

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD DECEMBER 14, 2010, AT 6:35 P.M. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SPECIAL MEETING, AT THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS BUILDING, 826 NORTH MAIN STREET, COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Joens called the work session to order at 6:35 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Joens, Mayor
Karen Pfeifer, Vice Mayor
Tim Elinski, Council Member
Duane Kirby, Council Member
Terence Pratt, Council Member
Darold Smith, Council Member

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Linda Norman, Council Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bartosh, City Manager
Marianne Jiménez, City Clerk
Steve Horton, City Attorney
Matt McLean, Deputy Clerk
Mike Casson, Fire Chief
Dan Lueder, General Services General Manager

PROPOSED REALIGNMENT OF MAIN STREET THROUGH OLD TOWN

Dan Lueder presented a proposal to realign Main Street in Old Town to include a town square at the beginning of Old Town. He presented a map on PowerPoint of the town square. The traffic flow could move up Verde Heights Drive and loop around Pima and continue onto Main Street. The parking would consist of diagonal parking and would be a traffic calming device. This would create a downtown plaza feel to Old Town and created a lot of usable space the city did not currently have at the moment. Mr. Lueder stated this was a concept from 1989.

Council Member Pratt stated he agreed with the traffic idea and a sense of place, but would want to hear from the Old Town Association and merchants to see how they felt about the Main Street realignment.

Mr. Lueder stated they would not seek an outside engineer, and both Troy Odell (utility engineer) and Morgan Scott (staff engineer) had looked at the proposal, but before staff could move forward, they wanted to seek the approval of the Council to see if this was a possible consideration. They would talk with the Old Town merchants and the Old Town Association and start a feasibility study. Once the feasibility study was completed, they would present it to the Council.

Council Member Pratt asked if they had received any feedback from the merchants and/or Old Town Association.

Lisa Pender, Old Town Association, addressed the Council and stated the Old Town Association had talked with some of the merchants and thought that slowing down the traffic was a good idea and had some differences with the re-routing of Main Street. There had not been a lot of time to discuss the possible improvements. The Old Town Association would like to see the traffic slower through Old Town, but was worried about construction and would like to discuss that further with the city.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer asked Mr. Lueder if we would still be able to close off all of Old Town for special events similar to the Chocolate Walk, and Mr. Lueder that would still be possible.

Mr. Lueder again pointed out the proposed town square area on the map and stated it could be used for music festivals. The way it was drawn at the moment, Old Town would lose some of the parking spots, and that would be important to obtain those parking spots back. He was presenting this to Council simply as an idea if they wanted to staff to pursue something similar to this idea.

Mayor Joens asked about the possible increased traffic on Pima.

Mr. Lueder stated they might consider another entrance into Old Town off Main Street towards the beginning of the town square as well. There would be three routes into Old Town.

Council Member Kirby asked how much this would cost the city.

Mr. Lueder stated they would actively seek grants to offset the costs of construction, but do not have a definite answer on how much it would cost.

Council Member Elinski asked if the traffic would flow easily.

Mr. Lueder stated the traffic would flow easily, but there would be a stop sign along Pima.

Council Member Kirby asked about the grading height on Verde Heights Drive.

Mr. Lueder stated that the height was not that bad.

Council Member Kirby stated it was very steep.

Mr. Lueder stated that would be one of the things they would look at in the study; preparing a survey of the area.

Council Member Elinski asked about the diagonal parking and stated it would be difficult to back out if the traffic was moving through Old Town and heavy. In Sedona it was widened to

allow the diagonal parking.

Mr. Lueder stated staff was not pleased with the parking overall, but would look at it in the feasibility study.

Council Member Pratt stated he had concerns with the proposed heavier traffic that could potentially be coming through Verde Heights.

Mr. Lueder stated there could be things staff could do to dissuade people from driving through Verde Heights to get to 89A. They were really looking at trying to slow down traffic through Old Town. They would start talking with the Old Town Association and merchants to prepare a better plan for Old Town and present it to Council in few months.

Council Member Kirby asked how much Mr. Lueder was looking to spend on the study.

Mr. Lueder stated only staff time, and it was possible that staff might come back to Council and state this current plan was not going to work.

Mayor Joens asked if we would have to purchase the vacant lot and if it was for sale.

Mr. Lueder stated we would have to purchase the lot and it might be for sale.

Mayor Joens opened the floor to the public.

Patt Manheim, member of Old Town Association, addressed the Council and stated she was a retired community planner and had some concerns in regards to the proposal. She asked if Mr. Lueder had asked the planning department to look at the proposal and was concerned about the businesses and disruption or changes they might affect them. She pointed out that the current plan did not make it easy for people to come to the community. She was neutral to the current plan, but believed there were other options to slowing down the traffic. She asked that they not only look at this with an engineering approach, but also as a planning approach, and would offer her services and input into a proposed plan.

Mr. Lueder stated he would be including George Gehlert in the study staff would be preparing.

Kelley Foy, owner of Crema Café in Old Town, stated she spent a lot of time investing in two businesses and believed in Old Town. Old Town was finally gaining some momentum. She understood the concerns of slowing traffic, but was concerned about what construction would do to her business in Old Town. She cited the example of Sedona businesses that had to close down when Sedona started improving their roads. She did not agree with changing the structure and pass through of Old Town, but it might be better served to simply put in four way stop signs throughout Old Town.

Annabel Sclipa, a member of Old Town Association, stated she had spent a lot of time and

effort into marketing Old Town and was concerned with the rerouting of Main Street since it was a historic route. She was also concerned about the affect this might have on future grants, since the route would be changed and might not be viewed as historic anymore. She expressed concern about losing the historic flavor that was bringing people to Old Town, and agreed that the traffic should be slower through Old Town.

Michael Kellis, of the Ledbetter Law Firm, stated he was impressed with the aesthetics of the proposal and the firm had many clients coming into Old Town and walking around the area. The firm believed that would not necessary change as a result of this project. It might form a central piece, around which the city might form a cohesive plan to continue the historic aesthetics of Old Town.

Mayor Joens stated it appeared they needed to send staff back to start working with the Old Town merchants.

Council Member Pratt stated he was a big supporter and lover of Old Town, and he wanted to substantiality include the merchants in any type of discussion.

Council Member Smith stated he was concerned about the impact on local merchants as a result of this plan and would rather look at what we could do to slow down traffic, such as traffic lights or stop signs. He also believed that staff should receive every bit of feedback possible regarding this proposal.

Council Member Elinski stated it was worth investing staff time as long as there was collaboration with merchants and the neighborhood to find a solution.

Council Member Kirby stated maintaining Old Town as it is was part of the history of our community and we should try to preserve it.

Council Member Smith agreed with Council Member Kirby and stated we should preserve Old Town, and would like traffic control devices.

Mr. Lueder stated we had to start somewhere, and staff wanted to come to the Council first before talking with the Old Town Association. He was not looking to invest any money into the study besides staff time.

The Council directed staff to start talking with the Old Town merchants and neighborhood about the possible realignment of Main Street.

DEMONSTRATION OF iPADS FOR POSSIBLE USE BY CITY COUNCIL

Ms. Jiménez stated the Council had budgeted for the purchase of laptop computers for the Council for their electronic packets, and she and the Deputy Clerk were presenting iPads as another option in lieu of laptops. The iPads offered a portability that a laptop computer did not offer.

Along with the iPads, Matt McLean, Deputy Clerk, demonstrated an application called iAnnotate that would be enable the use of adding notes, highlighting, and other tools for the electronic packets. He pointed out that in order to access the packet, the Council would need to have Wi-Fi access, and there was currently a secure Wi-Fi connection in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Joens stated she was impressed with the cost of the application only costing \$9.99, instead of using Adobe Acrobat.

Council Member Kirby pointed out that the Council should come into Mr. McLean's office for training, and asked what the cost would be for the iPads.

Mr. McLean stated the cost of the iPad being demonstrated was \$499.

Mayor Joens stated they were trying to move towards electronic packets only, and not printing out the packets for each meeting.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer stated the electronic version was saving paper and staff time in preparing the packets.

Council Member Pratt stated there was a lot of time spent by staff in preparing the packets for every meeting.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer stated that she did not originally like using the computer for the packets, but the more she started using it, the easier it had become.

Mayor Joens stated we should start moving toward the electronic age whether it be iPads or laptop computers.

Ms. Jiménez stated staff was just suggesting an alternative to laptops for the Council to use, and wanted to know if staff should move forward with purchasing iPads or laptops.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer stated these (iPads) were cheaper and more portable then laptop computers.

Council Member Kirby stated he did not have Wi-Fi at home.

Mr. McLean stated it could be set-up in his home for the cost of buying a wireless router and that he would install it for him.

Council Member Pratt supported the idea of the iPads.

Council Member Elinski stated this was a better and cheaper solution instead of a laptop.

Mayor Joens stated concern about not having an external memory input and the size of the

screen.

Council Member Kirby stated his concern about instruction on how to use the iPads.

Mr. McLean stated he would instruct all Council Members on how to use the iPads.

Mayor Joens stated this had been included in the budget already, so the Council could direct staff to purchase the iPads for use by the Council now.

Council Member Elinski was concerned the Council should try out the iPads first, before directing staff to purchase them.

Council Member Pratt stated we should direct staff to purchase the iPads.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer asked if a Council Member hated the iPad, would it still be possible to obtain a paper packet.

Ms. Jiménez stated they would print out a paper copy of the packet if a Council Member so desired.

Mayor Joens stated staff should not be preparing paper packets anymore, and that option should not be considered.

Council Member Kirby agreed.

Mayor Joens asked if the Council could come in and look at the iPads.

Ms. Jiménez stated the Council Members could come into City Hall and meet with Mr. McLean to look at the iPad.

The Council directed staff to purchase iPads for the Council and start preparing electronic packets only.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joens made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Elinski, and carried unanimously. The work session meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Diane Joens, Mayor

ATTEST:

Marianne Jiménez, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a work session of the City Council of the City of Cottonwood held on December 14, 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, and that a quorum was present.

Marianne Jiménez, City Clerk

Date