



# COUNCIL MINUTES

January 13, 2025

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in the Study Session room at City Hall, 20 East Main Street, on January 13, 2025, at 5:15 p.m.

## COUNCIL PRESENT

Mark Freeman  
Francisco Heredia  
Rich Adams  
Jennifer Duff  
Alicia Goforth  
Scott Somers  
Julie Spilsbury

## COUNCIL ABSENT

None

## OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady  
Holly Moseley  
Jim Smith

Mayor Freeman conducted a roll call.

### 1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the January 13, 2025, 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

Councilmember Duff discussed Item 1, (**Selection of Vice Mayor**), on the Regular Council meeting agenda. She suggested that Council consider a one-year alternating term for Vice Mayor, which already exists in other cities, allowing all Councilmembers to serve as Vice Mayor on an automatic assignment.

City Attorney Jim Smith explained the terms in Mesa's City Charter, Section 203(B) for selection of a Vice Mayor. He clarified that within 30 days of swearing in, Council must select a Vice Mayor for the next two years; whether that be two one-year terms or one two-year term is up to Council. He advised that, historically, the City has chosen to select one Vice Mayor for a two-year term.

City Manager Christopher Brady explained that the City could add a new policy that the Vice Mayor serves a one-year term; however, according to the current Charter, the Council would need to make that selection every two years. He stated a Charter amendment would need to go before the voters and could be possible in the future.

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Assistant City Manager Scott Butler confirmed that the selection process for Vice Mayor is diverse across the Valley and tailored within each community, but one-year terms are very common.

In response to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Mr. Smith replied that the Vice Mayor does not have any additional votes or additional weight, and other than filling in during the Mayor's absence there are no additional responsibilities.

In response to a question posed by Councilmember Somers, Mr. Smith confirmed that should the Mayor leave office prior to his term expiration, the Vice Mayor becomes interim Mayor.

Councilmember Somers expressed his concern for one-year terms and the impact on succession planning for a Mayor, as well as the need to amend the Charter.

Mayor Freeman stated his preference is for two-year terms and suggested more research to determine what is best for the City moving forward.

Councilmember Spilsbury expressed her support for one-year terms to allow all Councilmembers the opportunity to serve as Vice Mayor.

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

2-a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting held on November 13, 2024.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Freeman–Heredia–Adams–Duff–Goforth–Somers–Spilsbury

NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

3. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Mayor Freeman and Councilmembers highlighted the events, meetings, and conferences recently attended.

Mayor Freeman announced the new name of the Phoenix-Mesa Gateway Airport will be Mesa Gateway Airport.

4. Scheduling of meetings.

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

Thursday, January 23, 2025, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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MARK FREEMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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HOLLY MOSELEY, 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 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2025. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

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