

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CITIZEN'S FORUM
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS - YUMA CITY HALL
ONE CITY PLAZA, YUMA, ARIZONA
August 1, 2017
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the City Council Citizen's Forum to order at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Shelton, Wright, Miller, Knight, Thomas, Craft, and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Gregory K. Wilkinson
Various department heads or their representatives
City Attorney, Richard W. Files
City Clerk, Lynda Bushong

I. SAFETY, TRAFFIC AND BEAUTIFICATION ISSUES – 45TH AVENUE

Bill Mowczko, 4558 W. 27th Street, addressed City Council regarding three issues related to the adoption of the Park West Unit #4 Final Plat that is coming before City Council for approval at tomorrow night's Regular City Council Meeting. The concerns, which have been raised by citizens of Barkley Ranch, are as follows:

1. Safety and road preservation – there is a steep four to five foot unprotected drop-off paralleling 45th Avenue near Mesquite Elementary School which presents a safety risk to both students and their parents as well as drivers who are unfamiliar with the area. This issue could be solved by filling in and grading the drop-off to create a 2% slope similar to a typical shoulder walkway. This project could be funded with Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds designated for citywide safety improvements.
2. Neighborhood appearance – there is no requirement for the developer to landscape the 50-foot wide stretch of dirt between 45th Avenue and the approximately 1,435 foot long concrete wall bordering Park West Unit #4. It contrasts the existing landscaping along 45th Avenue on the Barkley Ranch side, has the potential for degradation or blight, and would affect the character of the neighborhood. This issue could be solved by planting shade trees which corresponds with the City's new landscaping guidelines, provides shade for the Park West homeowners, and is consistent with the rest of the neighborhood. Possible funding include cost-sharing with the developer and paying for irrigation through the maintenance improvement district.
3. Completion of 45th Avenue between 24th Street and 28th Street – this section of road will accommodate a half-wide minor arterial street consisting of two lanes, a bike lane, and sidewalk. This could help address future traffic issues due to growth in the area, particularly with the entrance and exit to Park West. This project could be added to the CIP program and potentially be funded with Highway User Revenue Funds, if they become available.

Mowczko thanked Councilmembers Knight, Wright, and Shelton who came out individually to visit the area and ask questions.

Wright thanked Mowczko for all of the preparation that went into this presentation and the insight provided. It is clear that this is not about opposing development but rather ensuring there is a balance between economic, social, and environmental objectives.

II. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

There being no further business, **Mayor Nicholls** adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m. No Executive Session was held.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor