



COUNCIL MINUTES

November 15, 2005

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Joint Dinner Meeting with the Tempe City Council at the Mesa Arts Center, Ikeda Theater, 1 East Main Street, on November 15, 2005, 6:17 p.m.

MESA COUNCIL PRESENT

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

MESA STAFF PRESENT

Mike Hutchinson
Wayne Balmer
Gerry Fathauer
Heidi Gast
Jim Huling

TEMPE COUNCIL PRESENT

Mayor Hugh Hallman
Barbara Carter
Len Copple
Hut Hutson
Mark Mitchell

MESA COUNCIL ABSENT

Tom Rawles

TEMPE COUNCIL ABSENT

Ben Arredondo
Pam Goronkin

TEMPE STAFF PRESENT

Will Manley
Mike Crusa
Shelley Hearn

The meeting convened at 7:17 p.m. immediately following dinner.

1. Welcome.

Mayor Hawker welcomed Tempe Mayor Hallman, the members of the Tempe City Council and their staff. He noted that Mesa's Arts and Cultural Director, Gerry Fathauer, was present to provide a tour of the Arts Center for anyone interested immediately following the meeting.

2. Williams Gateway Airport Area Update.

Williams Gateway Regional Economic Activity Area Project Manager Wayne Balmer displayed a PowerPoint presentation (a copy is available for review in the City Clerk's Office) that highlighted the current status of Williams Gateway Airport (WGA) and outlined future plans for the facility. He noted that the airport acreage, which is similar in size to Sky Harbor Airport,

utilizes 3,000 of the 4,000 available acres of land. Mr. Balmer advised that WGA plans to lengthen one of the three existing runways to 12,500 feet, which would provide a runway that is longer than any of the runways at Sky Harbor. He summarized the current status of activity at Williams Gateway Airport as follows:

- 50 private companies and public entities presently have 4,000 employees.
- Annual aircraft operations total 240,000 making WGA the 41st busiest airport in the country.
- The annual economic impact of the airport is \$251 million.
- Arizona State University (ASU) Polytechnic, Maricopa Community Colleges, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, the Regional Airline Academy and other educational entities have a total student enrollment of approximately 7,000.

Mr. Balmer stated that WGA anticipates providing passenger service in 2006. He advised that Cessna is constructing a regional facility to service their southwestern market, and that Phillips Aviation is building two T-hangars to service 757's. Mr. Balmer explained that WGA is designed to serve larger aircraft, and that Falcon Field is better suited to accommodate smaller aircraft. He reported that since military operations ended in 1993, all parties involved, including local, State and Federal government entities, have invested approximately \$140 million in WGA.

Mr. Balmer advised that the City of Mesa's plans for an upcoming bond election include a proposal to address the infrastructure required by ASU to expand their facilities in order to accommodate an estimated 19,000 students by the year 2020. He stated that the forecasted activity at WGA in the year 2020 includes the following:

- Two million passengers.
- 338,000 annual aircraft operations.
- 25 million pounds of cargo.
- An annual economic impact of \$965 million.
- 13,000 employees.
- 28,000 students.

In response to questions from Tempe Mayor Hallman, Mr. Balmer stated that Sky Harbor's plan for a fourth runway is problematic and controversial. He explained that Sky Harbor's obligation is to serve as the primary provider of air passenger service for the State of Arizona. Mr. Balmer added that shifting two million passengers and air cargo operations to WGA would make the existing facilities at Sky Harbor viable for a longer period of time. He said that with proper management by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), sufficient airspace is available to ensure the successful operation of both Sky Harbor and Williams Gateway airports. Mr. Balmer added that the presence of both the pilot training programs and ASU Polytechnic ensures that WGA will continue to serve a large component of general aviation and smaller planes.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Whalen, Mr. Balmer stated that Sky Harbor is not likely to transfer cargo operations to the Goodyear Airport because of its proximity to Luke Air Force Base.

In response to comments from Tempe Mayor Hallman, Mr. Balmer stated the opinion that Sky Harbor does not view WGA as a threat. He explained that Sky Harbor would like to "off load" some operations to WGA, and that discussions are ongoing to promote that activity. Mr. Balmer

added that the City of Mesa and the City of Phoenix are participating in a joint program to market WGA to various segments of the aviation industry.

3. CDBG Funding.

Tempe Councilmember Carter said that she and Vice Mayor Walters have discussed the status of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

Vice Mayor Walters noted that a proposal by Congress to eliminate CDBG funding resulted in a "grass roots effort" to continue the funding because of its impact on many communities. She advised that CDBG funding would remain intact for the current year.

4. Economic & Neighborhood Renewal – Border Region between Tempe and Mesa.

Tempe Mayor Hallman stated that the West Mesa/East Tempe border has received little attention in recent years. He noted that areas requiring redevelopment include the Light Rail Transit route along Main Street, Broadway Road, University Drive and other areas where the mutual boundary exists. Mayor Hallman suggested that Tempe and Mesa begin a study to develop a joint plan to address these areas. He advised that Tempe and the City of Scottsdale are presently cooperating in a joint effort to focus on their mutual borders, such as the corridors of Rural and Scottsdale Roads and McClintock and Hayden Roads. Mayor Hallman added that neighborhood groups are actively participating in these efforts.

Mayor Hawker noted that the City of Mesa is in the process of finalizing the Transit-Oriented Development plan along the Light Rail Transit corridor. He expressed the opinion that the City of Mesa would be willing to join with the City of Tempe in order to address the border regions.

Discussion ensued relative to the development of commuter rail in the Valley; that the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) completed a study in 2003 that indicated that commuter rail costs \$440 per hour to operate versus \$67 per hour for light rail; and that the MAG Executive Committee plans to review the study again in the current environment.

Vice Mayor Walters stated that another border issue of concern is the difference in medical staffing on the Tempe and Mesa fire trucks, which has resulted in Mesa staff remaining in Tempe for extended periods of time.

In response to a comment by Tempe City Manager Manley, Vice Mayor Walters clarified that the issue brought to her attention was the level of training of Tempe personnel rather than the scheduled hours.

Mr. Manley said he would obtain additional information on this topic.

Responding to comments by Councilmember Thom regarding Tempe's approach to check-cashing businesses, Mayor Hallman stated the opinion that these types of businesses have overbuilt for the available market. He noted that Tempe rescinded their use permit process for check cashing businesses, and that the Council plans to review the process in the near future. Mayor Hallman added that this issue is included on the Arizona League of Cities and Towns' legislative agenda.

Assistant to the City Manager for Intergovernmental Relations Jim Huling advised that State legislation is very likely to be brought forward in the near future. He stated that leadership on both sides of the political spectrum supports some type of action, and he added that the check cashing industry is aware of the fact that legislation may be forthcoming.

Mayor Hawker thanked Mayor Hallman and the Tempe representatives for participating in the meeting, and he stated that Mesa looks forward to cooperating with Tempe on various issues in the future. He reminded everyone that a tour of the Mesa Arts Center is available immediately following the meeting.

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.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 Joint Dinner Meeting with the Tempe City Council and the City of Mesa Council held on the 15th day of November 2005. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this ____ day of _____ 2005

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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