

Mesquite TODAY

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF MESQUITE

Spring 2008

First Phase of City Charter Process Nearly Complete



"We the people..." Perhaps not so eloquently, but Mesquite is on the way to having its own "constitution". A charter is just that, a constitution for a city.

Early in 2007 the city council asked for applicants to form a Charter Drafting Committee. From that pool, seven were selected to begin the process of having Mesquite join a handful of cities in Southern Nevada to run government through a City Charter. The committee members include several with experience working within city or state government and others who have experience in business or education; all residents of Mesquite.

The committee began meeting monthly in May of 2007 with the mission of submitting a proposal for a charter to the city council. With assistance from the city manager and city attorney, a nine article template is being used to try to mold a draft that reflects the way Mesquite is governed today. The charter addresses, in detail; the city, elected and appointed officials, elections, revenue and local improvements.

Along the way, with input from the community, the city council, experts and through discussion within the committee, suggestions for change in the status quo have also been incorporated into the proposal. One recommended change is to cut the number of city council members to four plus an elected mayor (five total) who has a regular vote on council matters. The mayor currently can only vote in the event of a tie. The thinking is that a voting mayor will be more accountable to the electors by continually having to show his/her preference on issues through a vote. Another suggested change is to avoid having the council put in the position of voting itself pay raises. It is suggested that the council's salary be adjusted based on an average of the Consumer Price Index every two years.

The committee is nearing the end of its work on shaping a model charter. There are still several meetings scheduled for four o'clock on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. These meetings are publicly posted and open. The agendas may be accessed at www.mesquitenv.gov. Public speakers' ideas are always invited.

The next step is to submit the proposal to the city council for review. The council may make changes to the draft. When the council is satisfied that the charter is the one that will fit Mesquite's unique needs, more public input will be solicited through workshops where residents can look over what has been proposed and make comment.

After this scrutiny, there are choices on how to proceed. The council may choose to hold a special election. If passed, the legislature will review, make suggestions and sanction or return for more work. Or, the charter may be placed directly onto the legislative docket for review. They will either sanction the charter or request Mesquite hold a special election before passing judgment. If successful on one of these paths, Mesquite will finally become a charter city.

The work does not end there. Provided for within the charter is a continuing charter committee. Members will be appointed and meet periodically to review the status of the city and its ongoing needs. They will follow the pattern set by this founding committee and recommend amendments to the charter for the city council's consideration followed by a public vote and/or submission to the legislature.

Our charter will be a living document with the ability to grow right along with Mesquite.

Article provided by the Charter Drafting Committee



Mesquite Days!

**April
24th - 27th**

This year's schedule of events features the Mesquite Days Parade down Mesquite Boulevard that Saturday morning at 10 and brings back the Carnival with rides, food and fun. Don't miss Family Night on Friday night featuring Fireworks at 9 and music and local talent on stage Saturday night. A community softball tournament and tennis tournament have been added for this year as well.

**For more information,
call 346-8732 or
pick up a flyer at the
Recreation Center.**

Mesquite
Nevada

City of Mesquite
10 E. Mesquite Blvd.
702-346-5295
www.mesquitenv.gov

Mayor's Message



In speaking with many of you, I have found that certain subjects seem to come up again and again. I'd like to take this opportunity to provide updates to some of those issues.

Solstice

This project, which is proposed near a natural wash, has, therefore, come under the close scrutiny of not only the Army Corp of Engineers and Fish & Wildlife, but also the Bureau of Land Management. Various permits have been required and those permits often require getting through procedural layers – layers that can be time consuming and costly. It does appear, however, that the last of the governmental hurdles is nearly cleared and once that signature is obtained, the project will begin. At the last council meeting, the sets of plans for grading and the first phase of development were presented and Solstice indicates they are more than ready to proceed full-steam ahead.

Mesquite City Cemetery

Our cemetery is currently about three quarters full. The proposed new cemetery is probably 5 years out, but will be about 10 acres in size and located a little ways down from the new Mesquite Regional Park. We hope to include a Veterans section in the new facility.

Stoplights

We used to be a town with more golf courses than stoplights, but we are quickly changing. We have 5 proposed new traffic signals moving through the process.

At Pioneer & Grapevine and at Pioneer & Falcon Ridge, they are in the design stage. At Pioneer & Turtleback and Pioneer & Oasis, they are currently in the traffic warrants study stage; and the intersection of Pioneer & Mesa is currently being studied for a potential reconfiguration.

Parks

The construction of the new Desert Rose Park is going strong and should be completed by the end of April. It will include playground equipment, walking paths, restroom facilities, a small grassy area and a few pavilions for people to enjoy. The East Mesquite Boulevard ball fields began construction on March 17th. The contractor has 120 days from the date of award to complete their portion of the project, so if all goes smoothly, we could be enjoying that much needed facility by August. It will have three ball fields, a playground for the children, a concession stand and plenty of parking.

As we enjoy this beautiful time of the year, don't forget the Mesquite Days Celebration coming up April 24th through April 27th - Come out for the Parade, for the carnival and watch for the spectacular fireworks that have been donated by our friends at the Eureka Casino/Hotel.

And to all of our snowbirds who are contemplating leaving in May or June – we wish you safe travels, a great summer and a speedy return. We will miss you.

Mayor Susan Holecheck

MAYOR

Susan Holecheck

COUNCIL MEMBERS

David Bennett Robert 'Bubba' Smith

Randy Ence Bill Wells

Karl Gustaveson



Mesquite Regional Park Construction Underway

The first phase of the Mesquite Regional Park is rapidly moving ahead. The site for the future home of the Long Drive Championships, which will also serve as a multiple field soccer complex is almost fully graded. Construction of the field complex is expected to be completed by September of this year, in time to host the 2008 RE/MAX World Long Drive Championships in October.

The road leading to the soccer complex is also being graded. Power lines have been moved and Pulte has awarded the utility bid for the underground work to Legacy Construction. Legacy has already started installing the underground drain lines. There are also several rock walls going up right now. Things are moving along smoothly and before you know it there will be 350 yard drives being hit and soccer games being played on those fields.

City Budget Hearings to be Held in May



All cities within the State of Nevada are required to hold public hearings on their tentative budgets for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 on May 20th. At its March 11th meeting, the City Council scheduled public work sessions on the proposed budget for May 6th and 7th. This allows the Council time to examine the budget, gather input from the public and direct staff to make any modifications before the May 20th hearing. The work sessions will be held in the City Council chambers and the times will be announced well in advance of the dates. Look for those notices and times at www.mesquitenv.gov.

New Employees



Tim Spear
GIS Coordinator - Planning
Tim has hiked within the Colorado Plateau for over ten years and was excited to obtain employment in his favorite part of the country. His 20 year GIS (computer mapping & spatial analysis) background includes private consulting, military and state positions. Tim graduated from Oregon State University in 1988 with a MS degree in Physical Geography, and obtained a BS degree in Earth Science.



Maria Trujillo
Receptionist/Assistant – Building Department
Maria was hired as a receptionist for the building department. She brings with her 8 years of experience in the Customer Service Field. Maria has a bachelor's degree in accounting from DeVry University. Mesquite was the right move for Maria to be able to be closer to family. In her free time Maria enjoys spending time with her four daughters and husband, taking short family trips and going on walks or bike riding.



Destiny Adams
Data Entry Clerk- Public Works
Destiny moved to Bunkerville from Richfield, Utah about 3 years ago. She grew up in Huntsville, Utah and is married with 2 daughters, ages 7 and 3. Destiny is also a volunteer fire fighter for Bunkerville and is completing her Emergency Medical Training basic course this month.



Charles (Corky) Smith
Code Enforcement Officer (part time)
Corky is retired from the Chicago Police Department, where he served as an officer from 1968 until 1998. He moved to Las Vegas in August of 1998, but after visiting Mesquite many times, decided he preferred it here. Corky made the move to Mesquite in 2005.



Dodie Melendez
Accountant
Dodie was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah where she worked for Swire Coca-Cola for 23 years as a Payroll Manager and Accountant. She joined the City of Mesquite in January. She is working in the Finance department doing Payroll and Accounting. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting with an Associate Degree in Business Management. Dodie enjoys traveling to different NASCAR races, bowling and running.



Bryan Chamberlain
Facility Maintenance Worker
Bryan was born in Provo, Utah where his dad was studying to be a school teacher, but grew up here, attending school in Mesquite from Kindergarten until his graduation from Virgin Valley High School in 1975. Bryan was married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1983 and he and his wife have 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls, ages 19 to 23, and 1 grandson, 3 years of age. The Chamberlains lived in Cincinnati for 20 years where he worked for a major lumber and component manufacturer. They moved back to Mesquite in the spring of 2006.



Jhonathan Pantelakis
Maintenance Worker (Streets & Drainage)
Jhonathan has lived in the area for 6 years. In 2001 he joined the US Marine Corps and served 2 tours of duty in Iraq over 4 years. He is married and has a son, and says "I work in a great city and love it here."



Cindy Pringle
Aquatic Coordinator
Cindy Pringle moved to Mesquite about 2 _ years ago to work for her father, RP Heim. She came to the Recreation Center to take water aerobics classes and found out that there was a need for lifeguards, so she got certified and started working for the city as a lifeguard. She took all of the aquatics certifications she could so that when and if the time came she would be qualified to move up to a more advanced aquatics position, and here she is, the new Aquatics Coordinator. In an effort to be able to do the job to the best of her ability, Cindy is furthering her education once more and becoming an Aquatics Engineer.



Ryan Toone
Deputy City Attorney
Deputy City Attorney Ryan Toone joined the Mesquite City Attorney's office in February. Ryan received his undergraduate degree, a B.A. in Political Science, at Utah State University. After college, Ryan worked for several years at the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C. where he assisted staff attorneys and economists with antitrust and consumer protection matters. He then attended law school at the University of Minnesota. After graduation from law school, Ryan moved to Las Vegas, Nevada where he worked for a law firm engaging in general civil litigation.



Mike Kingery
Fire Inspector
City of Mesquite
Mike Kingery comes to Mesquite from Las Vegas where his family has lived since 1961. He had an electronics and communications company in Las Vegas for almost 20 years. Mike worked part time as a Fire Inspector for the City of Mesquite for a year before receiving a full time position. Mike has a long relationship with the business community in Mesquite and looks forward to a rewarding career with the City.



Justin Goodsell
Police Officer
Justin was hired on with the Mesquite Police Department on December 2007. He and his wife have one daughter and one son. Justin began his career as a Deputy Sheriff in Salt Lake County Utah in December 1998. He worked in Detention, Special Entry Team and as a Bailiff. Justin was an instructor for CPR/First Aid, Riot control, Conflict Resolution and Evidence Control. Justin moved to St. George, Utah in May 2006 and worked for the St. George Police Department as a Patrol Officer until he was hired with the Mesquite Police Department.



John Willis
Associate Planner
John is originally from Las Vegas, NV, but grew up living in Las Vegas, Salt Lake, and St. George. He has been married for 7 years and he and his wife have four children. John earned his B.S. from the University of Utah and is currently pursuing a Master's degree from the University of Nebraska.

What's Building Up Around You?

City of Mesquite Building Department

We're sure you have noticed all the new businesses opening in **Calais Village** located near the corner of Falcon Ridge Parkway and Pioneer Boulevard. **Little Caesars**, **Dollar Tree**, and **Papa Murphy's** have opened recently and you can look for **Mia's Restaurant** and **Jadde Sports** to open in their new locations very soon. **Starbuck's** will also have an additional location open in the next couple of weeks in **Calais Village**. Everyone is anxiously awaiting the opening of the new **Walgreen's**. Be patient just a little longer, it should be open by the end of March or beginning of April. Another new arrival in **Calais Village**, expected to be completed sometime in the summer, is **Beall's Department Store**. Another new restaurant, **Sushi Masa** will be located in **Calais Village** as well.

Across the street from **Calais Village** is the **Falcon Crossing Shopping Center** located at 1060 West Pioneer Blvd. We have recently welcomed the opening of **Del Taco** located in **Falcon Crossing Shopping Center**. The convenience store just across the parking lot from **Del Taco** will be open soon and will also be the home of a **Quizno's** and a **Popeye's**. The **Southwest Federal Credit Union** is still under construction in the **Falcon Crossing Shopping Center**.

If you drive out Pioneer Blvd. in the **Mesquite Technology and Commerce Center**, you will notice more commercial construction. **Mesquite Extreme Sports & ACT Tire Company** should be opening soon. There are several office/warehouse buildings located in the **MTCC** that were just recently completed. The new **Mesquite Fire Station #3** is due to be operational within the next few weeks. Also under construction in the technology center is **LoadTec**. They recently had their groundbreaking ceremony and construction is going strong.

Everyone has noticed that construction of the **Town & Country Village Plaza** is in full swing at 550 W. Pioneer Boulevard. You will be excited to know that **Pizza Hut Wing Street** will soon call **Town & Country Village** home. Other new businesses coming to **Town & Country Village** will be a new location for **Signature Nails** as well as **Ready Golf**. Golf enthusiasts will be thrilled to know that **Ready Golf** will stock just about anything you can think of to get you ready to play and will have a service department for your golf carts. **DeLane's Café** will also be located in this shopping center. Future plans for this location include a book store and a shoe store.

In addition to the numerous commercial projects going on in Mesquite, there are also many residential projects going on as well. There are several condo and townhome communities currently under construction as well as more than 25 single family housing developments.

Mesquite is definitely a great place to call home and these new developments and businesses are just making it better. For more information about these and other new developments happening in Mesquite, call or stop by the Building Department at City Hall and we would be happy to help or log on to www.mesquitenv.com.

Upcoming Community Events

We Care For Animals Rummage for Rover	April 25th
Mesquite Days Celebration	April 24th-27th
BYU Singers at VVHS Theater	April 29th
Second Annual Firefighters' Ball	May 9th
Mesquite Sunrise Rotary Golf Tournament	June 13th

Make sure to enter your group's events on the Calendar at www.mesquitenv.gov so the whole community can see them. Just click on Calendar from the home page, then on Register an Event on the Calendar page. It's easy!

City of Mesquite
10 E. Mesquite Blvd.
Mesquite, NV 89027

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Committees Provide Valuable Link Between City and Residents

The City Council of Mesquite has established a number of committees to assist by advising Council and Staff in specific areas. Committee members, who are not compensated for the time they devote to their areas of interest, serve as an invaluable link between City Hall and the community. Committees may be created by the Council as the need arises and the current list includes:

Airport Advisory Task Force
Architectural Review Committee
Charter Drafting Committee
Building Department Board of Appeals
Economic Development Commission
Downtown Business Advisory Committee
Master Plan Update Committee
Virgin Valley Historical Committee
Veterans' Commission
Mesquite Area Energy Task Force

To serve on a City of Mesquite Committee, send a letter and resume along with a completed public service candidate form to the City Clerk. Based on the submittal, citizens will be considered by the City Council when a vacancy occurs on the group in which they have an interest or particular expertise.

All Committee meetings are open to the public. To check for upcoming meetings and agendas, go to www.mesquitenv.gov, click on City Government, then Committees, and then on the specific committee name for more information.

Senior Center Trips & Events

Clark County Fair - Logandale	\$11.00	April 11th
Indoor Swap Meet - Las Vegas	\$14.00	April 19th
Las Vegas Springs Preserve	\$14.00	April 23rd
Osmond Brothers - St. George	\$36.00	May 2nd
David Cassidy - St. George	\$36.00	May 9th
Lost City Museum - Overton	\$10.00	May 14th
Liberace Museum - Luxor Casino	\$14.00	May 28th
Les Miserables - Tuacahn	\$34.00	June 15th
Sound of Music - Tuacahn	\$34.00	June 18th

Sign up at the Senior Center. Seating is limited and payment is due when registering. Price includes your ticket and transportation, all trips leave from and return to the Senior Center. Questions? Call 346-5290.