



COUNCIL MINUTES

May 6, 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 May 6, 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.

1-a. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on a summary wrap-up of the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 budget.

Office of Management and Budget Assistant Director Brian Ritschel introduced Budget Coordinator Samuel Shultz, who displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Mr. Ritschel highlighted the five Financial Principles for the General Governmental Fund and the Utility Fund, as well as the FY 21/22 Budget Emphasis. (See Pages 2 through 5 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Ritschel provided an overview of budget enhancements that were not part of previous budget presentations to Council. (See Pages 6 and 7 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Mayor Giles regarding the number of new police officers and firefighters being hired, City Manager Christopher Brady explained that the priority is to fill vacancies, then filling positions for fire stations as they open; and on the Police side, personnel are hired with the idea of accelerating that when the Public Safety Substation opens. He added multiple academies are in process throughout the year to keep up with attrition.

Office of Management and Budget Director Candace Cannistraro clarified the positions for Fire Station 221 were included in last year's budget, and positions related to Fire Station 222 will be in next year's budget.

In response to questions from Councilmember Freeman, Assistant City Manager John Pombier stated Station 201 has three apparatus, and an analysis revealed removing a Medical Response Unit (MRU) does not affect call times and will be returned to service when there is the ability to staff the unit.

Ms. Cannistraro explained MRUs are four person teams with a captain, engineer, and two firefighters and are on vehicles that are more mobile than an engine and can quickly respond to medical calls. She added these units respond to medical calls first and then fire calls.

Mr. Brady remarked in an effort to be more efficient in responding to calls, instead of sending pumper trucks or other large vehicles to medical calls, MRUs were set up to be able to handle acute calls and all levels of medical calls. He added they are available for fire calls; however, their priority is to keep fire engines in the station while MRUs respond to medical calls.

Mr. Ritschel provided an overview of efforts in meeting community needs and growth, and provided a recap on the homeless support plan. (See Pages 8 and 9 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Ritschel provided an update on investing in Transportation and Transit and indicated a traffic analyst will be shared with the Police Department. (See Page 10 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Ritschel provided information on finalizing and adopting the budget and reviewed the timeline for the budget process. (See Pages 11 through 13 of Attachment 1)

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

1-b. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide funding recommendations for FY 2019/2020 CARES funding related to COVID-19 for Emergency Solutions Grant Corona Virus (ESG-CV-2) funding.

Community Services Director Ruth Giese introduced Housing and Community Development Director Michelle Albanese, who displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 2)**

Ms. Albanese highlighted the COVID Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV-2) funding, provided an overview of the funding allocation recommendations, and explained Council priorities and programs that address homelessness were prioritized when developing the recommendations. She commented staff considered agencies in the CDBG program that were partially funded in 2020 and since those activities translate into eligibility for ESG they were able to supplement with additional funding. She stated staff also looked at agencies that applied in the Human Services funding category but were not funded due to the high demand. She added staff finally looked at programs and services that were funded through the first round of ESG COVID dollars and are recommending allocating additional funds to those programs and services. She stated an important consideration in the recommendations is to fund agencies that can administer the program while complying with federal requirements. (See Page 2 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Albanese highlighted ESG-CV eligible activities and stated this fund is specifically to address homeless needs and activities which include rapid rehousing, navigation services, and shelter operations. She remarked this money can only be used for COVID-related activities, so staff looked at Mesa residents that have been directly impacted by COVID, and what are the needs in the community in order to assist the most vulnerable. (See Page 3 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Albanese presented the following funding recommendations as reflected on the chart on Page 4 of Attachment 2:

- Blue - submitted applications through the first round of ESG-CV-1, staff is recommending level funding as these agencies have been successful in administering programs. Staff is recommending funding these agencies for shelter operations, as they originally requested funding for their shelter operations and expansion of beds.
- Yellow - agencies that applied in FY 21/22 and were awarded partial CDBG funds. These agencies were scored based on a percentage of additional funding. For example, A New Leaf requested \$200,000 for shelter services, were awarded \$100,000 through CDBG, so with additional funding, based on their score, an additional \$60,000 is recommended.
- Green – agencies that applied for human services dollars but were not funded. These activities all support homeless services, so funding is recommended in this category, based on score, as a percentage of the original request.

Ms. Albanese stated staff's recommendation is to award funding of \$3,765,622, which includes City of Mesa administration, with a small balance remaining to be used to supplement and support programs or fund another program through CDBG. (See Page 4 of Attachment 2)

In response to a series of questions from Vice Mayor Duff, Ms. Albanese explained Save the Family's focus is on prevention and serves families; that there are other funds available that serve individuals; that City staff collaborates with agencies to assist individuals and families based on income and need; and that the funds were allocated to the City in 2019, were distributed in different phases as guidance was received from HUD, and is available as soon as the recommendations are approved.

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, Ms. Giese responded by saying the Human Services Coordinator will oversee homeless activities including working with non-profit agencies and serve as a resource to the City Manager and Council offices.

It was moved by Vice Mayor Duff, seconded by Councilmember Spilsbury, that the funding recommendations be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles-Duff-Freeman-Heredia-Luna-Spilsbury-Thompson
NAYES – None

Carried unanimously.

1-c. Hear a presentation, discuss, and provide direction on federal CARES funding, programs, and priorities related to COVID-19 for Community Development Block Grant Corona Virus (CDBG-CV) funding.

Housing and Community Development Director Michelle Albanese displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 3)**

Ms. Albanese provided a recap of CDBG-CV dollars and explained these funds must be used specifically for community residences that have been impacted by COVID. She stated these funds are different from the normal CDBG funds the City receives as these do not have a public service cap or limit. She added any activities that are 100% public service can also use regular CDBG funds. She remarked staff will conduct a competitive application process that will begin later this month and will look at eligible CDBG activities that are directly related to COVID. (See Page 2 of Attachment 3)

Ms. Albanese outlined the Proposed Priorities and commented education and workforce development is a General Fund category where COVID dollars could be used. She commented emergency and bridge housing fills the gap for housing such as domestic violence, homeless children that have aged out of the foster care system, and youth with children. (See Page 3 of Attachment 3)

It was moved by Councilmember Spilsbury, seconded by Councilmember Heredia that the funding recommendations be approved.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles-Duff-Freeman-Heredia-Luna-Spilsbury-Thompson
NAYES – None

Carried unanimously.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentations.

2. Hear an update from the City Manager regarding proposals for employee compensation increases.

This item was continued to a future Council meeting.

3. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Mayor Giles –	Arizona Mayor’s Education Roundtable
Vice Mayor Duff –	Benedictine University Reception NLC – Sustainability and Quality of Life Committee Consulate of Mexico – Cinco de Mayo Celebration
Councilmember Spilsbury –	Traffic Management Center Tour
Councilmember Luna –	MCC Teacher Chair Award Meeting Arizona Department of Health Service - Vaccination
Councilmember Freeman –	NLC – Public Safety meeting

4. Scheduling of meetings.

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

Thursday, May 13, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:34 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 6th day of May 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

jg/dm
(Attachments – 3)