



COUNCIL MINUTES

February 1, 2024

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 February 1, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles
Francisco Heredia
Jennifer Duff
Mark Freeman
Alicia Goforth
Scott Somers
Julie Spilsbury

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 February 5, 2024, 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, discuss, and receive an update on the Mesa Climate Action Plan.

Energy and Sustainability Director Scott Bouchie introduced Deputy Director of Environmental and Sustainability Laura Hyneman and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Ms. Hyneman reviewed the 1 Million Trees Initiative, which will increase the tree canopy coverage to 15% and reduce urban heat. She explained the City allocated the Mesa Climate Action Plan (MCAP) funding to support four new Shade Tree program events in the City of Mesa (COM), providing educational workshops and trees to take home. She noted the Trees Planted Database does not capture all the trees planted in the community. She mentioned corporate sponsors of the program. She announced a partnership with Mesa Public Schools (MPS), noting a Forestry Grant received to develop a tree stewardship program for MPS. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Hyneman discussed the recruitment and role of an Urban Forest Program Manager who will oversee the tree program. She stated the Forest Program Manager will be working in neighborhoods with low tree canopy coverage that have been identified as high priorities. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Discussion ensued relative to the responsibilities of the Urban Forest Program Manager, quality development design guidelines and landscape requirements for new developments, achieving a 15% tree canopy, drought resistant trees, and preserving water.

Mr. Bouchie advised that the COM owns its own electric utility that serves the downtown area, while Salt River Project (SRP) serves the remainder of the city. He noted that Mesa is unique in having a natural gas utility that serves a majority of the COM, and also provides service into Queen Creek and San Tan Valley. He discussed the goals for clean energy, various renewable energy sources, and solar projects. He stated that energy efficiency plays a huge role in the goal of achieving 100% renewable energy. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Bouchie discussed SRP's Solar Choice Select program, which will help Mesa increase the amount of renewable energy to 25% with a commercial operation date of 2025. He described the COM's participation in other SRP contracts and programs and advised that the COM has diversified its options with solar. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

In response to multiple questions from Vice Mayor Heredia, Mr. Bouchie stated that the breakdown of the 25% increase of renewable energy will be a combination of hydro and solar. He explained that SRP's solar project for sustainable energy is online and has resulted in savings for the City. He stated that the City receives energy credits towards meeting Mesa's climate action goals.

In response to multiple questions from Councilmember Goforth, Mr. Bouchie stated that Mesa's firm energy contract with SRP will be one of Mesa's lower cost energy sources. He explained that despite having the electric utility, the COM lacks the purchasing power to enter the market that SRP possesses. He elaborated that since SRP has the buying power, it helps to support SRP in its transition to renewables, thereby lowering the carbon intensity of the energy that the City utilizes from SRP. He shared examples of solar projects where the City was able to receive financial incentives rather than energy credits. He advised that the City reviews costs and options of the contracts before presenting them to Council for discussion.

At 8:04 a.m., Mayor Giles excused Councilmember Spilsbury from the remainder of the meeting.

Ms. Hyneman provided an update on several energy efficiency initiatives. She explained that the COM uses energy audits to evaluate existing facilities, identify opportunities for efficiency, and determine the economics of future energy efficiency projects. She noted MCAP funding was used for the first phase of LED replacements for non-theatrical lighting at the Mesa Arts Center, as well as to support the installation of efficient fixtures on the sports fields at Red Mountain Park. She pointed out that the City continues to work on installing smart controllers and automated systems throughout City facilities to control energy consumption and reduce costs. She mentioned that the public can view the energy efficiency of the City's facilities online on the Environmental and Sustainability web page. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Hyneman stated that Mesa is a member of the Southwest Building Code Collaborative, an organization working to develop regionally adaptive building codes that focus on unique climate conditions of the Desert Southwest. She discussed the coalition's approach and indicated that the International Code Council is responsible for writing building codes and is a part of the coalition to ensure that the codes will seamlessly integrate with the existing building codes without any unintended consequences from the City's actions. She explained that the City is evaluating how the codes affect occupants and long-term owners of buildings. She noted that the grant is being funded by the Department of Energy. (See Page 7 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, City Manager Christopher Brady responded that when the COM adopts a code, there are local amendments in all the codes. He explained that while there is an international building code, there is also a U.S. code, and Mesa has its own specific amendments that relate to the City's unique environment.

Ms. Hyneman added that the grant includes support for implementation, and there will be training and guidance on how to comply with the newly adopted codes.

Ms. Hyneman discussed the COM electrification and the \$11.8 million electronic vehicle (EV) grant with the intention of increasing neighborhood charging opportunities, community fleet charging opportunities, and adding charging along Mesa's freeway corridors or high traffic areas. She provided an update on the electric fleet conversions. She mentioned the City hired Kimley-Horn as a consultant to conduct a site assessment to identify locations for additional EV charging stations. She commented on the Master Plan as it relates to charging stations. (See Page 8 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Bouchie announced that the Solid Waste Director Sheri Collins will return to Council in April to provide an update on recycling. He reported that the COM has a partnership with the Town of Gilbert on the design of a potential material recycling facility in Mesa and that 15% of the design should be completed in August. He reviewed the food to energy project phases and anticipates the project will be online by the beginning of Fall 2024. He stated that the COM is collaborating with the City of Phoenix for several large grant opportunities. (See Page 9 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Hyneman discussed the water conservation efforts and the data analysis for water consumption. She indicated that due to increasing costs, the Water Conservation Team expanded the Conservation Incentive Program. She explained that the Water Infrastructure Financing Authority of Arizona (WIFA) has a second grant aimed to assist Homeowner Associations (HOAs) in understanding their water usage and budgets for conversions of their own areas that are non-functional turf. She described the "Water - Use It Wisely" campaign, which was funded by the MCAP. She mentioned a new campaign will begin in the Spring 2024 to assist individuals in understanding how to efficiently manage their utility water usage. (See Page 10 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Councilmember Duff, Mr. Bouchie replied that the City is currently installing Smart meters, which will be used as a tool for all utility customers to learn about their water and utility consumption and identify potential savings.

In response to multiple questions from Mayor Giles, Mr. Bouchie explained that the City has received more funding than previously and discussed ways Mesa is making progress with non-turf landscaping to create pleasant and cooler environments.

In response to multiple questions from Councilmember Goforth, Ms. Hyneman replied that the WIFA funds support non-residential customers. She stated last year the City doubled its incentives for residential property owners, as well as conducted outreach. She added SRP has provided funding for residential programs to be able to continue with the incentives, while the City continues to promote the programs. She mentioned the data and number of conversions will be provided to Council at a later date.

Ms. Hyneman reported that in order to assess how the COM is performing, the City worked with a third-party non-profit organization, the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), which tracks climate action progress in 1,100 cities worldwide, including Phoenix and Tempe. She indicated CDP conducted an evaluation of Mesa's data, policies, and programs and awarded Mesa an A- Rating. (See Page 11 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Hyneman summarized some of the grant funding projects that the City was awarded, as well as current projects that would not be possible without the grants. She discussed the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), for which the City will submit an application due on April 1, 2024. (See Page 12 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Heredia, Mr. Bouchie replied that the City has discussed the potential for microgrids with the Department of Treasury and the White House. He noted there is a lot of work that needs to be completed to gain a better understanding of what projects would be eligible and how the City would apply.

Mayor Giles thanked staff for the presentation.

At 8:38 a.m., Mayor Giles excused Councilmember Duff from the remainder of the meeting.

2-b. Hear a presentation, discuss, and receive an update on the subdivision process for preliminary and final plats including an overview of their relationship with the General Plan, Mesa Zoning Ordinance, and site plan review.

Mr. Brady stated that the information was provided to Council and a presentation is not necessary.

2-c. Appointment to the Judicial Advisory Board.

It was moved by Councilmember Somers, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, that the Council concur with the Mayor's recommendations and the appointment be confirmed. **(See Attachment 2)**

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles–Heredia–Freeman–Goforth–Somers

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Duff–Spilsbury

Mayor Giles declared the motion passed unanimously by those present.

3. Approval of minutes from previous Executive Session and acknowledge receipt of minutes of the Transportation Advisory Board.

3-a. Approval of minutes from Executive Session held on August 24, 2023.

3-b. Acknowledge receipt of the Transportation Advisory Board meeting held on November 21, 2023.

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

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles–Heredia–Freeman–Goforth–Somers

NAYS – None

ABSENT – Duff–Spilsbury

Mayor Giles declared the motion passed unanimously by those present.

4. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

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

5. Scheduling of meetings.

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

Monday, February 5, 2024, 5:15 p.m. – Study Session

Monday, February 5, 2024, 5:45 p.m. – Regular meeting

6. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 8:46 a.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 1st day of February 2024. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.



HOLLY MOSELEY, CITY CLERK

lr
(Attachments – 2)

CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION | Feb 1, 2024



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

For a Sustainable Community

CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION UPDATE

Scott Bouchie, Energy & Sustainability Director
Laura Hyneman, Deputy Director, Environmental & Sustainability



Trees Are Cool – M Trees Initiative

- Mesa’s Shade Tree Programs
- ~1,845 city owned trees recorded
- ~6,283 community trees recorded
 - Trees Planted Database
- Corporate sponsors
- Partnership with Mesa Public Schools – IRA grant funded

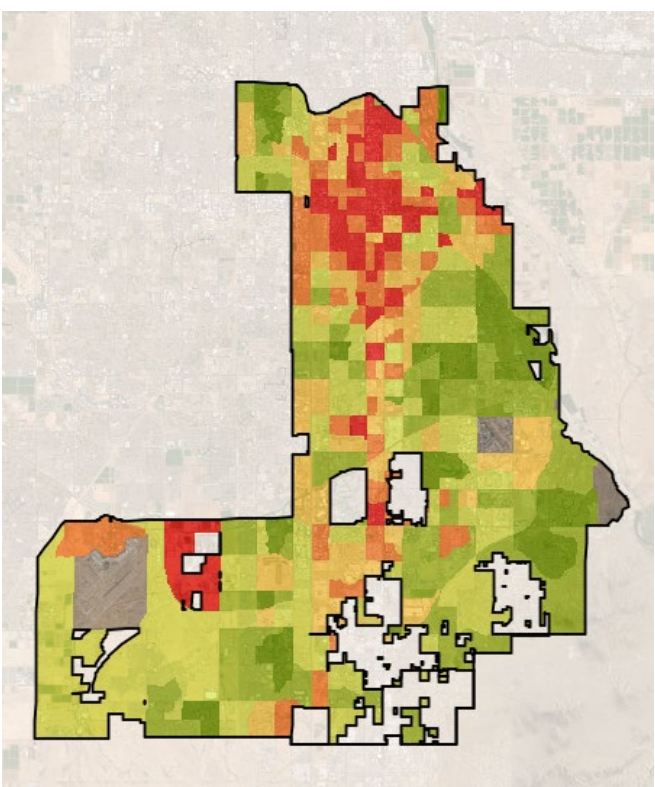
Focus Area Targets: 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1

CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY



Ahead: Trees Are Cool – 1 M Trees Initiative

- Urban Forest Program Manager
- Shade corridors
- Green stormwater infrastructure
- Policies and programs
- Funding opportunities



Focus Area Targets: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 4.1 4.3

CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

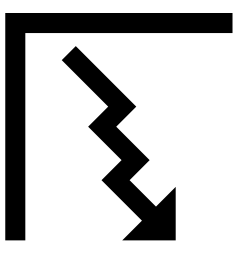


Clean Energy

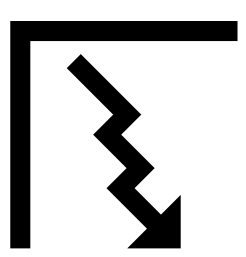
- Mesa Electric Utility & SRP
- Distributed and utility scale renewable energy generation
- Clean, safe, reliable, affordable
- Efficiency programs
- ~25% clean energy by 2025



CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY



SRP Solar Choice Select



- Offset a portion of City's electric use with renewable energy
- Increase amount of renewable energy used by City operations to ~25%
- \$0.005/kWh premium
- ~\$76,000/year
- One year minimum commitment

Focus Area Targets: 1.1, 1.3. 1.4

CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

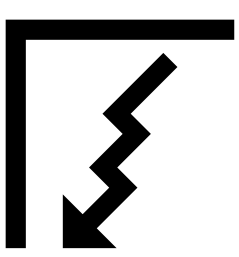
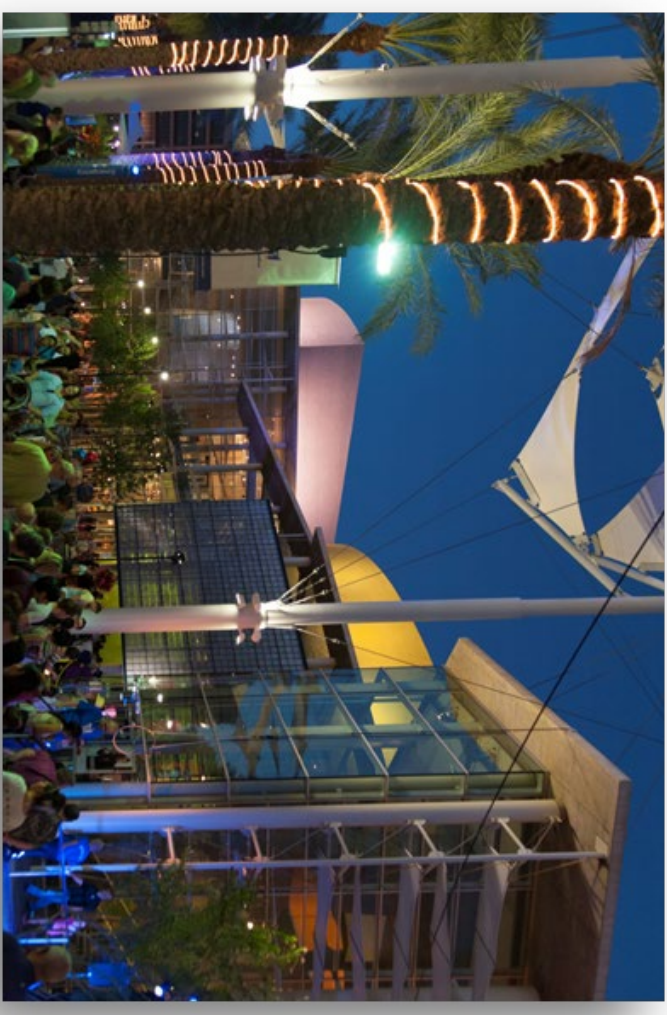


Energy Efficiency

- Energy audits
- System upgrades
- Lighting retrofits
- Building controls – Facility Automation
- Tracking energy consumption

Focus Area Targets: 1.1, 1.3. 1.4

CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY



Ahead: Building Codes

- Resilient Southwest Building Code Collaborative – regionally adapted building codes focused on heat, energy, water, carbon reduction
 - Coalition approach
 - Implementation support
 - Community engagement
 - Grant funded – IJJA DOE
- Focus Area Targets: 1.1, 1.3, 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 5.1, 5.2



Electrification

- Community
 - \$11.8 M EV Charging Grant
 - Public – Private Partnerships
 - Fleet conversion
 - Master Plan
 - Vehicles and chargers
 - Funding opportunities
- Focus Area Targets: 1.2, 1,3, 2.1



Ahead: Materials Management

- Materials Recovery Facility
- Food Waste to Energy
 - Phase 1 Flare to Fuel - Construction
 - Phase 2 – Design and Construction
- Grant funding opportunities

Focus Area Targets: 1.3, 5.1, 5.2, 6.4

CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY



Water Conservation

- Water consumption data analysis
- Expanding Conservation Incentive Programs
- Water – Use It Wisely and Community Engagement
- New campaign

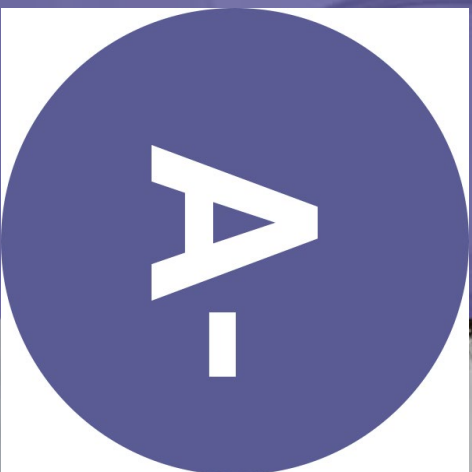


CITY OF MESA CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: FOR A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

MESA.AZ.GOV/CLIMATEACTION



We know that
environmental
transparency is
crucial for a
sustainable future.



The logo for the CDP Discloser 2023 Cities award. It features a red rectangular background with a white geometric icon of four triangles forming a square. To the right of the icon, the text 'CDP' is written in large white letters, with 'DISCLOSER' in smaller white letters below it. A horizontal white line separates 'DISCLOSER' from the year '2023', which is written in large white letters. Below the red background, the word 'CITIES' is written in blue capital letters on a white background.

Grant Funding

Grant	Purpose	Amount	Lead Agency
DOE	Resilient Southwest Building Code Collaborative	\$3.5 M	New Buildings Institute
DOE	Southwest Integrated Field Lab – Urban Heat	\$25 M	ASU/U of A/NAU
DOT	Communitywide EV charging	\$11.8 M	Mesa
WIFA	Water Conservation in Parks	\$1 M	Mesa
WIFA	Community Water Conservation	\$900 K	Mesa
USDA	Urban Forestry Program Mesa Public Schools students	\$825 K	Mesa
SRP/MIC	Million Tree Initiative – shade along streets	\$38 K	Mesa
DOE	Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant	\$450 K	Mesa
EPA	Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Implementation	~\$70 – 80 M	Coalition
	Solar for All		State



Questions?



m.e.s.a.az



MCCAP Funding Summary – FY 22/23

Project	Approved MCCAP Funding	Expenditures to Date	Status
Community EV Master Plan	\$200,000	\$200,000	Complete
Flare to Fuel Project	\$4,910,484	\$4,910,484	Construction started
Lighting at City Buildings			
-Mesa Arts Center, P1	\$401,000	\$306,667	Complete
-Mesa City Plaza	\$415,000	\$252,814	Complete – awaiting final invoice
-Courthouse	\$210,000	\$0	Scoped
-Main Library	\$387,000	\$0	Initial Bid complete
Solar @ Red Mountain Ballfield	\$120,000	\$0	In design

MCCAP Funding Summary – FY 23/24

Project	Approved Funding	Expenditures to Date	Status
Biomass	\$344,500	\$0	Awaiting invoice
Lighting @ RM Ball Fields	\$2,152,000	\$1,996,000	Complete
Trees Are Cool	\$975,000	\$54,961	Programs underway
Food Waste to Energy Design	\$1,800,000	\$0	In Preliminary Design
WUIW Robust Plan + YWYI Campaign	\$100,000	\$80,000	Programs underway

February 1, 2024

TO: CITY COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM: MAYOR JOHN GILES

SUBJECT: Appointments to Boards and Committees

The following are my recommendations for appointments to City of Mesa Advisory Boards and Committees.

Judicial Advisory Board – Seven-member board.

Keith Berkshire, Esq. District 5. Mr. Berkshire has been an attorney for 16 years and has practiced at every level of Court, including city and justice courts, Superior Court, Court of Appeals, Arizona Supreme Court, and two cases at the Supreme Court of the United States. He owns his own law firm, Berkshire Law Office, and has served on various committees with the State Bar of Arizona drafting Rules, including being appointed by the Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court to a committee rewriting the Arizona Rules of Family Law Procedure. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Arizona and a Juris Doctor from the University of Houston Law Center. His partial term ends June 30, 2025.