

# COUNCIL MINUTES

January 26, 2006

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 January 26, 2006 at 7:30 a.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

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

## COUNCIL ABSENT

None

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Debbie Spinner  
Barbara Jones

1. Hear an update, discuss and consider various particulate pollution control measures.

Environmental Management Director Christine Zielonka displayed a PowerPoint presentation (see Attachment 1) to provide an update on the current status of Maricopa County's compliance with the Clean Air Act requirements for airborne particulate matter and strategies implemented by the City of Mesa to reduce particulate matter that is less than 10 microns (PM-10) in diameter. She explained that PM-10 poses risks to individuals with pre-existing respiratory problems, and that earthmoving activity is the primary source for airborne particulate matter.

Ms. Zielonka advised that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delegated authority to the State, which in turn delegated authority to Maricopa County for the air quality region. She advised that the Clean Air Act requires that local, county and state governments collaborate regionally on a State Implementation Plan (SIP) in order to meet the PM-10 standard by 2006. Ms. Zielonka reported that as a result of the region's failure to meet the 2006 standard, a new SIP is due to the EPA by December 2007, and that the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) would take the lead in that effort. She reported that sanctions for non-compliance include a requirement to annually reduce pollutant levels by an additional five percent, and that the region could be denied as much as \$200 million in future Federal Transportation funding for failure to comply with the requirement.

Ms. Zielonka noted that County Rule 310, which governs earthmoving activities, has been historically understaffed and inadequately funded. She advised that Mesa adopted a Particulate Pollution Control Ordinance in 1998, and that the City established an Environmental Complaints Hotline that operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Ms. Zielonka further advised that City Department Managers have the authority to issue a "Stop Work" order in severe situations that could pose an imminent hazard. She explained that the City's requirements are modeled on those of the County, and that a developer or contractor must provide the City with a copy of their Maricopa County Dust Permit in order to obtain a building permit from Mesa's Building Safety Division. Ms. Zielonka said that contractors are provided copies of both the City and County

regulations regarding dust control and a copy of the City of Mesa's "Particulate Pollution Compliance Guide" (copies are available for review in the City Clerk's Office). She stated that in accordance with the Council's direction, staff cooperates, provides education and strives for voluntary compliance. She also noted that in 2005 Maricopa County implemented enforcement action on six of eight sites that were referred by the City to the County.

Ms. Zielonka advised that major sources of dust control problems are "track out" (dirt that is tracked from a construction site onto a paved road) and earthmoving activity in proximity to a residential area. She noted that water is the basic element that controls dust, and she added that the installation of a gravel pad effectively removes dust from trucks and minimizes "track out" to paved streets. Ms. Zielonka added that the City holds a Comprehensive County Permit to address City projects that involve earthmoving activities, and that annual training is provided to City employees involved in earthmoving, permit and inspection activities.

Ms. Zielonka reported that the City has stabilized the majority of Mesa's unpaved roads and shoulders. She noted that Mesa's Solid Waste vehicles no longer utilize alleys, which has reduced the amount of traffic and dust in these areas. Ms. Zielonka advised that staff's recommendations include the following:

- Increase training for employees who are present in the field and able to identify potential problems, including positions such as Code Compliance Officers, Solid Waste operators, the Haz/Mat Team, Fire Prevention staff, and Utilities service and meter reading personnel.
- Publicize the Environmental Hotline utilizing the City's website and in-house publications in order to increase public and employee awareness.

Ms. Zielonka also reported that Mesa staff would present information on the City's dust control program at an upcoming MAG workshop.

Discussion ensued relative to the fact that Mesa's efforts are unlikely to improve the conditions at the two monitoring stations in the region that are out of compliance; that the region must maintain three years of clean data; that the standard would change from PM-10 to 2.5 in the year 2013 for regions that have been in compliance for three years; and that Mesa's monitoring stations registered clean data for the past three years.

Responding to questions from Councilmember Griswold, Ms. Zielonka advised that Environmental Management addresses dust control issues for building permits that encompass larger areas that could generate a substantial amount of dust for a significant length of time. She also explained that the County requires roadways to be paved when approximately ten homes exist on the road. Ms. Zielonka noted that the unimproved County areas would continue to pose dust control problems until such time as the areas are fully developed.

Mayor Hawker summarized that the consensus of the Council is that staff should move forward to train the additional 200 employees so that dust control problems can be quickly identified. He also requested that the Council receive periodic updates on the readings of monitors located in Mesa.

Ms. Zielonka advised that staff would provide the information requested, and said that they would continue to cooperate on a regional basis regarding dust control issues.

Mayor Hawker thanked Ms. Zielonka for the presentation.

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

Mayor Hawker: Participated in the Arizona League of Cities and Towns' Legislative Day.

Vice Mayor Walters: Welcomed a meeting of the Southwest Regional Transit Association on behalf of the City of Mesa.

3. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, February 2, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Friday, February 3, 2006, 8:00 a.m. – Council Budget Planning Session

Monday, February 6, 2006, 2:30 p.m. – Utility Committee

Monday, February 6, 2006, TBA – Study Session

Monday, February 6, 2006, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2006, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Mr. Brady advised that District Town Meetings regarding the budget would be held on the dates listed below beginning at 6:00 p.m. at locations that are in the process of being finalized:

District 1	Tuesday, February 7
District 2	Wednesday, February 15
District 3	Thursday, February 9
District 4	Thursday, February 16
District 5	Monday, February 13
District 6	Wednesday, February 8

4. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

5. Items from citizens present.

There were no items from citizens present.

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:12 a.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
KENO HAWKER, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 26th day of January 2006. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

baa

Attachment (1)