

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COTTONWOOD, ARIZONA, HELD MAY 8, 2012, AT 6:00 P.M. 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 6:05 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Diane Joens, Mayor
Karen Pfeifer, Vice Mayor
Jesse Dowling, Council Member
Ruben Jauregui, Council Member
Terence Pratt, Council Member
Tim Elinski, Council Member
Linda Norman, Council Member

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bartosh, City Manager
Steve Horton, City Attorney
Matthew McLean, Deputy Clerk
Dan Lueder, Utility Services General Manager
Morgan Scott, Development Services Operations Manager
Jody Fanning, Police Chief

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION, CONSIDERATION, AND POSSIBLE DIRECTION TO STAFF:

POSSIBLE REDUCTION OF SPEED LIMIT ON 6TH STREET BETWEEN MINGUS AVENUE AND SR 89A

Mr. Scott presented a plan to lower the speed limit on 6th Street between Mingus Avenue and 89A from 35 mph to 25 mph.

Chief Fanning stated the average speed of cars on that section now is typically between 28 and 30 mph. There is still a few that know the speed limit is 35 and push it to 40, knowing that typically they will not get stopped or get a citation. He noticed there is increased pedestrian traffic on that street, and it behooved him to bring it to the council to reduce the speed limit in that area.

Council Member Jauragui stated he appreciated that we are looking at the students who use that street on a daily basis and looking at reducing the speed limit before something happens.

Council Member Pratt stated he agrees and he drives that street a lot and there is an awful

lot of pedestrian traffic on that street.

Council Member Norman stated it would be beneficial to lower it to 25 because the buses are now pulling in front of the library.

Council Member Dowling stated the matrix of impact speed versus fatality is lowered between 25 mph and 40 mph. If we can keep it to that lower number, if there is an impact it will make it a lot less fatal.

Mayor Joens stated that all collector streets ought to be 30-35 mph. With all the trucks that will be using that street, she agrees that it should be lowered.

Chief Fanning stated he will get with the City Attorney to make sure that we are abiding by all the city and state laws. We will advertise it very well and the police department won't take an aggressive enforcement level for a while.

Mr. Horton stated if we have to adopt this by Ordinance we could schedule the first reading in June.

Mayor Joens stated she has seen them just go out and change speed limits.

Chief Fanning stated Mr. Horton pointed out a statute and we are still conferring on whether or not that applies to state roads, or if it applies to city roads. We may have to do a study before we can reduce it.

After discussion regarding whether the speed limit change needed to be done by ordinance and if it should be done by emergency clause, the Council directed staff to proceed with moving forward on enacting the speed limit reduction.

PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO LIMIT "THROUGH" TRUCK TRAFFIC ON RESIDENTIAL STREETS AND THE PORTION OF MAIN STREET IN OLD TOWN

Mr. Scott stated it came to staff's attention trucks are using different roads throughout the city that are not designed for truck traffic and detouring them to roads that can handle them. Staff has drafted a conceptual truck route map. The one area of concern is 12th Street between Cherry Road and Mingus Avenue. This one was reconstructed last summer. It is a residential zone and it is not designed for heavy truck traffic. The second area is Main Street through Old Town. There is some issue with trucks coming through Old Town to get to points further north from the city. This would help to cut that down slightly. Trucks that need to get to this area could obtain a city right of way permit. Also staff is suggesting that anyone could make a delivery in Old Town without a permit.

Council Member Pratt stated since this would apply to through truck traffic to Clarkdale this makes a lot of sense.

Council Member Jauragui asked about the right of way permit and how would someone from out of town know about it.

Mr. Scott stated we will need to get the word out to truck drivers that are not local, which could be done with signage.

Council Member Dowling asked if someone does come into town, there is a high chance they are making a delivery, so they would be covered under the delivery clause.

Mr. Scott stated if they are going directly to a street they would ask the driver to call the engineering department to ask what the best route to take is. If they take a collector street that won't be an issue.

Council Member Elinski asked if food deliveries do not need to get a permit because it is regular delivery on their route.

Mr. Scott stated that is correct. As long as he is on Main Street, they are fine, but not a residential street. They would need a permit to go down a residential street.

Mayor Joens asked if that would be a problem for UPS making deliveries.

Mr. Lueder stated we are trying to restrict through traffic that are not doing anything on these roads, but are using this as a shortcut. UPS would probably not be subject to this.

Mayor Joens stated we want to encourage trucks to use the bypass road.

Mr. Lueder stated while this road was originally built for that, it is past its prime.

Mayor Joens stated this could be big money to repair Main Street.

Council Member Pratt stated it is important that we are trying to limit through truck traffic.

Council Member Jauragui asked how law enforcement is going to handle someone who wanders down these roads and isn't making a delivery.

Chief Fanning stated his approach is education first, and enforcement after. If you catch them two or three times, education is done. First time, we educate them and convince them that this is not where they should be going.

Mr. Horton stated having looked at these around the state, these are mostly civil fines.

Mr. Lueder stated this does take an ordinance and a lot more study. If Council agrees to move forward with it, then we can start looking at it and putting it together. We can send a notification to heavy haulers in the state prior to the ordinance going into effect of the proper routes.

Chief Fanning stated similar to when we notified the trucking companies about the covered loads.

Vice Mayor Pfeifer asked if there was a charge for the permit.

Mr. Lueder stated there was no charge for the permit, unless the Council wants it.

Mayor Joens asked if it will be a lot of extra work for staff.

Mr. Lueder stated we will not be giving a permit to a company every week to do it on the same day. It will be an extraordinary circumstance.

Council Member Elinski stated some of the businesses in Old Town use bigger trucks on the residential streets because there is nowhere else for them to stop on Main Street.

Mr. Lueder stated we are going to educate the drivers to take Main Street and then tell them to back in, but not continue through on a residential street. We don't want to make it more expensive for the businesses. It will take awhile to put this together and we will bring it back to council a couple more times, before it goes into effect.

Council Member Pratt stated we should go for it and it will be in the paper and we will get public input that way.

Mayor Joens stated it sounds like staff is accommodating business and the residents, but protecting the streets and keeping people safe by having trucks going on routes that can accommodate their weight.

The Council directed staff to move forward with it.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Joens moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jauragui, and carried unanimously. The work session adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Diane Joens, Mayor

ATTEST:

Matthew McLean, Deputy 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 May 8, 2012. I further certify that the meeting was duly called, and that a quorum was present.

Marianne Jiménez, City Clerk

Date