

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 27, 2005, AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Kelvyn Cullimore, Councilman Don Antczak, Councilman Scott Bracken, Councilman Bruce Jones, Councilman Gordon Thomas

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Liane Stillman, City Attorney Shane Topham, Community Development Director Kevin Smith, City Planner Michael Black, City Recorder Linda Dunlavy, Director of Finance David Muir, City Treasurer Gary Harmer, City Engineer Brad Gilson

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Watson, Robbie Russo, Corbett Ford, Detective Thornton, Gloria Woodard, Ralph Thomas, Kiara Dudley, Mike & Kris Falk, Natalie Christiansen, Karma Brown, Hamid Saadat, Dave Baily, Terry & Shirleen Hansen, Gene & ReVoe Christensen, Cheryl Stoppelmov, Mark McGuire, Judith Anderson, Russ Bringham, Sharon Bolerjack, Hal & Joanne Perry, Ian Harding, Butch Lodder, Tina Koch, Terry Scharman, Bruce Ririe, Miek Williams, Mike Dapor, Virginia George, George Liodakis, Larry Manikowski, Dan & Rhonda Shirts, Verl Buxton, Susan Cannon, Jana Tayloer, Brenda Michel, Elaine & Raul Alra, Mark Rollins, Jeff Williams, Dana Williams, Debbie Jones, Alyssa Staples, Stacey Keller, Jolene & Randy Perkins, Lisa McGarry, Scott Pedler, Brian Fedderson, Brian Smith, Mark Newman, Don Smart, Melissa Atkin, Chris Atkin, Noel Atkin, Jean Geroage, Spencer Hopper, Toni Stafford, Nathan Cloward, Kim & George Kimura, Blaine & Jessica Christine, Ross Montage, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Blackhurst, Vince & Mary Morgan, Barbara Barnett, Ann & Jeff Davis, Nancy & DeWayne Bailey, Bill & Kathleen Vargo, Jeanne Stewart, Susan Gibbs, Ron Hyatt, Vicki & Bob Neumann, John & Emmaree Josephson, Brian Allen,

1.0 WELCOME/PLEDGE

1.1 Mayor Cullimore opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed those attending. He explained that there will be two brief presentations prior to the Council receiving public comments.

2.0 PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT ON TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES FOR OAK CREEK DRIVE, BETTER KNOWN AS THE 'BRIGHTON BUMP'

2.1 Presentations were given by Officer Heath Lowry and City Engineer Brad Gilson regarding the complaints, concerns, and possible resolutions to the 'Brighton Bump'. Power points for both presentations are available upon request.

2.2 Mayor Cullimore opened the public hearing.

2.3 Jerry Haver, Nantucket Drive, asked if there was a pattern to the time of day the high speeds occur on Oak Creek Drive. He stated that if there is, the solution to the speeding problems could be looked at with a specific time frame in mind.

Mr. Gilson said that in analyzing the data received from Salt Lake County, the high speeds are scattered throughout the day.

- 2.4 Marilyn Maxfield, 2325 East, asked how the students would get to Brighton High School if Oak Creek Drive is closed.

Mr. Gilson noted that as a result of school being in session there is an increase of 400 vehicles per day. They would be forced to take 20th East or Danish Road to the high school.

She asked if it was an option to open the high school traffic onto Bengal Blvd.

Councilman Bracken said that he met with the Brighton High School principal last week and was told that the back alleyway was closed because of safety issues and were afraid one of the students would be hurt.

- 2.5 Ian Harding, 7950 S. Portsmouth, said he is a new resident and supports the closure of the Oak Creek Drive. He said that there are many families with young children and the neighborhood has a safety issue.

Mr. Gilson said that road closure has not been analyzed in detail. It would route the traffic on Oak Creek Drive to other areas and may cause or increase traffic problems in other areas of the City.

- 2.6 Ann Davis, 2580 Nantucket Drive, asked if other options can be considered before road closure. She questioned where the road closure would be located and how road closure would effect emergency services or emergency evacuations.

- 2.7 Marcy Marty, 2510 E. Nantucket Drive, said that she has had property damage and finds it very hard to back out of her driveway because of the traffic and speeds. She supports road closure, but if that is not an option, would recommend the Council consider making Oak Creek Drive a one-way street going north. She said that Nantucket and Portsmouth are also problem areas that need to be addressed.

- 2.8 Debra Jones, 3293 English Way, said that when the traffic circle was installed on Alta Hills and Danish Road, the traffic did slow down, but school buses, moving vans and snow plows could not get around the circle.

- 2.9 Stan Jacobson, Nantucket Drive, said that everyone is focusing too much on the students, and need to also focus on the adult drivers.

- 2.10 A resident of Willow Creek, felt that closing Oak Creek Drive is unrealistic, but liked the idea of a one-way street. He said that the school has been there since the 1960's and the students are not the problem.

- 2.11 Jana Taylor, 2450 E. Nantucket Drive, said that Nantucket is like I-15 from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. She said that kids drag race up the street and several children in the area have almost been hit. She said that the road should be closed because nothing else works.

- 2.12 Lisa McGarry, 2606 Chalet Circle, said that it is important to consider approaching this problem as a community issue. She commented that the clapping and booing give the distinct impression that people are dividing into camps. The City needs to look at the least intrusive and least costly measures to try and fix the problem, but does not support closing the road.
- 2.13 Raul Alva, 8141 Oak Creek Drive, said that a year ago he had a car upside down in his front yard. He explained that five years ago, while building a new bridge on Oak Creek Drive, the road was closed for six months and there were no problems. He recommended the road be closed again.
- 2.14 Ian Guzy, SBO president for Brighton High School, told the Council that closing the road or making it one-way going north would not eliminate the traffic problems, it would only shift them. He does not believe the speeding and reckless driving will be stopped by closing one road, and it will be inconvenient turning left from Bengal Blvd. to Highland Drive as well as the lights onto Wasatch Drive. He recommended making the road safer instead of causing the inconvenience.
- 2.15 Russ Bringham, 8134 S. Oak Creek Drive, expressed his appreciation to the Council for holding a public hearing and letting the residents have a voice in what happens in the community. He liked the idea of roundabouts at Chalet Circle and Tuxedo Circle, and recommended that the City also consider a roundabout at Oak Creek Circle and on Creek Road. His first choice would be to have the road closed at the top of Oak Creek Drive; and his second choice would be to make Oak Creek Drive a one-way street going north. He asked when the Council would make a decision.

Mayor Cullimore said that the City is doing a capital facilities plan to determine and prioritize areas which need improvement, and Oak Creek Drive would be a high priority on that plan. The City should receive the proposed plan within 60 days and after review and prioritization work will be done dependent on the availability of funds, construction crews, etc. Mayor Cullimore believes this project should be done within the next 12 months.

- 2.16 Alyssa Staples, 8684 S. Willow Green Circle, a senior at Brighton High School, said that closing the road will only move the traffic problem and people should have considered what was in the area before they moved there.
- 2.17 Graham Hollingsworth, 2325 East, said that when he moved to this area and Brighton High School was built, parking became a problem and many supported the idea of a back entrance to the parking lot because it would have been very hard to have every student go through Bengal Blvd. to the parking lot. He said that if Oak Creek Drive is closed, it will probably create a traffic problem in another area. He thanked the Council for the opportunity to address them and give input.
- 2.18 Larry Hawkins, Oak Creek Drive, said that he has had six vehicles in his front yard over the past several years. He would like to see Oak Creek Drive closed or made a one-way street.
- 2.19 Rachel Francis, Danish Road, said that if the problem and concern on Oak Creek Drive is speed and reckless driving, closing the road or making it a one-way street will not force kids and adults to slow down. She said that the solution needs to force people to slow down, not shift the problem to another area.

- 2.20 A resident living on Nantucket Drive, said that traffic needs to be slowed down and believes the speed bumps or dips would help. She thinks once something is done people will get used to having to slow down.
- 2.21 Damon T., Tuxedo Circle, said that if Oak Creek Drive is closed there needs to be an egress for bicycles to use.
- 2.22 Jill Pregill, 2528 E. Nantucket Drive, said that there are many small children on Nantucket Drive and something needs to be done to make the area safer. She noted that the Sheriff's office has done an excellent job, but believes some of the proposed measures need to be implemented as soon as possible. Ms. Pregill submitted a petition and pictures for the Council's review. (See attached).
- 2.23 Elaine Alva, 8141 Oak Creek Drive, said that she has lived there for over 25 years. When she travels the speed limit she gets the finger, honked at, shouted at, etc. She said that the high school needs to do a better job of encouraging their students to be more careful.
- 2.24 Dan Shirts, 7957 S. Portsmouth Avenue, said that he has lived through a case study of the same situation in a different city. Speed bumps and a roundabout were tried, but not successful. He suggested that the road be closed at the intersection of Oak Creek and Portsmouth. He said it is not an inconvenience if the lives of the people that live on those roads are being considered.
- 2.25 Russell Gibson, Oak Creek Drive/Portsmouth Avenue, said that the reason he was given for not wanting to review road closure as an option, was because it breaks up communities. Mr. Gibson recommended the road be closed either at the bridge or at Chalet Circle. He said that roundabouts may work if they are installed at Oak Creek/Portsmouth, Nantucket/Portsmouth and 2325 East. He suggested the Council consider temporary circles to see if they work.
- 2.26 Mark McGuire, 2383 E Nantucket Drive, said that the neighbors are tired of other people not being responsible and feels that the City needs to find a way to fix the problems in this area.
- 2.27 Spencer Hopper, 2622 E. Oak Creek Drive, said that traffic circles will entice aggressive drivers to short-cut over the mountable curbs that are required for access for larger vehicles. He recommended closing Oak Creek at the bridge river where it had been previously closed. He stated that it may force traffic onto other roads, but Danish Road and Highland Drive are much better equipped to handle the traffic. He pointed out that there are traffic calming measures on Danish Road that have been very effective.
- 2.28 Megan Merkley, Brighton High School Junior Class Senator, said that something needs to change, but believes the road closure is insane. She said that when you are coming home from school, the road is congested and it's hard to speed at that time.
- 2.29 Abby Scofield, Nantucket Drive/Portsmouth Avenue, said that traffic is huge problem and she cannot back out of her driveway most of the time. She said that the kids are more courteous about letting her out of her driveway than the adults are. She told the Council that she has been paint-balled, egged, windows broken and lit firecrackers thrown into her car window. She said that the traffic has to be addressed, but more law enforcement officers are also needed to address property destruction.

- 2.30 Emmaree Josephson, 8560 Danish Road, sympathized with those that live around the Brighton Bump area, and would like the City to find a solution, but feels that closing the road will only move the problem to different areas, and this same meeting will be held in another year regarding a different location.
- 2.31 Michael Williams, 2459 E. Nantucket Drive, said that he has lived on Nantucket Drive for 14 years and has replaced his mailbox 16 times. He said windows have been knocked out of his car, his car was hit by a student and today during the storm while cleaning out the gutter, and he was splashed with water. He expressed support for closing the road now.
- 2.32 Karen Smith, said that the community is challenged as far as through streets with the large capacity of people that go to Brighton High School every morning. She said that she does not believe closing the street is a good solution because the traffic has to go somewhere and roads should be accessible to all residents. She does not think speed bumps are the answer, but thinks that the City needs to get people to slow down.
- 2.33 Paula Manikowski, 2558 E. Portsmouth, expressed support for closure of Oak Creek Drive. She said that when it was closed for six months it was very good, but that if it is closed in the future would like to see a path for pedestrians and bicyclists. She stated that she uses the access all of the time, but is willing to have it closed for the safety of the neighbors.
- 2.34 Jim Maxfield, 7697 S. 2325 E., suggested that the Council look into the possibility of using cameras to ticket the lawbreakers.
- 2.35 Debbie Lewis, Nantucket Drive, said that she is in attendance because she has children that could be affected by this traffic if something is not done.
- 2.36 Verl Buxton, 3414 E. 7000 S., said that there is no quality of life living on Oak Creek Drive and that City needs to do something for the residents. He suggested the City use more enforcement, including unmarked cars to clock speeders, who could then be stopped at Creek Road and Nantucket Drive. He expressed appreciation for the public hearing and recommended that six months from now the City reevaluate what has been done and whether or not it is working.
- 2.37 A Brighton High School senior, said the comment was made by a resident that it would only take three minutes to get to Danish Road, but he believes it would take much longer than that if 90 percent of the school is traveling the same way. He said that safety is an issue and traffic needs to be slowed, but does not believe it would be good to close Oak Creek Drive.
- 2.38 Todd & Victoria Bushong, 8090 S Oak Creek Drive, bottom of the Brighton Bump, thanked the City for holding the public hearing and thanked the Sheriff's department for their enforcement of the area.
- 2.39 Graham Hollingsworth, said that there is a parking problem along 2325 East, because no one can park on the street from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (during school hours). He would like to see the City make parking for permanent residents allowed on 2325 East.

- 2.40 Julie Ebasy, 2580 E. Chalet Circle, stated that she lives on the 'bump' and is concerned about residents maneuvering around a traffic circle in the winter and feels they may end up in her front yard.
- 2.41 Dee Roland, Nantucket Drive, suggested that parking at the high school be open only for car pools that that vehicles caught not car pooling be ticketed.
- 2.42 A resident living on Oak Creek Drive, asked if snowplowing could be done early on Oak Creek Drive because of the number of students that use it to go to school.
- 2.43 Miles Anderson, told the Council they should close Oak Creek Drive now.
- 2.44 Larry Manikowski, 2558 E. Portsmouth , said an easy, cost-effective way to test closing the road would be to put a temporary barricade at the bridge, leave for a certain time period and call another public hearing to receive input on the closure.
- 2.45 Denise Hammond, Dolphin Way, asked how the students went to the high school when the bridge was closed.

Several residents commented that the traffic went from Creek Road to Highland Drive to Bengal Blvd.

- 2.46 Mayor Cullimore closed the public hearing
- 2.47 Mayor Cullimore expressed appreciation to the residents for taking time to attend the public hearing.

He clarified that as the City has looked at this situation it has focused on the safety of the Brighton Bump as the primary concern. The City has looked at many traffic calming alternatives but there are limitations as to what can be used on grades. He explained that road closure is a drastic measure that has concerns. He said if Oak Creek Drive is closed and students routed around Danish, it will send more traffic down Nantucket Drive trying to get into the parking lot. The City is trying to take measured steps, and are looking at stepping up traffic enforcement, adding traffic circles as a way to slow the traffic and create a safer environment on Oak Creek Drive. The community is unique because its citizens really care about the issues of the City.

- 2.48 Officer Lowry said that approximately 80 percent of the tickets issued, are issued to the youth.
- 2.49 Attached to the minutes, as part of the permanent record, are written comments that were submitted during the public hearing by residents who did not wish to speak.

3.0 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- 3.1 No public comments were made.

4.0 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

4.1 **Approval of September 13, 2005 minutes**

4.1.1 The minutes of September 13, 2005 were approved as written.

5.0 **ADJOURN TO WORK SESSION AT COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY OFFICES**

5.1 The business meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. and the Council convened a work session at the Cottonwood Heights City Offices at approximately 9:00 p.m.