

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 28, 2017

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Special Council Meeting in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on September 28, 2017 at 7:33 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
David Luna
Mark Freeman
Christopher Glover
Kevin Thompson*
Jeremy Whittaker

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Dee Ann Mickelsen
Jim Smith

(*Councilmember Thompson participated in the meeting through the use of telephonic equipment.)

1. Hold interviews for the following District 3 Councilmember candidates:

Mayor Giles stated that the four District 3 finalists are Francisco Heredia, Pablo Felix, Frank Mizner, and Theresa Ratti and invited the candidates to introduce themselves, after which time the Council would pose questions to them.

The candidates offered a series of comments and opinions including, but not limited to the following:

Pablo Felix:

- He explained that his goals and priorities would be to engage District 3 as soon as possible and identify stakeholders. He pointed that out he would engage the Dobson corridor and Fiesta District, which includes being a voice for District 3 residents.
- He stated that due to personal issues and his Corporate organization, he was unable to schedule time with Councilmember Whittaker, however, would prioritize the residents and Council moving forward.
- He remarked that he has followed Council but does not remember a particular vote he did not agree with.
- As someone that has a media background he explained that he can reach out to District 3 through social media in Spanish and English with the focus on Instagram, Snapchat, and Facebook. He stated that the best type of communication is face to face and that he would come back and inform Council regarding the feedback he receives.

Francisco Heredia:

- He stated that the near-term challenges are small businesses in the light rail corridor that will need the City's support to prosper, including the Fiesta District; and creating "synergies" in these areas to keep Mesa progressing forward.
- He responded that to balance the budget by amortizing debt or making budget cuts would first require a review to ensure that the needs of the residents are being met with regards to Public Safety, clean water, and infrastructure needs.
- He commented that he works to resolve conflict between individuals or groups by being transparent and ensure that people understand a process. He pointed out that individuals or groups can agree to disagree on strategy and tactics but there must be communication to keep camaraderie open to improve the community.

Theresa Ratti:

- She stated that the long-term challenges for the City are to bring more businesses to the downtown area, working with the City's education partners to establish communication, keep students engaged, and have the City progress forward.
- She explained that based on the information she had at the time, she disagreed with privatizing jail services and that as a citizen, she questions the safety issue.
- She commented that she would communicate with District 3 residents by being out in the community, hold meet and greets at the Dobson Ranch Library, attend events at schools, Homeowner Association (HOA) meetings, and reach out to the Fire and Medical Department to hold a pancake breakfast. She emphasized that she would prefer conversations in the neighborhoods versus having office hours.
- She commented that no department or positions should be privatized, due to the fact that a large part of the City's funding comes from utilities and is not in the best interest of the City.

Frank Mizner:

- He stated that the biggest challenge for the City is to maintain financial stability due to diminishing revenues balanced against the demand for City services.
- He remarked that he would like to learn more about the Council and what the responsibilities and duties are prior to making a decision to run for the District 3 position at the next election.
- He said that any Council will have conflict and stated that "it's healthy and good to have divergent viewpoints." He added that Councilmembers must maintain a level of respect, listen to other opinions, and then make an informed decision.
- He stated the opinion that residents are frustrated and highlighted issues where residents did not have a voice in the community. He emphasized the importance of reaching out to District 3 residents to inform them of their new representative and that a goal for District 3 is to improve code enforcement and landscaping on the west side bordering Chandler.

The four candidates made brief closing statements.

Mayor Giles thanked the candidates for taking the time to participate in today's interviews.

2. Convene an Executive Session.

It was moved by Councilmember Glover, seconded by Vice Mayor Luna, that the Special Council Meeting adjourn at 8:31 a.m. and the Council enter into an Executive Session.

Carried unanimously.

2-a. Discussion or consultation for legal advice with the City Attorney. (A.R.S. §38-431.03A (3)) Discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, demotion, salaries, discipline, dismissal, or resignation of a public officer, appointee or employee of the City. (A.R.S. 38-431.03A (1))

1. Discuss and consider District 3 Councilmember appointment

At 9:09 a.m., the Executive Session adjourned and the Council reconvened their regular meeting.

3. Appointment of District 3 Councilmember.

Mayor Giles expressed his appreciation to the four applicants that were interviewed for the District 3 seat.

It was moved by Councilmember Glover, seconded by Vice Mayor Luna, that Francisco Heredia be appointed to serve as District 3 Councilmember.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles-Luna- Freeman-Glover-Whittaker

NAYS – Thompson

Mayor Giles declared the motion carried by majority vote.

City Clerk Dee Ann Mickelsen swore Francisco Heredia in as District 3 Councilmember.

Mayor Giles welcomed newly elected Councilmember Francisco Heredia to the Council.

4. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Special Council Meeting adjourned at 9:13 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 Special Council Meeting of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 28th day of September, 2017. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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