

COUNCIL MINUTES

February 8, 2021

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session Meeting via a virtual format streamed into the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, on February 8, 2021 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
Dee Ann Mickelsen
Jim Smith

(*Council participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

Mayor Giles conducted a roll call.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the February 8, 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

In response to questions posed by Eugene McDonald, a Mesa resident, regarding Item 5-b, **(Approving and authorizing the City Manager to enter into a grant agreement with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Multimodal Planning Division, Aeronautics Group, for rehabilitation of Runway 4R/22L at Falcon Field Airport. The total estimated cost for this project is \$995,700 to be funded by ADOT at 90% (\$896,130), and the City at 10% (\$99,570) from the Falcon Field Airport Enterprise Fund. (District 5))**, on the February 8, 2021 Regular Council meeting agenda, Airport Director Corinne Nystrom provided an update.

Ms. Nystrom stated the project is part of ADOT's ongoing airport pavement maintenance program. She advised every three to four years ADOT performs an evaluation of the primary pavement conditions of airport runways and taxiways throughout the state, including Falcon Field. She remarked through the evaluation it was determined that Runway 4R/22L at Falcon Field would be eligible for a one-inch mill and overlay. She indicated the project will be completed by ADOT using their contractor, in cooperation with Falcon Field. She reported the project is expected to take

seven to ten days to complete, and during construction Runway 4L/22R will be open 24/7 to ensure continuation of aircraft operations.

Development Services Department Director Christine Zielonka introduced Small Business/Homeowner Assistant Heather Omta and provided an update regarding Item 5-d, **(Authorizing the City Manager to suspend enforcement, temporarily modify, or approve alternatives to requirements or specifications in the Mesa City Code, related to outdoor seating and services for businesses and organizations, to mitigate the health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic during the Declaration of Emergency. This resolution is intended to assist businesses and other organizations that are operating in a limited capacity due to the pandemic, or otherwise affected by the pandemic. (Citywide))**, on the February 8, 2021 Regular Council meeting agenda. **(See Attachment 1)**

Ms. Zielonka explained there has been region-wide discussion regarding expanding outdoor opportunities to businesses other than just restaurants. She highlighted the Al Fresco program encourages restaurants and bars to provide open air dining and the proposed resolution expands that notion to other types of businesses. She stated the City of Mesa (COM) has worked collaboratively with the small business community to encourage safe operations during the pandemic. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Zielonka commented should Council give approval to move forward, outreach will begin immediately. She remarked the service is provided at no cost and the turnaround takes two to four days for approval. She pointed out the COM is providing another way to help support small businesses for their continued success. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Zielonka indicated the Mesa Open Air Program is modeled after the highly successful Al Fresco Program. She mentioned Mesa has received a tremendous amount of positive feedback on how quickly the business-friendly program was implemented. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Mayor Giles regarding whether financial assistance is still being offered for the Al Fresco Program, City Manager Christopher Brady explained the funding for that program ended in December of 2020 and the City has finalized the reports with the Treasury.

In response to a question posed by Mayor Giles about efforts to market the Mesa Open Air Program, Ms. Omta reported a website was created, staff are reaching out to contacts made through the Mesa CARES Program, social media, press releases, as well as assistance from Economic Development.

Councilmember Spilsbury shared an example of a gym holding classes in a parking lot and asked if that is the type of scenario envisioned for this program.

Ms. Zielonka concurred that gyms are a great example of utilizing the outdoors for classes.

In response to a question from Councilmember Luna, acting Parks, Recreation and Community Facilities Director Andrea Moore advised that most of the Red Mountain Center programming is reservation based and held inside; however, Aster Aging has some programming taking place on the back patio.

In response to a question from Councilmember Heredia regarding whether this would change the rules for food trucks, Ms. Zielonka advised that food trucks typically are parked in temporary locations and have minimal regulation from the City.

In response to a question posed by Vice Mayor Duff in regard to whether parks and public areas are included under the fee waiver, Ms. Zielonka clarified the program is for a business premise only.

Mr. Brady added a special event license is needed for outdoor events in public areas. He stated the idea of the program is to allow the businesses to use the right-of-way or the parking lot adjacent to their building.

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

- 2-a. Economic Development Advisory Board meeting held on January 5, 2021.
- 2-b. Library Advisory Board meetings held on June 16, September 15, and November 17, 2020.
- 2-c. Housing and Community Development Advisory Board meeting held on December 3, 2020.

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-Freeman-Heredia-Luna-Spilsbury-Thompson
NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

3. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Councilmember Luna –	Red Mountain Park improvement stakeholders' meeting White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs briefing National League of Cities orientation meeting National League of Cities Local Democracy Initiatives interview
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4. Scheduling of meetings.

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

Thursday, February 11, 2021, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR


JOHN GILES, MAYOR



ATTEST:


DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

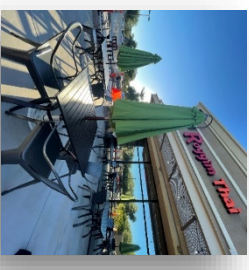
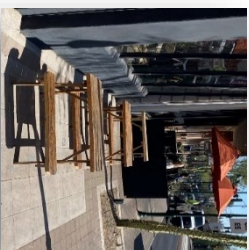
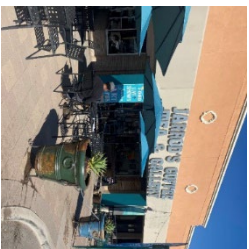
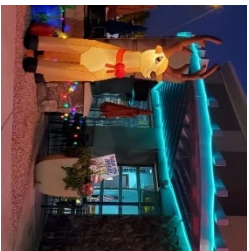
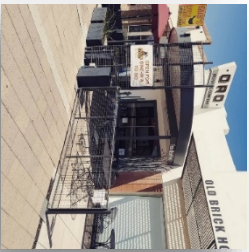
I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 8th day of February 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.


DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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(Attachments – 1)



Mesa Open Air

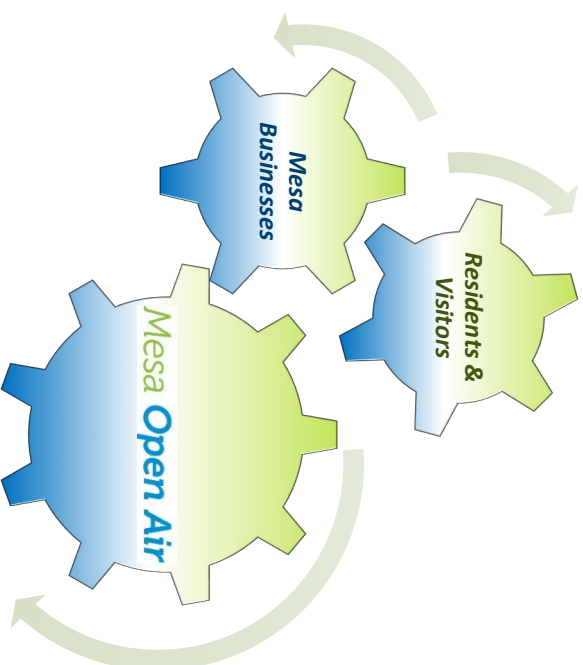


MESA OPEN AIR PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTOR CHRISTINE ZIELONKA
& SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANT HEATHER OMTA ON 2-08-2021

STRONGER TOGETHER

- Multiple city departments working together for the benefit of our community
- Cooperative efforts with local associations and programs
- Provides operation options for Mesa businesses and customers
- Fights the spread of COVID-19
- Promotes local commerce
- Activates consumer comfort through social distancing
- Helps businesses to stay relevant to the needs of the community
- Supports outdoor fitness, waiting, testing sites, vaccine distribution and more





Outreach

- Press Release, social media, webpages
- <https://www.mesaaz.gov/business/development-services/small-business-assistance>
- Economic Development

Approval

- 2 to 4 business day approval turn around
- Safety inspection to ensure public safety and ADA access

Benefits

- Waived permit fee
- Supports local business sustainability
- Use of space such as parking lots, grassy areas, sidewalks

Provisions

- Temporarily suspends City restrictions
- Lasts until the Emergency Proclamation is lifted

MESA OPEN AIR PROGRAM WILL BE MODELED AFTER THE WELL RECEIVED MESA AL FRESCO PROGRAM

"Our experience with Mesa CARES and specifically this program and Ms. Omta was nothing short of spectacular. I have never witnessed an application for anything that has concerned my business move as fast as this one did."—Justin Heinz, The Draft Sports Grill

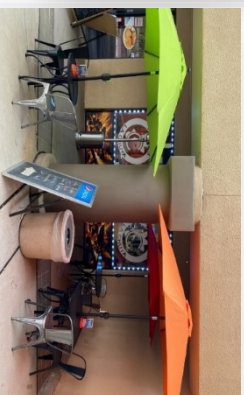
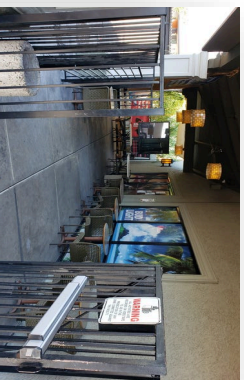
"Mesa Cares! This has been a productive venture with the city as we have all tried to navigate the ever-changing days of COVID-19...this process has proven that the City of Mesa government cares for its small businesses and is truly there to help."—Craig Arstingstall, What's Crackin' Cafe

"The al Fresco program helped generate the business that may not have wanted indoor dining and gave them the option of safe space dining. Every month since we have added the patio has gotten better."—Orvid, Que Chevere

"The extra space has helped us compete with other businesses that were fortunate enough to already have larger patios. I also want to say that everyone we have worked with from the City on this program has been extremely helpful and responsive."—Dave Valencia, Oro Brewing Company

"It helps my restaurant to stay in business. It creates more choice for customers."—Wisoda Tanawisan, Royim Thai

"I would be happy to let the City Council know that this plan was a God sent to our little café. Before COVID-19 our space could hold 24 inside, but with COVID-19 it dropped the space to just about 4 ... we were able to open up a portion of the parking lot, rent fencing and ... being able to open outdoor was what saved us. Thank you, Mesa, for giving us a chance."—Starr Davis, RaVes' Cafe



➤ QUESTIONS?

➤ DISCUSSION

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