



COUNCIL MINUTES

October 14, 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 October 14, 2021, at 7:31 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

Mark Freeman

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Agnes Goodwine
Jim Smith

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

Mayor Giles conducted a roll call.

Mayor Giles excused Councilmember Freeman from the entire meeting.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the October 18, 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

Assistant Fire Chief James Johnson introduced Fire Maintenance Administrator Jason Nickelsen who displayed a PowerPoint presentation and discussed Item 4-I (**Purchase of One, E-One Electric Fire Pumper Truck for the Mesa Fire and Medical Department**), on the October 18, 2021, Regular Council Meeting agenda. (**See Attachment 1**)

Assistant Chief Johnson commented the E-One Electric Fire Pumper Truck provides a new concept in the fire industry. He explained this purchase supports the City's Climate Action Plan to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Nickelsen highlighted the features of the E-One and stated the European model has been in use since 2020. He reported the E-One has a driving range of approximately 142 miles. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

City Manager Christopher Brady mentioned the E-One is scheduled to go into service at Fire Station 221 which has been built to accommodate the electric charging for this type of unit. He explained there are also two regular fire pumper trucks on the agenda, which is a great opportunity to experiment with a new prototype.

Councilmember Thompson expressed concern with the cost of the E-One opposed to a traditional diesel pumper and the \$700,000 price difference.

Mr. Brady responded by saying as demand for electric pumpers increases, his hope is that increased production will help bring the cost down.

In response to a question from Councilmember Thompson regarding recycling and disposing of the batteries, Assistant Chief Johnson explained the batteries last approximately eight to ten years and can be recycled. He added that staff will be tracking maintenance costs with the current fleet.

In response to further questions from Councilmember Thompson regarding whether the City has the equipment to extinguish lithium battery fires, Mr. Nickelsen replied with the current technology if the fire truck was in an accident and airbags were deployed, that would automatically shut down the UV system to avoid a fire.

Responding to Councilmember Luna, Mr. Nickelsen commented on diesel savings and added in tracking one unit from January 1 to the current date, over \$11,000 would be saved.

In response to a question from Councilmember Heredia, Mr. Nickelsen stated there are three manufacturers of electric fire trucks and there are currently no electric fire trucks in service in the country.

Mayor Giles read the following statement from Councilmember Freeman:

“Putting these types of fire apparatus into our city will be a great turning point. Mesa was the first to provide paramedic service to our citizens in the late 1970’s. Although we no longer have the team, we were the first to provide rescue scuba diving for the recovery in regional operations. Mesa was the first city to establish a hazardous materials team as well as an immunization team. We’ve been leaders in technology with paramedic and medical response for some time and I’m glad we’re continuing to do so. I want to thank city management and all those involved, including fire administration, for looking to the future in helping the city reach its sustainable goals. This is a step towards reducing our carbon footprint. I’m excited that Mesa will continue to be a leader in the state and the nation.”

In response to comments from Mayor Giles, Mr. Nickelsen responded by saying the department’s goal is to reach 50% electric vehicles by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

Responding to questions from Councilmember Luna on Item 4-k, **(Purchase of Five Emergency Response Vehicles (All Additions) for the Mesa Fire and Medical Department)**, on the October 18, 2021, Regular Council Meeting agenda, Mr. Brady explained the reason electric vehicles are not purchased for response vehicles is that they are not available.

Mr. Brady further commented that the vehicles being purchased as part of this item are under the American Rescue Program. He stated there is an urgent need for ambulances and an opportunity came up to purchase the ambulances in a package deal. He explained the importance of these ambulances and stated after individuals with Covid are treated, units are removed from service

to undergo a thorough decontamination process. He clarified no additional staff is being added as a result of this purchase.

In response to a question from Councilmember Heredia, Mr. Brady responded by saying this purchase is supplementing the fleet to address Covid. He stated the vehicles can eventually be used to grow the program, but for now, instead of taking the vehicle out of service following a Covid response, the crew can be moved to another ambulance.

In response to questions from Councilmember Spilsbury regarding Item 4-d, **(Three-Year Term Contract with Two Years of Renewal Options for Glock Weapon Parts and Accessories for the Mesa Police Department)**, on the October 18, 2021, Regular Council Meeting agenda, Sergeant David Standridge said this item is a lifecycle replacement for approximately 900 new Glocks, which will take old ones out of service and sell them back to the vendor.

Responding to Councilmember Spilsbury regarding optics with mounting plates, Sergeant Standridge stated the department is transitioning from iron sights to a red dot system. He explained with iron sights, officers are looking at the sites instead of doing target identification. He commented based on the Chief's mandate, the department has instituted more quality training with regard to target identification, so officers are no longer focusing on the gun but on the person or the threat to see the full picture which helps officers see important details. He added the last two Academy classes have not shot a "no-shoot" target and the accuracy has improved to an average from 230 to 243.5, with 250 being an expert rating.

In response to a question from Councilmember Heredia regarding Item 4-n, **(Gas SCADA System Improvements Project)**, on the October 18, 2021, Regular Council Meeting agenda, Energy Resources Director Frank McRae stated these stations do not serve individual customers but are part of the network system that allows staff to monitor remotely. He explained that the current process requires staff to physically retrieve the data from the device and this system will eliminate that process and allow staff to track the data in real-time. He said the data will go into the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, which has an archiving module that allows staff to monitor different pressure types and flow rates at gate stations and pressure regulating stations.

City Engineer Beth Huning provided information regarding Item 4-m, **(Signal Butte Road – Williams Field Road to Germann Road Project)**, on the October 18, 2021, Regular Council Meeting agenda. She commented this project is the Signal Butte Road extension, which will extend Signal Butte from State Route (SR) 24 and will be completed in August 2022. She added this project will expand Williams Field Road to Pecos Road with a four-lane road and from Pecos Road to Germann with a two-lane road with completion by November 2022.

Ms. Huning further explained the project is federally funded, that Queen Creek is paying for the section south of SR 24 to Germann Road which will be reimbursed at the end of 2030 with federal fund reimbursements.

In response to a question from Councilmember Thompson, Transportation Department Director RJ Zeder stated Signal Butte will be a grade crossing and the bridge over Signal Butte will be constructed at a later date as part of future improvements. He added with the assistance of a State legislator, the City was successful in obtaining funding to complete the bridge at Ellsworth Road as part of the initial phase, which was not originally part of this project.

Responding to Councilmember Thompson, Mr. Zeder explained in the course of working with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) on newer projects, ADOT has requested the City take on more maintenance responsibilities than in the past. He reported that currently the City is responsible for some maintenance on Ellsworth Road through the interchange. He said there will likely be some maintenance responsibilities that come with the future improvement.

Office of Management and Budget Director Candace Cannistraro displayed a PowerPoint presentation regarding Item 5-f, **(Approving the procurement of, and authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and enter into a contract for an Advanced Metering Infrastructure/Smart Metering (AMI) Solution with one of the qualified and responsive vendors)**, on the October 18, 2021, Regular Council Meeting agenda and introduced Energy Resources Director Frank McRae and Assistant Director of Water Resources Chris Hassert. She explained the AMI solution is more than just the meters and includes the infrastructure to send and receive signals through a network to software integrated within the City's systems. **(See Attachment 2)**

Ms. Cannistraro provided an overview of the equipment involved and explained the goal is to help make the City resilient and sustainable and to ensure the network is consistent. (See Page 3 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro highlighted the three utilities that are metered: electric, natural gas, and water. She commented the electric system is in the downtown area, the water system is throughout the City of Mesa's limits, and the natural gas system is in two different areas. She added that while some residents are serviced by Southwest Gas, the City has a large natural gas service area in the San Tan Valley, referred to as the Magma area. She outlined the number of residential and non-residential meters that will need to be replaced. (See Page 4 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro detailed the project goals that will include setting up performance measures and tracking processes. (See Page 5 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro summarized the anticipated benefits to customers and to the City. (See Page 6 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro reported the City is currently negotiating with Sensus USA to provide a smart metering solution. She stated Mesa has four different systems that the software will need to integrate, which is the customer billing information, GIS system, customer portal, and the outage management system for the electric commodity. (See Page 7 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro stated the project will be completed in two phases. She explained Phase 1 is the initial deployment, will include 2,200 meters, will implement the software system, and will take an estimated one-year for software implementation, integration, and testing. She said once Phase 1 is running as expected, Phase 2 will begin. She remarked Phase 2 is the Citywide deployment. (See Page 8 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro highlighted the City communication plan, including a cross-departmental team whose job is to ensure communication occurs in a timely manner for a particular neighborhood. She pointed out multiple formats which will include door hangers and social media messages in different formats and languages. She said part of the communication will include the use of subcontractors to replace the meters and make sure residents understand who the contractors are and that they are supposed to be in the neighborhood. She added the communication will

also include how to access the customer portal and what information will be available through the upgrade. (See Page 9 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro provided an overview of the Sensus contract and stated the total cost of the project is approximately \$57.9 million. (See Page 10 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro explained the on-going expenses related to the software that includes two hosted systems that will be implemented, the actual software that receives the data from the meters, and a data analytics software that receives that data in a more user-friendly version. She pointed out this is a five-year term contract and the \$2.9 million is for all five years. She stated that while the City is not using cellular service as a primary backhaul or network communication, there may be some meters on the outskirts of the City that will require cellular backup. (See Pages 11 and 12 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro discussed the resolution, which is for the approval of the first five-year term and administrative approval for two options to renew at five years per option. She added the estimate for Term 2 includes the additional annual maintenance cost for the software packages and the continued meter capacity for growth, and Term 3 includes the estimated growth rate for all meter commodities as well as inflation for those years. (See Page 13 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro highlighted the expenses outside of the Sensus contract, adding one is for water meters which will be on a separate contract. She stated the City will provide these ultrasonic water meters that will allow a better metering of low volumes. (See Page 14 of Attachment 2)

Ms. Cannistraro provided a timeline of the four-year project and an FAQ page for information on the project. (See Pages 15 and 16 of Attachment 2)

Mayor Giles commented this is one of the larger Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) the City has undertaken and this is a great example of how the Climate Action Plan is being implemented in the City. He requested information on the connectivity between the meters and the provider.

Ms. Cannistraro explained the meters have a smart sensor using a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license spectrum, which will have a portion that is only for City of Mesa meters. She remarked the fiber will be used to complete the backhaul, which is how the data is loaded into the software. She added a cell service will receive the data and return to the hosted solution.

In response to a question from Councilmember Luna, Ms. Cannistraro stated staff within the Utility Department and Business Services will handle the initial meter and monitoring of the system. She commented the City has hired an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) administrator who will report to the Billing Administrator, and will ensure all meters are communicating. She indicated the system will reflect any issues in a zone, area, or antenna, which is called a base station. She stated if a problem arises with an antenna, an alarm will alert staff that a base station is down. She advised even if a station is down, the data will still be received while the repair is performed.

In response to additional questions from Councilmember Luna regarding the software's proprietary systems compatibility, Ms. Cannistraro stated the reason for the one-year period is to allow for a 10-month period for testing and integration. She commented Sensus is hosting the City's data and the agreement outlines how many years of data will be readily accessible versus archived. She added the data will be hosted locally for data analytics.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Heredia, Ms. Cannistraro clarified staff had started looking for a customer portal that would allow residents to monitor their consumption; and while that was occurring, SilverBlaze was implemented which is a customer portal that is currently being used and will be integrated with Sensus.

In response to a question from Councilmember Heredia regarding cost savings and meter readers, Ms. Cannistraro reported the original feasibility study showed a 10 to 12-year return on investment (ROI) for this project. She explained staff anticipates fewer trips in the field, which will mean fuel savings and improved safety for employees. She stated other improvements include on-demand read when residents move in or out, and more accurate meter reads.

Ms. Cannistraro clarified that Mr. Brady has spoken with meter readers since the beginning of this project to ensure staff that their jobs are secure. She commented there is a high turnover rate in the meter reading area, that the City will still need meter readers for the next four years, and as meter readers are slowly phased out more meter technicians will be needed.

Vice Mayor Duff requested information on Item 5-g, **(Approving and authorizing the City Manager to enter an Exchange Agreement with Action Zone Business 17, LLC, and issuing a permit for the filling of an artificial lake on property southeast of the intersection of Power and Warner Roads, a development known as “Cannon Beach”, under Mesa City Code title 8, Chapter 10, Section 7)**, on the October 18, 2021, Regular Council Meeting agenda. She asked if the City is using effluent water credits which would be a responsible use of City resources.

Assistant City Attorney Bill Taebel explained that both the state and the city have regulations that deal with filling large bodies of water. He reported the principal issue here is the supply of water; and in this case, the City has a large supply of long-term storage credits based on effluent recovered supplies. He stated the developer has secured long-term storage credits that are based on stored Central Arizona Project (CAP) supplies which the City will trade for effluent credits that will allow Cannon Beach to fill the pool. He added the resolution allows the City to issue a permit to fill the Cannon Beach water feature.

Water Resources Advisor Brian Draper remarked this project is unique as the CAP credits that are being exchanged and the effluent credit the City is providing were all generated at this location.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentations.

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

- 2-a. Redistricting Commission meetings held on May 19, May 20, June 16, June 23, August 12, August 14, August 17, August 18, August 25, August 26, and August 28, 2021.
- 2-b. Museum & Cultural Advisory Board meeting held on July 22, 2021.
- 2-c. Economic Development Advisory Board meeting held on September 7, 2021.
- 2-d. Library Advisory Board meeting held on May 18, 2021.

It was moved by Councilmember Luna, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

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

Mayor Giles declared the motion carried unanimously by those present.

3. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Mayor Giles –	Neighborhood Comedy Theater on Main Street Arizona Manufacturers Organization – Dexcom Flight in a B-17 at Falcon Field Airport Chamber Bus Tour with Councilmember Luna Visit Mesa ARIA program for the visually impaired
Councilmember Spilsbury –	Tour of Save the Family Hispanic Heritage lunch Community Court experience
Councilmember Luna –	Hispanic Heritage lunch NLC - National Alliance for Hispanic Health Bilingual Reading at Red Mountain Branch library ASU building tour with Councilmember Spilsbury
Councilmember Heredia –	West Mesa Fiesta Buzz Neighborhood Connector Public Input

4. Scheduling of meetings.

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

Saturday, October 16, 2021, Mesa Grande Cultural Regional Park reopening 10:00 am - noon

Monday, October 18, 2021, 5:15 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, October 18, 2021, 5:45 p.m. – Regular Meeting

5. Convene an Executive Session.

Mayor Giles stated that this item would be continued to a future date.

5-a. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the City Attorney. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A (3)) Discussion or consultation with the City Attorney in order to consider the City's position and instruct the City Attorney regarding the City's position regarding pending or contemplated litigation or in settlement discussions conducted in order to avoid or resolve litigation. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A(4))

1. *Jennifer Lane v. City of Mesa, et al.*,
United States District Court, Case No. CV-19-00852-SMB

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 9:06 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 14th day of October 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

la/dm
(Attachment – 2)