

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
February 16, 2016
5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Nicholls called the Regular City Council Worksession to order at 5:35 p.m.

Councilmembers Present: Craft, Knight, Miller, Shelton, Thomas, Wright and Mayor Nicholls
Councilmembers Absent: None
Staffmembers Present: City Administrator, Gregory K. Wilkinson
Various department heads or their representatives
City Attorney, Steven W. Moore
Deputy City Clerk, Janet Pierson

I. SPEED LIMIT STUDY ON AVENUE B

Mayor Nicholls declared a potential conflict of interest due to the nature of the work performed by his firm. He turned the meeting over to Deputy Mayor Craft and exited the room.

Larry Hackamack, 1099 S. Angus Way, requested that a cooperative traffic study be conducted by the City of Yuma and Yuma County regarding the speed limit on Avenue B. Ideally, the results of the study would lead to the speed limit on Avenue B being reduced to 35 mph. The volume of traffic, the number of large vehicles such as 18-wheelers and agricultural trucks, and the current speed limit all create a high potential for accidents.

Knight asked if it is both the speed and the types of vehicles that are of concern. **Hackamack** stated that while both are a concern, it is the speed that makes it so dangerous. Large trucks traveling 45 mph take much longer to come to a stop. Additionally, due to the speed and traffic congestion drivers often take dangerous risks when attempting to turn onto Avenue B, especially when winter visitors are here.

Knight stated that as a member of the Executive Board for Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization, he has seen studies regarding accidents on all of the major streets in the City. Avenue B is not any worse than 16th Street, 24th Street, or 32nd Street, which all have a speed limit of 35 mph. Accidents do occur on all of those streets, but there is nothing to suggest that Avenue B is more prone to accidents due to its speed limit being 45 mph. **Hackamack** stated that he went to the Yuma Police Department to request information regarding the number of accidents on Avenue B, but has not yet received the information. If you have the same amount of traffic on other streets as on Avenue B, and those other streets have a speed limit of 35 mph, it is inconsistent for the speed limit to be higher.

Thomas asked on what portion of Avenue B the study is being requested. **Hackamack** indicated that from 8th Street to 24th Street would be appropriate. However, the speed limit should be consistent throughout the entire length of Avenue B. Otherwise it would cause more confusion on the drivers' part, and that would not be fair.

II. ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION

Deputy Mayor Craft adjourned the Citizen's Forum at 5:45 p.m. No Executive Session was held.

Lynda L. Bushong, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Douglas J. Nicholls, Mayor

DRAFT