

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 6, 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 June 6, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Paul Wenbert
Debbie Spinner
Barbara Jones

1. Review items on the agenda for the June 6, 2005 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflicts of interest declared: 8k, 8n, 8p, 8q, 8r (Hawker); 9e (Whalen); 9e (Jones)

Items added to the consent agenda: None

Items removed from the agenda: 8e, 10d, 10q and 14a

2. Discuss and consider the process for the recruitment and selection of a new City Manager.

Assistant to the City Manager Ellen Pence referred to a document entitled "Possible Schedule for City Manager Search" and provided a brief overview of staff's proposed timetable regarding the national recruitment of a new City Manager for the City of Mesa. (See Attachment 1.)

Mayor Hawker commented that he would prefer that the recruitment/selection process be compressed by approximately one month. He explained that this would offer greater flexibility to the City in the event the top candidate does not accept Mesa's offer and added that the Council would still have sufficient time to offer the position to their second choice. Mayor Hawker further stated that he would like to see the new City Manager relocated to Mesa prior to the Christmas/New Year's holidays; that it is important for the executive recruiting firm to be cognizant of the kind of experience that the Council and Mesa residents are seeking in the candidates; and that he would support the full Council, as opposed to a subcommittee, participating in the recruitment process.

Mayor Hawker indicated that although the City is pursuing a national search for Mesa's new City Manager, he acknowledged that there are qualified staff members within the organization who have the skills to serve in the position and could also be prospective applicants.

3. Discuss, consider and provide direction concerning various FY 2005/06 and 2006/07 budget priorities/issues.

Deputy City Manager Debbi Dollar reported that the purpose of this item is to seek the Council's philosophical viewpoint on several remaining budget issues. She stated that none of the matters would have the impact of increasing the budget.

The Council engaged in extensive discussion on these items and the pertinent direction to staff is as follows:

a. Commercial Facilities Marketing.

Commercial Facilities Marketing Director Rhett Evans referred to a May 20, 2005 Interoffice Memo and briefly responded to the Council's previous inquiries regarding a comparison of the Division's gross revenues versus net income at the Mesa Convention Center, Hohokam Stadium, Mesa Amphitheatre and the Dobson/Riverview Golf Courses. (See Attachment 2.) He also highlighted BAR 8344, which addresses the need for funding the marketing effort for the Commercial Facilities Division.

Mayor Hawker stated that it is the consensus of the Council that this item be included in "the budget rollup" and that staff bring this issue back to the Council in a year to assess the success of the Sales and Marketing Specialist.

b. Human Services Funding.

Vice Mayor Walters commented that as a result of speaking with representatives of the Mesa United Way, she would propose that for fiscal year 2005/06, the Council consider "swapping funding dollars" with the agency regarding the following programs:

Hearing Loss, Hearing Health & Technology (\$13,300);
Geriatric In-Home Program (\$20,000);
Early Intervention Services for Developmentally Disabled Children (\$12,500);
Disability Claim Service (\$8,500)
Outreach Prescription Assistance Program (\$30,000). (Vice Mayor Walters stated that she would prefer further discussion on this program.)

Vice Mayor Walters explained that her proposal would not change the City's budget regarding applications for funding, but would, however, send a philosophical message regarding the City's funding priorities. She noted that by transferring the above-mentioned programs to the United Way, Mesa would "pick up" additional funding for programs such as La Mesita – Transitional Living Facility, East Valley Men's Center and PREHAB.

Vice Mayor Walters encouraged her fellow Councilmembers to discuss this issue further and to provide greater direction regarding the City's funding parameters and priorities. She added that the Mesa United Way is withholding the funding of various allocations until they are notified by the Council and suggested that the Council revisit this issue at the June 9, 2005 Study Session.

Mayor Hawker stated that it is the consensus of the Council to proceed with Vice Mayor Walters' recommendations and that the Council engage in additional discussions regarding the City's funding priorities.

c. Library Hours and Days of Operation.

Library Director Trisha Sorensen provided the Council with a brief overview of three alternatives relative to the reduction of service hours at Mesa's three libraries. She explained that the three options include: 1.) Close the Main Library on Sunday; 2.) Open all three libraries at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday; and 3.) Close all three libraries at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday. Ms. Sorensen noted that the Library Board preferred Alternative 3.

Vice Mayor Walters suggested that all three libraries close on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. during the summer months and that when school is in session, they open at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday.

It was moved by Councilmember Rawles, seconded by Vice Mayor Walters, that Alternative 3 be implemented during the summer months and that Alternative 2 be implemented during the school year.

Councilmember Whalen expressed opposition to the motion and reiterated his previous comments that the last thing the City should be doing is cutting library services.

Mayor Hawker said that he would support the motion, but commented that with Mesa's impending long-term financial difficulty, he would further suggest closing all three libraries on Sunday. He added that Mesa residents "ought to start feeling the pinch now" because the City simply cannot afford to continue to provide its current level of library service.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES - Hawker-Griswold-Jones-Rawles-Thom-Walters
NAYS - Whalen

Mayor Hawker declared the motion carried by majority vote.

d. Tentative FY 2005/06 Budget and Financial Forecast.

Budget Director Jamie Warner and Assistant Budget Director Chuck Odom referred to a document entitled "Fund Expenditure Detail – General Fund, Revised Forecast of Current Level of Service and Limited Additions – Council Directed Budget Model" and provided a brief analysis of the model. (See Attachment 3.) Mr. Warner explained that the assumptions in the model, as identified by the Council, include increasing utility rates to 5% in fiscal year 2005/06 (excluding electric), a 5% utility rate increase, including electric, in 2006/07 and 2007/08, and a 3% utility rate increase thereafter.

Mayor Hawker commented that it is his understanding that Phoenix will be implementing a 7% rate increase for water and a 9% rate increase for wastewater in order to pay for various capital improvement projects. He requested that staff generate a forecast model for Mesa using those same rates, as compared to implementing a quarter or half-cent sales tax.

Councilmember Thom suggested that staff conduct forecast modeling relative to various cost saving measures such as the sale of Mesa's electric utility or privatizing the management of the Mesa Arts Center.

Mr. Warner stated that in order to avoid any confusion with staff, he asked Councilmember Thom to place any specific direction she may have in writing.

e. CIP Summary.

Mr. Warner referred to a document entitled "Significant Project Changes between Preliminary CIP and Tentative CIP" and provided a short synopsis of this matter. (See Attachment 4.) He explained that the majority of the items were re-budgeted this year, due to the City's inability to complete the projects, and that they would be carried over to the next fiscal year.

4. Appointments to boards and committees.

Mayor Hawker recommended the following appointments to Boards and Committees:

2005 CITIZENS BOND COMMITTEE

Eric Jackson

Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo

Craig Ahlstrom

Beth Coons

Michelle Fiore

Linda Flick

Pat Gilbert

Robert Hisserich

Greg Holtz

LaShawn Jenkins

Albert McHenry

Scott Rhodes

Judy O'Neill

Bob Saemisch

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

David Shuff

Randolph Carter

BUILDING BOARD OF APPEALS

Jeff Decker

Tom Hedges

Jennifer Sandstrom

DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

Robert Burgheimer

Tom Bottomley

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Charles Riekema

Michelle Dahlke

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD

Brian Campbell

Jim LeCheminant

Steven Shope

O.T. "Ted" Wendel

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Lillian Wilkinson

Steve McCance

HOUSING AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Mary Bolig

Robert Brinton

HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD

Sharon Corea

Sonya Splane

JUDICIAL ADVISORY BOARD

Linda Rottman

G. Murray Snow

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

Alyssa Ratledge

Douglas Gerlach

Cheryl Laflen

MERIT SYSTEM BOARD

Dietrich Buczko

MUSEUM & CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Daniel Harper

John Hohmann

Lennee Eller

Douglas Brimhall

Christa Cloutier

Andrea Soto

PARKS & RECREATION

Walter "Bud" Page

Don Goodrum

Marilyn Wilson

PERSONNEL APPEALS BOARD

Joseph Cayer

Kimberlee Radner-Purnell

PLANNING & ZONING

Richard Adams

Barbara Carpenter

Jared Langkilde

SELF-INSURANCE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Craig Cuillard

TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Paul Hursh

Robert Payne

Nick Camillone

It was moved by Vice Mayor Walters, seconded by Councilmember Thom, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendations and the appointments be confirmed.

Carried unanimously.

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

a. Human Relations Advisory Board meeting held April 27, 2005.

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

Carried unanimously.

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

Councilmember Griswold
Councilmember Jones

Hawes Loop Trail Dedication Ceremony
Skate Park 5th Anniversary at Reed Park

7. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

Deputy City Manager Paul Wenbert stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, June 7, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Special Study Session

Thursday, June 9, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, June 16, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Monday, June 20, 2005, TBA – Study Session

Monday, June 20, 2005, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Council Meeting

Thursday, June 23, 2005, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

6. Prescheduled public opinion appearances.

There were no prescheduled public opinion appearances.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:30 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 Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 6th day of June 2005. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

BARBARA JONES, CITY CLERK

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Attachments (4)