



COUNCIL MINUTES

October 17, 2022

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 17, 2022, at 5:15 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

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

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Holly Moseley
Jim Smith

Mayor Giles conducted a roll call.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the October 17, 2022 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

2-a. Hear a presentation and discuss the design and construction of the City Hall project.

Vince DiBella, President at Adaptive Architects, Inc., introduced Eric DiBella, Project Coordinator and Designer at Adaptive Architects, Inc., who presented a virtual walkthrough of the City Hall project and site plan.

Mr. Vince DiBella explained highlights of the virtual tour of the buildings such as the copper tone element of the new facility and the park development to the south referred to as the connector space. He pointed out the cupola element showing through the main roof area that outlines the second floor Council Chambers, which is the crown of the building.

Mr. Vince DiBella explained that the intention of the connector space is to tie in Arizona State University (ASU) and Mesa City Plaza (MCP) to the surrounding area. He pointed out a ceremonial flag element as part of the space. He described the space as having an organic shape and form with raised planters and indicated the treescape of Main Street will remain intact.

Mr. Brady advised the wall will be removed to open up the view into City Hall and highlight the architecture. He stated the intent is to create an inviting space for the community to engage. He noted the gradual incline with planters connecting MCP and City Hall. He stated the goal is to ensure the area flows continuously from City Hall to MCP, and then around to the ASU building.

Responding to a question from Mayor Giles, Mr. Vince DiBella indicated the outdoor area could provide educational opportunities, a space to incorporate the plaques, or an area to host outdoor presentations or art pieces. He explained the space is not a fixed park with a formal setting but rather an organic pass-through space with pockets of areas to be utilized.

Mr. Brady discussed the potential to incorporate flagpoles into a Veteran's memorial concept.

Mr. Vince DiBella indicated the design reincorporates the ceremonial placard that exists today and adds additional flagpoles. He discussed the high-capacity security system allowing citizens access through the public entrance leading into the lower Study Session area and then up to the Council Chambers.

Mr. Vince DiBella gave an overview of the interior and noted the public space becomes overflow for City Council events and other activities. He pointed out the main room opens up to a patio area that can be configured for events. He stated the Study Session space has a circular table configuration to allow for a formal or informal conversation, and the liquid crystal display (LCD) screen would allow for public viewing. He explained the intent to have a progression from outside to inside and ultimately highlight the Council Chambers as a special place where business is conducted.

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, Mr. Vince DiBella remarked the seating capacity is 50 in the current Study Session space and 60 in the newly designed area.

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Duff, Mr. Vince DiBella indicated the main screen in the Study Session area displays to the audience. He noted displays on the side and the back of the room, and Council would have individual displays in front of them.

In response to an additional question from Mayor Giles, Mr. Vince DiBella indicated there would be cameras and a control room in the planned space.

Responding to an inquiry by Councilmember Spilsbury, Mr. Brady stated the lobby has screens and a sitting room where the public could observe the meeting. He emphasized the intent is to ensure that the public has multiple opportunities to engage in the lobby area and upstairs in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Vince DiBella remarked the large screen on the wall in the lobby is visible from the street through the glass. He indicated the details and size of the screen had yet to be determined, but the content displayed is unlimited. He continued by showing a series of conference rooms, informal seating areas, and an area for an Executive Session.

Mr. Brady explained the intention to separate the public entrance from the Council and staff entrance.

Mr. Vince DiBella stated transparency was a key design feature from the very beginning of the project. He noted the glass walls of the Council Chamber are angled for acoustics and to allow the public to see inside. He gave an overview of the seating arrangements, noting the seating

capacity for the new Council Chambers is 145. He explained the ring of windows provides diffused natural light into the space, adding a soft glow at night that emulates out to the roof.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Mr. Vince DiBella stated that the audience seating is flat, and Council seating is raised.

Mr. Vince DiBella commented the transparency of the space and the illumination at night ensures a feeling of an active building. He reiterated the cupola element on the top of the building is illuminated and provides a jewel on the rooftop signifying the Council Chambers below.

In response to additional questions from Councilmember Spilsbury, Mr. Vince DiBella commented that the exterior and multi-colored lighting on the roof would stay on through the night. He suggested the multi-colored lighting could be changed to reflect various events or causes. He noted the intent is to accent certain pieces with lighting through the control systems. He added that there is lighting incorporated within the planters, trees, and columns.

Mr. Vince DiBella gave an overview of the north entrance for credentialed staff and the lobby area of Mesa City Plaza, which includes additional conference rooms.

Mr. Brady pointed out the conference room, mainly used for executive sessions, could be used for other meetings with the public. He remarked there are five conference rooms added to the design. He commented the food preparation area is right off the conference room, providing convenience for hosted lunches or catered events.

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Duff, Mr. Brady stated that the Advisory Board Committees would continue to use the Study Session space in the new building.

Mr. Vince DiBella outlined entrances to the Study Session area and Council Chambers through MCP and provided various vantage points.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Spilsbury, Mr. Vince DiBella stated there is a slight curvature to the Council table positions.

In response to multiple questions from Vice Mayor Duff, Mr. Vince DiBella reiterated the north entrance would be designated for Council and staff. He reported the team is working with a specialty consultant to review the energy usage. He stated the evaluation looks at sustainability items related to materials and incorporating those into the design. He discussed solar energy studies for the building and noted that the rooftop is in the shade for a large portion of the day due to the MCP tower. He emphasized the importance of focusing on energy because the design creates a long-term impact.

Responding to additional comments from Vice Mayor Duff, Mr. Brady indicated staff would look at ways to incorporate local art inside and outside the building.

Mayor Giles emphasized the importance of including branding on the building for public recognition and suggested an illuminated City of Mesa logo.

Additional discussion ensued regarding branding ideas.

In response to comments from Councilmember Spilsbury, Mr. Vince DiBella stated the outdoor planters would have a rough textured surface with ridges and a landscape buffer to deter people from using the planters to climb or skateboard on.

Mr. Brady stated the Design Review Board approved the project. He remarked this is a generational project ensuring City Hall becomes a focal point for Mesa. He mentioned the project will be completed by the end of 2023.

In response to comments by Vice Mayor Duff, Mr. Vince DiBella indicated in addition to the conference rooms, there is informal soft seating designated for public use.

Mayor Giles thanked Mr. DiBella for the presentation.

3. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Councilmember Freeman –	Mesa Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting Community fair - Fire Station 206 St. Luke’s Church - Sleep in Heavenly Peace event
Councilmember Luna –	Phoenix Pride Parade City of Mesa Police Academy graduation ceremony
Councilmember Spilsbury –	St. Luke’s Church - Sleep in Heavenly Peace event City of Mesa Police Academy graduation ceremony
Vice Mayor Duff –	Oakwood Creative Care fundraiser Valley Wise Health fundraiser Phoenix Pride Parade Grant Makers In Aging conference – ASU
Mayor Giles –	St. Luke’s Church - Sleep in Heavenly Peace event

4. Scheduling of meetings.

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

Thursday, October 20, 2022, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 6:10 p.m.



JOHN GILES, MAYOR



ATTEST:



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 17th day of October 2022. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

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