

MINUTES OF THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL  
CHAMBERS

Members Present: Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore, Councilman Scott Bracken, Councilman Gordon Thomas,  
Councilman Tee Tyler, Councilwoman Nicole Omer

Staff Present: City Manager Liane Stillman, City Attorney Shane Topham, Administrative Services  
Director Linda Dunlavy, Public Works Director Mike Allen, Chief Robby Russo, Planning Director Brian  
Berndt, Assistant Chief Mike Watson, Public Relations Officer Stephanie Archibald,

**1.0 WELCOME/PLEDGE/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

1.1 Mayor Cullimore opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those attending.

1.2 The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Omer.

**2.0 CITIZEN COMMENTS**

2.1 Michelle Kushlon, stated that she has a second grader who attends Oakdale Elementary School, and the crosswalk in the school zone is very dangerous for children crossing the street. She thanked Public Works Director, Mike Allen, for addressing some of the issues including painting the crosswalk and trimming the trees covering the signs. She also expressed thanks to the police department who have patrolled the area, and helped the speeding in the area because motorists tend to slow down when officers are present. Ms. Cushlin explained that historically the site has been dangerous and there have been previous incidents where crossing guards have been struck. Parents have a met as a group in an effort to remedy the situation and Ms. Kushlon asked the Council what options might be available. She stated the school principal is also concerned and is willing to help.

Mayor Cullimore stated that the boundary line is the middle of Creek Road and the opposite side of the road is part of the unincorporated county as are the school and the 25 homes around it. He explained that when this issue originally came up, the City decided to take responsibility since it affected primarily Cottonwood Heights' children. Typically the city or county in which the school is located is responsible for addressing this type of issue. Mayor Cullimore noted that the only alternative he was aware of was additional signage or lights.

Chief Russo spoke to the traffic officers providing enforcement, and they observed that many people who are contributing to the problem are taking children to school and suggested entering into a partnership with the school to send a letter to parents. In the meantime, the enforcement will continue to be provided.

2.2 Todd Leeds commended Chief Russo and the police officers involved in an incident that recently occurred in Big Cottonwood Canyon involving a false report noting that the officers went out of their way to help him rectify the situation. Mr. Leeds also spoke about the CDA and read from the draft Interlocal Agreement with Salt Lake County regarding parking. Mr. Leeds stated that in the last six weeks he has spoken to several people in District 1 and throughout the City and has only met one person, other than two of his fellow City Council candidates, who support the CDA. He felt the general consensus is that District 1 does not want this form of corporate welfare and questioned how the decision was made.

Mayor Cullimore stated that the matter was voted on by the Council. He said that the people he has talked to have a different opinion and believes that how people feel about a subject has a lot to do with how the issue is presented. The Mayor pointed out that the County, who has never voted unanimously for a CDA, voted unanimously for this one because they saw the value of it and agreed that it has public benefit.

Mr. Leeds reiterated that calling it a public parking structure is misleading since the public cannot use it all the time.

### **3.0 REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

#### **3.1 Proclamation Recognizing City Councilwoman Nicole Omer**

- 3.1.1 Mayor Cullimore announced that Nicole Omer has accepted employment in Denver and will be resigning as a member of the Cottonwood Heights City Council. The Mayor and Council acknowledged her significant contributions in the two years she has served. The Mayor read a proclamation recognizing Nicole's service and she was presented with a plaque and gift from the City.

Councilwoman Omer stated that she has enjoyed her time serving on the Council and has learned a great deal.

### **4.0 PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **4.1 Public Comment on 6675 South/Rolling Knolls Traffic Calming**

- 4.1.1 Councilwoman Omer explained that 18 months ago two groups of residents presented her with traffic problems in the area. Both worked with the city to study the issues and a citizens group was formed to review possible traffic calming proposals. The group went through an extensive process conducting traffic studies, closing roads, taking traffic counts and interacting with various groups in the community. After Thorough review, she explained that while there is no perfect solution, the Council feels they have come up with the best alternative.
- 4.1.2 Mayor Cullimore explained that roads were temporarily closed in several locations but the result was that problem compounded another area issue. Thus, from the Council's perspective, the road closure option was not viable. The Council has since looked seriously at making 6675 South a one-way street going eastbound, Which was also a suggestion of the citizen group if the road was not closed. Councilwoman Omer stated that the intent is to help with traffic volume. The Mayor stated that the City was able to get on UDOT's long-range plan over the next few years to have the access onto I-215 improved, which will help move the traffic and reduce congestion.

- 4.1.3 Mayor Cullimore opened the meeting to public comment.

- 4.1.4 Wendy Merrill, 6630 South, asked about the second proposed access point at Bella Vista.

Councilwoman Omer stated that there is no formal proposal at this point, but a second access is being discussed.

Ms. Merrill stated that she purchased her home because of the neighborhood, and because of the access to and from various places. She expressed concern that residents on 6630 South were not included in the neighborhood study and felt this street should have been represented. Ms. Merrill

stated that making 6675 South a one-way street takes away half of her access while maintaining full access for others. She also expressed concern about an ambulance trying to access the freeway because it would be forced to go to Fort Union and onto Highland Drive which would take longer. She said that before agreeing to a one-way option she would want there to be a second access to Bella Vista.

- 4.1.5 Dan Miller, 6675 South, thanked Councilwoman Omer for the work she has done on traffic calming. He asked why the decision was made to have a one-way eastbound road rather than a one-way westbound.

Councilwoman Omer stated that two of the major problems are: 1) trying to solve the queuing and access issues caused by cut-through traffic to Highland Drive in the mornings; and 2) creating traffic patterns in harmony with the boundaries of Bella Vista Elementary. The eastbound road would help each of these.

Mr. Miller stated that studies did not show a significant difference between the morning and evening hours. He believes there is more traffic in the evening hours on 6675 South and more children outside during those hours. He suggested the Council consider having the traffic go westbound rather than eastbound.

- 4.1.6 Mike Schweitzer, 6675 South, said many residents agree with Mr. Miller regarding the one-way street being west bound instead of east bound. He noted that there are many young families with small children and the evening hours are when they are most active and agreed that the one-way westbound option. Mr. Schweitzer stated that his neighbor lost his grandson on their street and the police report estimated that the car that hit him was traveling only 18 mph and expressed concern about something like that happening again.
- 4.1.7 Rex Newton, 6675 South, said he preferred the street be eastbound if the left turn onto Rolling Knolls from Highland Drive is closed. He pointed out that the majority of cut through traffic increases speeds up and down the street.
- 4.1.8 Tony Perkins, 6675 South, objected to making 6675 South a one-way street in either direction because he believes that problems will result from both. He explained that his wife proposed making a turnout lane that will come in off of Highland Drive one way onto Rolling Knolls and then northbound back onto the freeway to limit cut through traffic.
- 4.1.9 Jim Strudstrup, 2011 Rolling Knolls Way, agreed that there is a volume problem and stated that studies show that Rolling Knolls Way carries the greatest amount of traffic. He was interested in the traffic volume issue and was disappointed that the road closure option was taken off the table. He felt that the best way to resolve the problem would be to close the road and redirect traffic. He noted that currently motorists do not follow the law or stop at stop signs.
- 4.1.10 Natalie Bryce Wilson, Rolling Knolls Way, stated that during the time she has lived in the area she has seen a dramatic increase in traffic volume. She said that she is strongly opposed to roundabouts because the intersections are not big enough to slow traffic and in addition, the distance between the inlet and outlet of every street is not wide enough to force people to slow down. Ms. Wilson recommended that dips be considered and believes that this is the only solution to the speeding problem because they can potentially damage vehicles. Ms. Wilson said that there are approximately eleven children who live on Rolling Knolls Way and each one spends a great deal of time playing in the street. She also pointed out that the speed limit is 25

mph which is too fast for the neighborhood, and asked if there is some way to reduce it. She also suggested that the City consider installing flashing stop signs and a digital speed indicator sign.

- 4.1.11 Kim Steenblik expressed concern with the proposal. She commented on the possibility of painting strips down 6675 and making it one-way and questioned whether allowing cars to park on the street would obstruct the view of children at play. She believes that closing the road at Highland Drive makes the most sense. She also stated that there should be a second drop off point at Bella Vista.

Mayor Cullimore commented that the purpose of painting stripes on the road is to narrow the road and move cars toward the middle of the street and slow speeds. The intent would not be to encourage parking on the street.

Ms. Steenblik said that she is not opposed to one-way traffic but understood that it limits access.

- 4.1.12 Amber Schell, 2300 East, carools with others who live on 6675 South. She believes that the proposal will be inconvenient for motorists trying to access the area.
- 4.1.13 Mr. Schweitzer stated that the issue is not a matter of convenience but safety. He expressed appreciation to the Council for their efforts.
- 4.1.14 Mr. Merrill said that closing Highland Drive is the best choice.

Councilwoman Omer stated that closing Highland Drive has been considered, but was ruled out because it significantly aggravates the other major problem, which is traffic at Bella Vista.

Mayor Cullimore stated that in addition, people who live on the west side of Nye Drive have no desire to see it closed and explained that the goal is to determine what is safest without creating additional problems.

- 4.1.15 The public comment period was closed.
- 4.1.16 Councilwoman Omer thanked those who have been involved in the process and encouraged them to continue to work together.
- 4.1.17 Councilman Bracken stated that his area is experiencing similar problems. He lives near Brighton High School and has received similar input in neighborhood meetings there with road closures being discussed and debated. He supports the installation of roundabouts, which are proven to slow traffic and commented that painting stripes does not change the habits of bad drivers.

## **5.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

### **5.1 Approval of August 9 and August 22, 2011 Minutes**

- 5.1.1 The minutes stood approved.

## **6.0 ADJOURN BUSINESS MEETING AND RECONVENE WORK SESSION IN ROOM 250**

- 6.1 **MOTION:** Councilwoman Omer moved to adjourn the business meeting and reconvene the work session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Thomas and passed unanimously on a roll call vote. The business meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**Approved: September 13, 2011**