



Minutes
Special Session
Queen Creek Town Council
Queen Creek Town Hall, 22350 S. Ellsworth Road
Council Chambers
July 21, 2008
4:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm.

2. Roll Call (one or more members of the Council may participate by telephone)

Council Members present: Barnes; Brown; Hildebrandt; Mortensen; Wootten; Vice Mayor Barney and Mayor Sanders.

PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FINAL ACTION: If you wish to speak to the Council on an item listed as a Public Hearing or Action, please complete a Request to Speak Card and turn it in to the Town Clerk. Speakers will be called upon in the order in which their cards are received. Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes each.

3. Discussion and possible action on the removal of the planned median on Ocotillo Road in front of Russ' True Value Hardware Store and approval of a change order at an undetermined cost.

Traffic Engineer Mike Pacelli provided information on median break standards for surrounding communities and Maricopa County. He also discussed the construction of medians as part of new roads and redevelopment of existing roads.

Russ Carlson, owner of Russ' True Value Hardware, discussed his concerns about the construction of medians on Ocotillo Road including in front of his hardware store. Mr. Carlson presented letters of support for the removal of the median from adjacent property/business owners on the southern side of Ocotillo Road. Mr. Carlson made the following points in his discussion:

- He had no knowledge of the medians until construction began
- Medians weren't noted in his construction plans submitted in 2000 for his building
- He objects to the current Post Office and water stand locations having full turn access
- He reported several accidents at the rear of his store which he uses as a work area
- He believes that sales tax revenue for the Town will decrease 10-20% because his sales will decrease

The following public comment was taken:

Thom Schuett, Queen Creek, said he supports deleting the raised medians to keep the business and sales tax intact.

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Bob Hildebrandt, Queen Creek, said he supports deleting the raised medians in Queen Creek. Mr. Hildebrandt said he believes u-turns are dangerous and flat medians are ok.

Gordon Brown, Queen Creek-Pinal County, said he has research that raised medians aren't safer and generate dangerous u-turns and hurt businesses.

Anne Reed, Queen Creek-Pinal County, referred to articles that contradict the Town Engineers reports.

Theresa Novak, Queen Creek-Maricopa County, said she disagrees with medians providing safety and was concerned with the speed limit on Ocotillo Road.

Daniel Main, Town of Maricopa, said he was an employee of Russ' and cars driving behind the store aren't safe and drive too fast creating a dangerous work area.

Barbara House, business owner on Ocotillo, is opposed to raised medians on Ocotillo Road and doesn't believe consideration was given to how businesses would be affected.

Katherine Denton, Queen Creek, Pinal County, said she was an employee of Russ' and is opposed to raised medians on Ocotillo. She also discussed her concern with the speed limit and medians in other areas of Town.

Mr. Carlson came forward and asked why the speed limit was being increased to 45mph and said he would like to have it remain at 35mph. Mr. Carlson added that u-turns could be made safely at the signalized entrance if the light is red.

Council asked Mr. Carlson about the safety issues in the back of the store and whether some type of traffic control was needed. Mr. Carlson said speed humps are being considered.

Council asked Mr. Pacelli about the increased speed limits. Mr. Pacelli explained how the speed limit would be 45mph east of Hawes, decreasing to 35mph and then 25mph just east of the homes on the south side of Ocotillo Road. He said westbound Ocotillo Road speed limit would be 45mph. There was some discussion on the closeness of the homes to Ocotillo Road and that the situation isn't too uncommon in other areas of the East Valley. Council had further discussion regarding the speed limits, rates of accidents, volume of traffic and u-turns.

Mr. Carlson made an additional comment on the possibility of increased cut-through traffic to Will Rogers Equestrian Ranch neighborhood.

Council discussion continued in regard to the importance of overall safety; driving patterns including vehicle style & size; smaller businesses in downtown; and improving an existing older road (sections of Ocotillo).

Motion to leave the raised medians as permitted (Mortensen/Brown)

Roll Call Vote:

- Barnes – aye
- Brown – aye
- Hildebrandt – nay

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Mortensen – aye
Wootten – nay
Barney – nay
Sanders – aye

Motion Passed 4-3.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Special Session (Barney/Mortensen/Unanimous)

TOWN OF QUEEN CREEK



Arthur M. Sanders, Mayor

Attest:



Jennifer F. Robinson, CMC

I, Jennifer F. Robinson, do hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the foregoing Minutes are a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the July 21, 2008 Special Session of the Queen Creek Town Council. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present



Jennifer F. Robinson, CMC

Passed and approved on August 27, 2008.