremont Pool, Jefferson Park, and Pioneer Park).

Council and staff spoke concerning athletic field lighting, anticipated development of the park site at Recker/Thomas Road, feasibility of a library/canal bank multiuse pathway in the vicinity of McKellips Road/Stapley Drive, and the status of the arts and entertainment center, skate park, and aquatics center.

Mr. Korinek noted an increase in the Mesa Arts Center program, primarily in relation to the arts and entertainment center. Mr. Korinek stated that Stapley Pool is scheduled to open this summer and that the aquatics program additionally includes funding relative to the Brimhall Pool.

Mr. Korinek indicated that plot sales and revenues have increased within the cemetery program, which is attributed principally to expansion along Country Club Drive. Mr. Korinek related expansion efforts pertaining to the Museum for Youth, Southwest Museum, and East Mesa Branch Library.

Discussion ensued regarding the feasibility of an additional municipal cemetery, the cemetery perpetual fund, future park sites, an additional library, and the potential impact of two citizen initiatives (sales tax) which are to appear on the ballot at the March 2000 Primary Election.

Mr. Korinek highlighted activities of the Neighborhood and Community Assistance Office and the Housing Authority. Mr. Korinek stated that the Positive Alternatives for Youth (PAY) program will serve 360 at-risk youth this summer. Mr. Korinek advised that community aid issues will be addressed at the Budget Session to be held on May 10.

Mr. Korinek reported that rental income revenue has decreased at the Community Center and that touring groups are not currently booking concert events in the Valley of the size accommodated by the Amphitheatre. Mr. Korinek said that staff anticipates a presentation to Council in June/July concerning the future of the Community Center and that funds are available to conduct a feasibility study to determine the most appropriate use of the facility. Mr. Korinek noted that the proposed budget for the Community Center includes an additional full-time employee.

Council and staff spoke concerning supplemental requests for Broadway Recreation Center (BRC) programming, adult sports leagues at the Red Mountain Multigenerational Center, and Mesa Room service; funding within the proposed budget for a signature event; anticipated opening of the Southwest Museum's expanded facilities; feasibility study/design for a golf course in East Mesa; and support for extended canal use.

Mayor Brown expressed appreciation to Mr. Korinek and staff for their work.

4. Adjournment.

At the recommendation of Mayor Brown, City Manager Charles Luster stated that an additional Budget Session will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 1999.

Without objection, the Budget Session adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

WAYNE BROWN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

Budget Review Session

May 5, 1999

Page 4

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 5th day of May 1999. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 1999

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK