

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 5, 2019

A. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Pro Tem Overhauser called the Regular City Council meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call – Excused Absences Councilmembers present included Councilmember Schmidt, Councilmember Weiszmann, Councilmember Hilton, and Councilmember Taves. Staff members present included Mr. Schuller, Ms. Niemeier, Mr. Schwartz, Ms. MacDonald, Mr. Hensley, Mr. Ableman, Mr. Jenkins, Ms. Snider, Ms. Beeman, Ms. Gemmell, Mr. Nilles, and Mr. Lucas. Councilmember Gaard arrived at 6:17 p.m.

C. Action Items

1. 19-003 – Resolution E-700 – Moratorium Ordinance X-58 Public Hearing Mayor Pro Tem Overhauser opened the public hearing at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Ableman provided an overview and the purpose of the moratorium. He presented some public safety issues and explained the work plan. The Planning Commission will hold meetings and hearings and send a recommendation to Council. Mr. Jenkins stated that he is the City's Fire Chief. He provided information on fire department responses and the challenges of getting across the railroad tracks. He stated that there will be more emergencies in that direction as we build more out there. Mr. Hensley stated that he is the City's Police Chief. He stated that his biggest concern is the safety of the responders as well as the people on the other side of a train that is holding them up. There are significant times when there are calls and there is a train. He has personally waited 56 minutes to get across the track. He has significant concerns about the trains delaying responses.

Steve Emtman stated that he is frustrated that there is a second moratorium during his building career in Cheney. He stated that the City's traffic report is not as good as his 2019 report. The City has copies of the study and there is not a traffic problem. He stated that facts matter and his legal counsel agrees. He believes the moratorium should be repealed immediately. He stated that he is and always has been happy to work with the City. He does not think the Council is getting all of the facts. He has spent a lot of money, and six months takes him out of the building year. He stated that he wants the Council to strongly consider repealing this now.

Mr. Schwartz stated that the last comprehensive plan included the 2016 Transportation Circulation Plan. The traffic plan Mr. Emtman referred to is a very specific transportation analysis for his development that is part of the property but not the entire property. He stated that the moratorium is for the City to call a time out to do a comprehensive study on the development south of the tracks and its impact on public safety services and infrastructure. An impact fee for transportation might be needed. It would work similar to park impact fees. Mr. Ableman stated that there are 240-260 units that are already built. Mr. Schwartz stated that under GMA you have to have your transportation infrastructure concurrent with development. This area could build out in a dense manner where you cannot get public safety services within a reasonable time frame south of the tracks. There is a duty to make sure the public health and safety is addressed. Mayor Pro Tem Overhauser closed the public hearing at 6:53 p.m. Councilmember Schmidt moved for passage of Resolution E-700. Councilmember Weiszmann seconded. Carried unanimously.

D. Adjournment Councilmember Weiszmann moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Gaard seconded. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

City Clerk

Mayor