



COUNCIL MINUTES

April 29, 2021

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 April 29, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
Jennifer Duff
Mark Freeman
Francisco Heredia
David Luna
Julie Spilsbury
Kevin Thompson*

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Dee Ann Mickelsen
Jim Smith

(*Participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

Mayor Giles conducted a roll call.

Mayor Giles excused Councilmember Heredia from the beginning of the meeting; he arrived at 7:39 a.m.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the May 3, 2021 Regular Council meeting.

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

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: None

In response to a question from Councilmember Luna regarding Item 4-a, **(One-Year Renewal to the Term Contract for Parts and Services to Support the Closed-Circuit TV System for Various City Facilities. (Citywide))**, on the May 3, 2021 Regular Council meeting agenda, Business Services Department Director Ed Quedens explained the contract is for parts and services to support the system. He added repairs and services are handled in-house.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Luna regarding Item 4-d, **(Purchase of Three Rapidly Deployable Camera System Kits (Additions) for the Mesa Police Department. (Sole Source) (Citywide))**, on the May 3, 2021 Regular Council meeting agenda, Assistant Police Chief Edward Wessing described the camera system as a backpack that can be deployed for special

events or large gatherings and is different from the pole camera that will be designated for use in the parks.

Assistant Chief Wessing indicated currently there is a camera at Alma School and Main, as well as one at Pioneer Park. He added the cameras can be strategically placed based on crime or community concerns. He elaborated that permanent cameras could be a future project to supplement the mobile cameras.

In response to a question posed by Vice Mayor Duff, Assistant Chief Wessing advised the locations of the four remote cameras have not been identified at this time and PD will be working with the Parks Department to determine the best positions. He stated the locations will be shared with Council prior to deployment of the cameras.

Business License and Revenue Collections Administrator Tim Meyer introduced City Attorney II Sarah Staudinger and displayed a PowerPoint presentation regarding Item 6-a, **(Amending Title 5 of the Mesa City Code (Business Regulations) by adding a new Chapter 4, entitled "Mobile Food Vendors," enacting reasonable regulations and licensing requirements on mobile food vendors and mobile food units operating in Mesa. (Citywide))**, on the May 3, 2021 Regular Council meeting agenda, which focuses on changes made based on Council input. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mr. Meyer explained the difference between a mobile food vendor and a peddler. He remarked that mobile food vendors are typically larger and produce smells and smoke using a heating source and utilize a truck or trailer. He remarked a peddler is typically a one-person operation and are selling door-to-door. (See Page 1 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury regarding which area a golf cart would fall under, Mr. Meyer indicated that depends on what is being sold; however, under normal circumstances, the golf cart would fall under a peddler.

Ms. Staudinger elaborated the definition of a food truck per State statute that the City is proposing to adopt would be something that can drive on the freeway or can be towed on the freeway.

Mr. Meyer laid out examples of mobile food vendors and peddlers and identified the differences in the licenses. (See Pages 2 and 3 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, Mr. Meyer stated due to the complaints surrounding the expense and time to require fingerprinting for everyone, on the peddler side fingerprinting will only be required for individuals going door-to-door, and on the mobile food vendor side fingerprinting will only be required for the owner of the truck.

In response to a question posed by Mayor Giles regarding whether a peddler license is exclusively for the sale of food, Ms. Staudinger clarified the peddler's license will be required for the sale of any goods, not just food. She added minors and non-profit agencies are excluded from the requirement of a peddler license.

In response to a series of questions from Councilmember Heredia, Ms. Staudinger noted that mobile food vendors must go through both the State and County process for various licensing and permitting regarding food handling, and the City of Mesa (COM) license is in addition to that process.

Mr. Meyer reviewed the mobile food vendor operation requirements. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Discussion ensued relative to different types of businesses and the types of license the business would be required to obtain.

In response to a question from Councilmember Freeman regarding exceptions to the operational requirements, Ms. Staudinger remarked ice cream trucks will be allowed in residential areas but will not be allowed to be parked in the same spot for more than one hour during an eight-hour period. She mentioned mobile food units can park on private property with the permission of the property owner, as well as allowance to operate while parked adjacent to the property as long as in compliance with the right-of-way requirements.

Mayor Giles emphasized modifications have been made to the proposed ordinance that will be introduced on Monday and will be set for public hearing at the following Council meeting.

Mr. Brady stated text amendments to the zoning code that deal specifically with mobile food trucks will be brought back at a future Council meeting.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Duff regarding Item 5-d, **(Approving and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a Project Agreement with Maricopa Association of Governments for an Arterial Life Cycle Program Project on Val Vista Drive between the U.S. 60 and Pueblo Avenue that defines the regional reimbursement schedule for the project. (District 2))**, on the May 3, 2021 Regular Council meeting agenda, Transportation Department Director RJ Zeder explained this project adds capacity and addresses safety issues. He remarked the agreement sets forth the reimbursement the City will receive from Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and is one of the projects included in the Mesa Moves Bond Program. He indicated the resolution will allow the Prop 400 money to come back to Mesa and receive the \$62 million in reimbursement dollars to use towards the Active Transportation projects and other projects outside the bond. He noted he will provide further the details on the project.

Mr. Brady informed Council to be eligible for the MAG dollars, the City must demonstrate that the capacity is being increased.

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on the City's next steps in preparation for the 2021 Council redistricting, and take action on the creation of the 2021 Redistricting Commission and appointing members to the Commission.

Deputy City Manager Scott Butler introduced Census & Redistricting Administrator Jeff Robbins, who displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 2)**

Mr. Butler stated redistricting is the follow-up to the census work as the census numbers for Mesa lead to the once every 10-year redistricting process. He mentioned appointing the Redistricting Commission is called for in the City Charter.

Mr. Robbins informed Council that the Mesa district system was introduced in 1998 which created the process to modify the geographic boundaries. He outlined the Mesa district system that is followed. (See Page 2 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Robbins clarified the COM redistricting system does not start from scratch but is adjusting the current boundaries of the existing districts. He stressed that the City Charter requires each Councilmember to remain within their current district. (See Page 3 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Robbins pointed out Mesa's redistricting process adheres to the highest national standards and he highlighted the best practices followed. (See Page 4 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Robbins discussed the five-person non-partisan Redistricting Commission that is appointed by City Council and the proposed Commission members. (See Pages 5 and 6 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Robbins outlined the role of the Redistricting Commission. He mentioned Redistricting Partners is the consultant hired to assist in the process, advise and guide the Commission on the best way to draw the district map. He commented the chosen consultant has conducted over 35 redistricting projects and will represent the COM well. (See Pages 7 through 9 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Robbins announced the COM was awarded a \$20,000 grant that will allow outreach to community members who have not historically participated to help them understand the redistricting process. He mentioned the partners the COM works with on the census and redistricting. (See Page 10 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Robbins informed Council the census data has been delayed primarily due to the pandemic. He remarked the COM will not be cutting any corners in the process but will have to move quickly and efficiently. He indicated per City Charter, candidate paperwork must be filed by March 7, 2022 to run for office and the objective is to have final approval by December of 2021 to give candidates enough time to collect signatures. (See Page 11 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Butler elaborated that Maricopa County Elections would like to see the changes by December 2021 as well, which is consistent with the timeframe suggested, and staff will work aggressively to meet that deadline.

Mr. Brady pointed out the Council meetings in December are compressed and the final Council meeting for the calendar year is scheduled for December 8, 2021.

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, City Clerk Dee Ann Mickelsen stated candidates are required to obtain 250 signatures. She mentioned a candidate may not know what district they reside in until the redistricting process is completed; however, District 4 will remain because Vice Mayor Duff is the only incumbent that is eligible to run again in the next election cycle.

Mr. Robbins provided the components of the process that will take place before the census data is delivered, as well as after receiving the data. He added the goal is to bring the recommended map to Council on November 15, 2021 to ensure there is time, in the event that Council rejects the map, to come up with a revised map if the Commission chooses to take Council's recommendations. He continued by saying at that point the Council is obligated to approve the revised map that is presented by the Commission. (See Pages 12 through 14 of Attachment 2)

In response to a question from Mr. Brady regarding whether Council is precluded from participating in community engagement and expressing their opinions regarding the redistricting before the final map is presented, Mr. Robbins agreed that Council should be involved in the process and providing feedback and information to help the Commission draw the map.

Mr. Butler discussed the technology changes that have occurred since the previous redistricting and that the new process will be a very interactive, virtual approach that citizens can engage in using new technology and tools. He advised the City will be sending out information through all the traditional communication channels, as well as partnering with Council to get the word out.

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury regarding the requirement that Council can only suggest changes to the map once and the second map is adopted, Mr. Butler stated he is not able to guess what the Council was thinking at the time the Commission was referred to the voters. He noted that the State Legislature does not have a say in the independent redistricting commission map.

Mayor Giles explained his recollection of the events that occurred at the time of adopting the Redistricting Commission, adding because the issue is so highly political, there must be a point when the elected officials make the decision.

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Ms. Mickelsen stated the decision to create the Commission was an initiative by the citizens and part of the original language of the initiative was that Council would have two opportunities. She stated she would have to go back to see if the number of district commission members was selected at that time.

Mr. Butler indicated the State Independent Redistricting Commission is also five members and is not an uncommon number for redistricting commissions.

Mayor Giles informed Council that because the districts will ultimately be decided by the Commission, the process was taken very seriously in finding five qualified individuals to serve. He said he is proud of the appointments chosen as they are diverse geographically and ethnically.

Mr. Brady emphasized one of the reasons for hiring the consultants is for their software that takes all the criteria into consideration when creating the new districts. He mentioned most of the discussion will be regarding the edges of the boundaries and balancing out the populations within the districts while considering neighborhoods and cultural interests.

In response to a question from Councilmember Freeman, Mr. Brady noted the population of Mesa is 518,000 and dividing that by six puts each district at approximately 86,000.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Freeman regarding the cost of the redistricting effort above the \$20,000 grant received, Mr. Robbins explained the consultant provides many services and will cost roughly six figures. He remarked in addition the Commission may request funding for public outreach to raise awareness. He reported the City will be using a tool called Districtr for the online engagement, which costs approximately \$10,000.

Mr. Butler summarized the total is around \$150,000 and the determining factor will be surrounding citizen outreach and engagement.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Duff regarding whether the consultants look at upcoming growth, Mr. Robbins explained there is a Supreme Court case that designates how much wiggle room can be built in to make each district equal, which is about 10%. He clarified that means the largest district is not 10% larger than the smallest district by population. He remarked there may be circumstances where districts are expanding faster than others and that can be taken into consideration.

It was moved by Councilmember Luna, seconded by Councilmember Spilsbury, that the Council approve the creation of the 2021 Redistricting Commission, concur with the Mayor's recommendations, and the appointments be confirmed.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles-Duff-Freeman-Heredia-Luna-Spilsbury-Thompson

NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

Mayor Giles expressed disappointment that Arizona failed to gain an additional congressional seat, especially considering the voluntary response rate was higher. He inquired if there was an undercount.

Mr. Robbins reported Mesa had a 4.8 increase in self-response rate which is the only thing that can be controlled at the local level. He mentioned a lot was learned in the process and hopes to do better in 2030. He remarked the rural areas were affected and many tribal areas were undercounted. He added there is not one single factor that points to the reason the extra seat was not obtained as projected.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

(Mayor Giles declared a recess at 8:29 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:37 a.m.)

2-b. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on the Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities budget.

Acting Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities (PRCF) Director Andrea Moore shared the mission statement which is to contribute to a healthy and vibrant community by providing exceptional experiences and services to those who live, work, and play in Mesa, and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. She expressed appreciation to the PRCF staff for adjusting to the changes that have occurred this past year and are now ready to relaunch into full operations over the next few months. **(See Attachment 3)**

Ms. Moore summarized the budget numbers for the previous, current, and proposed fiscal years (FY). She added the FY 21/22 proposed budget is assuming full operations and totals \$37.7 million, which also includes approximately \$2 million in Operations and Maintenance (O&M), some changes in fees and charges, as well as bringing back capacity for events. (See Page 2 of Attachment 3)

Mr. Brady announced there are some exciting new parks coming online and the budget will have to absorb the ongoing maintenance for the new projects.

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, Ms. Moore indicated The Post will begin operations in the Fall of 2022 and O&M dollars will be needed for FY 22.

Ms. Moore reported PRCF is requesting collaboration with Mesa PD for more public safety presence in the park system by adding four additional Park Rangers. She remarked Park Rangers currently spend about 75% of their time addressing homelessness issues in the parks. (See Page 3 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Moore presented a graph showing monthly homeless contacts by Park Rangers between March 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. She mentioned the increase in March 2021 was due to staff being back to full duty. (See Page 4 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Moore stated PRCF would like to put more resources toward marketing and outreach efforts by adding a second marketing position within the department to assist with highlighting the programs offered and registration opportunities online. (See page 5 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Moore provided updates on the Convention Center and Amphitheater modernization projects. She indicated the energy management systems upgrades, which consist of the systems controlling the air conditioning and building systems, will cost approximately \$1.5 million. She remarked PRCF is launching a Comprehensive Master Plan update that will cost \$400,000, as 2002 was the last time the Comprehensive Master Plan was evaluated, to address the future focus of the park system. (See Page 6 of Attachment 3)

Mr. Brady pointed out the Convention Center property has been the most valuable real estate in the city this past year and discussed some of the critically important functions that occurred surrounding food distribution and vaccinations.

Ms. Moore elaborated the Comprehensive Master Plan will encompass outreach for the climate action plan and will include a series of public engagement meetings and opportunities to fill out surveys regarding climate and the park system.

Mayor Giles echoed Mr. Brady's comments, adding the Convention Center needs to stay in the hands of the City and not be offered up for commercial development. He suggested having a strategic plan to continue to capitalize on the Convention Center.

Ms. Moore informed Council that PRCF has been in discussions with Visit Mesa and area hotels regarding relaunching offerings for programming space at the Convention Center and are putting bids together to market the space for events.

Ms. Moore reviewed the capital projects that are in progress and the timelines for completion. She mentioned The Plaza at Mesa City Center is under construction with the intentions of opening in time for Merry Main Street in November 2021. (See Page 7 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Moore provided an overview of the summer youth program attendance for the past three years. She reported overall there has been a struggle to hire enough staff to offer full programming and some programs will be rotated based on available staffing. She outlined some of the summer 2021 programs that will be offered. She pointed out PRCF has partnered with Mesa Public Schools (MPS) to pay half of the registration fees using their federal COVID funding to enhance enrichment activities for MPS children. She reported that registration began on April 12 and there has been overwhelming interest so far. (See Pages 8 and 9 of Attachment 3)

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury regarding what the modified aquatics program will look like, Ms. Moore advised the Stapley and Shepherd Aquatic Complexes are both still under renovation, with the anticipation of opening before public swim season begins. She mentioned Shepherd will offer public swim three days a week instead of six and will hold lessons and swim teams at other locations. She added the recreation department is short about 60 people which leads to reduced opportunities for opening at full capacity. She remarked a hybrid model is being utilized where you can reserve a time slot, but there will also be walk-up slots available as well.

In response to a question from Councilmember Luna, Ms. Moore explained reservations are no longer required for the fitness floor at the multi-generational center, and the special interest and fitness classes are utilizing a wristband system. She added the mask requirement is still in place when inside.

In response to a series of question from Councilmember Freeman, Ms. Moore advised that Park Rangers spend approximately a third of their time dealing with the homeless at the Beverly, Evergreen, Kleinman, Pioneer, and Guerrero parks which are all located in downtown Mesa. She commented that the City has had to turn away a large volume of sports use because there are not enough fields throughout the city and the expectation is that Legacy will provide more opportunities for residents to have access to fields.

In response to a question posed by Mayor Giles, Ms. Moore confirmed many of the positions that are unfilled are seasonal, part-time positions. She added the pipeline was disrupted last year because the hiring feeds year-to-year as the kids in the programs become old enough to work for the City.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

2-c. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on the Development Services budget.

Development Services Department Director Christine Zielonka introduced Planning Director Nana Appiah, Development Services Deputy Director John Sheffer, and Senior Fiscal Analyst Chase Carlile, who displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 4)**

Ms. Zielonka stated Development Services' core function is working with the City and development community to assist in building a healthy and sustainable community. She highlighted the core service areas. (See Page 2 of Attachment 4)

Ms. Zielonka presented an overview of Development Services' revenues. She mentioned the uncertainty of development locally and nationally due to the pandemic; however, was surprised that after a dip in March, development continued at higher levels than forecast, ending \$3 million above projections. She remarked that the electronic permitting system allowed the City to continue to meet customer demands. (See Page 3 of Attachment 4)

Ms. Zielonka shared the number of planning cases by quarter and highlighted some of the larger industrial projects around Gateway Airport and the residential development that is continuing around Mesa. (See Page 4 of Attachment 4)

Ms. Zielonka explained the City continues to see high levels of single-family residential development along with a consistent trend on commercial and industrial development and spoke about the building permit numbers and revenue. (See Page 5 of Attachment 4)

Ms. Zielonka stated in order to keep up with customer demand, Development Services is asking for a midyear enhancement to add a senior building plans examiner and an additional senior planner for FY 20/21, as well as an FY 21/22 building inspector to help with the workload, and a shared resource vehicle. She discussed the difficulty in obtaining temporary workers because of the increased construction activity. (See Page 6 of Attachment 4)

Responding to a question from Councilmember Thompson regarding using a virtual inspection program similar to what the Town of Gilbert is utilizing, Ms. Zielonka indicated that Mr. Sheffer

has been working with a start-up company for the past seven months on conducting virtual inspections primarily within the residential area.

Ms. Zielonka summarized the expenditures for Development Services. She presented the total planning submissions and volume of construction permit applications submitted by quarter. She remarked there are high activity levels at the initial entitlement phase all the way through inspections. (See Pages 7 through 9 of Attachment 4)

Ms. Zielonka discussed the increased citizen participation in meetings due to the virtual formats being used and suggested staff will be using a hybrid going forward for greater access. She noted that Development Services is continually looking for ways to apply technology that will streamline processes and shared some examples of ways Mesa has been innovative. (See Page 10 of Attachment 4)

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Duff, Ms. Zielonka stated the Mesa Open Air Program has benefited many businesses; however, she suggested working with the businesses to have a more permanent patio presence would be beneficial.

City Attorney Jim Smith elaborated that the resolution implies that when the Mayor's emergency proclamation ends, the program would end. He mentioned if Council is interested in a long-term program, an ordinance could be brought forth.

Further discussion ensued relative to permanent outdoor eating opportunities for businesses to ensure success.

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, Ms. Zielonka defined al Fresco off Main as an area of open seating where individuals could bring food or order food to be delivered and the Mesa Open Air Program allowed businesses the ability to expand their services to outdoor areas normally used for other purposes.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Heredia regarding whether Development Services has made improvements on the time it takes to finalize cases, Ms. Zielonka indicated one major improvement has been to combine the subdivision technical review process, which took a month or two off the process. She added there is an expedited process for permitting that many individuals take advantage of.

Mr. Appiah pointed out a major text amendment approved by Council was to allow administrative review of a certain number of site plans which has reduced approximately 60 days from the process. He gave the example of a large industrial building that was able to receive their entitlements within 45 days instead of 90 or 120 days and the design guidelines reducing the back-and-forth process by clarifying what the requirements are.

Mr. Brady stated at this point additional staff is needed to review plans due to the unprecedented demand.

Councilmember Heredia reiterated the need to change the public interface on DIMES to be more user-friendly.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

2-d. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on the Library Services budget.

Library Director Heather Wolf introduced Management Assistant II Tony Garvey, who displayed a PowerPoint presentation. She spoke about the limited-edition gifts provided to Council to promote the seed library. **(See Attachment 5)**

Ms. Wolf discussed the \$6.8 million year-end actuals for FY 19/20 reflect the reductions enacted in response to COVID. She highlighted the revised budget and estimate for FY 20/21, as well as the proposed budget for FY21/22. She added all staff who wished to be reinstated have been rehired. She mentioned the salary savings from the vacant positions has more than offset the 3% step increase and bonus pay. (See Page 2 of Attachment 5)

Ms. Wolf described the transition that library staff made during the pandemic, which included operating the Mesa CARES Call Center to connect the community to resources that were being created. She mentioned the library staff rallied, and together were able to overcome every challenge that came up. She outlined the programs and services that library staff assisted with and said the online registration resulted in a \$13,000 increase to the budget for next year. (See Page 3 of Attachment 5)

At 9:48 a.m., Mayor Giles excused Councilmember Luna from the remainder of the Council meeting.

Ms. Wolf informed Council by mid-January all three library locations were reopened with limited hours and capacity. She noted the safety measures that were added to allow the reopening. (See Page 4 of Attachment 5)

Ms. Wolf explained Mesa is the first library in the world to utilize the Open+ system which grants patrons access to the library and does not allow access when the capacity is full. She mentioned that public libraries are an important component in a community to bridge the digital divide. She reported the improvements have assisted in providing over 3,500 hours of public computer use since January. She stated the project was nominated for a Smart 50 award, which is part of the Smart Cities Connect initiative, and then played a video to demonstrate how the technology works. (See Page 5 of Attachment 5)

Ms. Wolf commented that next year's budget has been strategically allocated to support Council priorities and initiatives. She reviewed some of the priorities, including partnering with AZ@Work who assists individuals of all ages in developing work readiness skills, occupational skills training, interview skills, and job searches. She mentioned the fact that due to the time spent in the call center, staff are more knowledgeable about resources in the small business community and will be partnering with Economic Development to bring additional programs and training opportunities to the libraries. (See Pages 6 and 7 of Attachment 5)

Ms. Wolf remarked over the last year the library has been able to take advantage of the online services already offered and serve more people by offering more virtual programs and online registration for library cards. She said staff have continued to find innovative ways to offer traditional library services. She gave the example of the curbside pickup service for checking out materials, adding the service will continue by appointment only. She announced a new library app called myLIBRO has been implemented that allows customers to search the library's collection, place holds, schedule pickups, and many other things. (See Pages 8 and 9 of Attachment 5)

Ms. Wolf presented a chart showing library circulation numbers beginning in January 2018 to March 2021, comparing physical versus electronic. She indicated in February 2021 physical circulation surpassed electronic for the first time since the pandemic began. She reported anywhere from 10,000 to 15,000 items per month are checked out from the digital collection. (See Page 10 of Attachment 5)

Ms. Wolf shared the number of in-house visitors to each library, which indicates an increase each month. (See Page 11 of Attachment 5)

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, Ms. Wolf advised the Red Mountain and Main Library numbers are usually closer to each other; however, the Main Library is under construction at this time and may account for the lower numbers.

Ms. Wolf stated the 2018 voter approved bond projects are underway. She remarked the Main Library's Children's room is expected to be completed in August of this year and looks forward to starting the Dobson Ranch THINKspot. (See Page 12 of Attachment 5)

Ms. Wolf discussed the Monterey Park expansion that will consist of a tiny library in a shipping container. She mentioned savings in FY 20/21 have allowed a transfer of \$350,000 toward the project to help fund the initial phases. (See Page 13 of Attachment 5)

Ms. Wolf updated Council on the full-service 30,000 square foot library that will border the Great Park in Eastmark and she outlined the timeline for the project. (See Page 14 of Attachment 5)

Ms. Wolf expressed her gratitude towards those who worked with and helped the library over the last year. She thanked Fire and Medical services for the peer support that was provided to staff when dealing with the loss of their co-worker. She said watching diverse departments work together for the community was inspirational.

Mayor Giles acknowledged library staff for quickly pivoting to respond to the needs of the community.

In response to a series of questions posed by Vice Mayor Duff, Ms. Wolf explained a small number of volunteers were maintained to continue the homebound program, as well as a group that continued the online book sales. She indicated volunteers are slowly being brought back. She stated the volunteer walk of fame stars throughout the downtown area recognizes over 9,000 volunteers. She commented the AZ@Work program located in the basement of the Main Library is currently by appointment only, but if there is an opening a drop-in will be accepted.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

3. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Vice Mayor Duff – Mesa Convention Center vaccine distribution
National League of Cities meeting – Infrastructure

4. Scheduling of meetings.

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

Monday, May 3, 2021, 4:45 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, May 3, 2021, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 6, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, 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 29th day of April 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

la
(Attachments – 5)