



City of Goodyear

Meeting Minutes

City Council Work Session

Meeting Location:
Goodyear Justice Center
14455 W. Van Buren St.,
Suite B101
Goodyear, AZ 85338

Mayor Georgia Lord
Vice Mayor Wally Campbell
Councilmember Joanne Osborne
Councilmember Joe Pizzillo
Councilmember Sheri Lauritano
Councilmember Bill Stipp
Councilmember Brannon Hampton

Monday, October 16, 2017

5:00 PM

Goodyear Justice Center

1 CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lord called the Work Session to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Mayor Lord, Vice Mayor Campbell, Councilmember Osborne, Councilmember Pizzillo, Councilmember Lauritano, Councilmember Stipp, and Councilmember Hampton

Staff Present: City Manager Brian Dalke, Assistant City Attorney Lisa Maxi-Mullins, and City Clerk Darcie McCracken

3. AGENDA ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- 3.1 [17-6136ws](#) Staff will provide Council with background information and options for policy direction on the issue of texting while driving.

Police Chief Geier presented information on the dangers of texting and driving for Council's consideration.

Texting is considered one of the most dangerous distractions. One out of four car accidents in the United States (US) are caused by texting and driving. Texting and driving is six times more likely to cause an accident than drunk driving. The average speed in the US is 55 mph. Taking five seconds to read a text means the driver travels the length of a football field without looking at the road. Chances of a crash for any reason is increased by 23 times when you are texting.

Goodyear Crash Statistics from 7/11/15 - 7/11/17:

There were 1,654 total crashes, of which 208 were determined to be related to distracted drivers.

Distraction breakdown:

-Talking on Hand Held Device - 16

- Talking Hands Free - 12
- Other Distractions - 180

If somebody is involved in a crash and they don't admit to texting, or somebody doesn't witness them texting before the crash, it can't be proven. The exception is a fatal crash situation, in which phone records can be pulled.

Forty-seven other states ban texting for all drivers. Arizona is one of three states, including Missouri and Montana, that does not. In Arizona, four cities address texting while driving or in combination with other violations.

Phoenix

Prohibits texting (only) on a personal digital device. Exceptions - public safety personnel on duty, emergency vehicles, some commercial drivers, public transit personnel and anyone in an emergency situation.

*Primary offense - Minimum \$100; \$250 minimum if involved in an accident

Tempe

Unlawful use of a mobile electronic device. Driver can be charged if use of a cellphone is creating a risk. Exceptions - public safety/emergency personnel on duty, reporting an emergency, some commercial drivers, hands-free use, use while parked.

*Secondary offense - 1st offense \$100; 2nd offense \$250; Subsequent offense(s) within 24 months \$500

Tucson

Prohibits the use of any handheld wireless communications devices while driving. Exceptions - public safety/emergency personnel on duty, emergency communications with hospital or doctor, hands free use if attached to, or integrated in the vehicle.

Primary offense - Minimum \$100; \$250 minimum if involved in an accident

Yuma

Prohibits the use of any handheld wireless communications device while driving. Exceptions for public safety/emergency personnel on duty, use if driving on private property, use if legally parked, use if hands free.

Primary offense -Minimum \$100; \$250 minimum if involved in an accident

Oro Valley

Prohibits the use of any handheld wireless communications device while driving. Exemptions for public safety/emergency personnel on duty, hands free use if secured/attached to vehicle, communication during emergency

Primary offense -1st offense, \$50; 2nd offense \$100; 3rd offense \$200; \$250 minimum if involved in an accident

Kingman

Prohibits the use of any handheld wireless communications device while driving with few exceptions. Exceptions for public safety personnel on duty, emergency responders, drivers reporting an emergency, some commercial drivers, hands free use or use while parked.

Primary offense - 1st offense \$100; 2nd offense \$250; Subsequent offense(s) within 24 months \$500

Sedona

Prohibits the use of any handheld wireless communications device while driving with few exceptions

Primary offense - Minimum penalty of \$100; Minimum penalty of \$500 if involved in an accident

Points of Discussion:

- >Is the city interested in banning texting while driving or banning all activity on a wireless hand-held device?
- >What exemptions would be involved?
- >What type of penalties?
- >Impact on resources/staffing (patrol, prosecutor, court)?

Handheld electronic device and texting offenses are difficult to prove in court.

Different ordinances in a variety of cities will create confusion for citizens and visitors.

Council Discussion:

>Asked if the enforcement aspect of this has been discussed with any other departments.

Chief Geier stated that most departments are not strictly enforcing the laws, but are using it more of an educational tool and issuing warnings.

>Concern was expressed that having each individual city adopt different laws governing texting and driving will cause too much confusion. Since Arizona is one of only three other states that have not enacted legislation on this issue, it would be best if the state would take the lead on this.

>Would like to see some public service announcements to get the word out to the public about how dangerous this is.

>Agrees that this type of offense is very hard to prove in court. Would not have a problem with enacting a hands-free policy.

>Was not aware that other cities had an ordinance. If we passed an ordinance, would we be going against the state and potentially lose funding? Would like to get legislators interested.

>This is definitely an issue of concern. Would prefer to let the state take the lead on this.

>Doesn't feel that Goodyear can impose a law if it is not enforced at the state level.

>The emphasis should include all distracted driving issues, not just texting.

>Feels that using blue tooth technology would be acceptable because there is a need for this type of communication.

>In favor of educating the public with an advertising campaign on the dangers of distracted driving.

Chief Geier reported that there is an existing statute in place that deals with distracted driving incidents when there is bad driving associated with cell phone use and testing.

In April, Governor Ducey signed a bill into law that restricts the use of a wireless communication device for minors while driving, and bans any use of a cell phone for a driver with a learning permit and for drivers with a class G driver license for the first six months of driving or until their 18th birthdays. The new law is effective as of July 1, 2018.

The Police Department already has education campaigns in place that deal with texting and driving and Chief Geier reviewed a few of the highlights. Going forward, the Police Department will ramp up their efforts to address texting and driving.

There is not support to move forward with an ordinance at this time, but the Police Department will work on the public information piece.

**>This could be something that the car insurance companies support, and increase awareness to everyone, perhaps with some powerful commercials that provide some shock and awe.
> Thanked Chief Geier for the presentation and appreciates that police or fire have been out to the schools to explain about the dangers of distracted driving.**

- 3.2 [17-6191ws](#) Council will receive an update on the proposed location of Fire Station 181 from the Fire Chief.

Fire Chief Luizzi presented information regarding Fire Station 181 location review. Chief Luizzi reviewed information presented at the Work Session held on December 12, 2016, and the recommendations from the Fire Station Study.

Fire Station Study Recommendations:

By 2025, it is recommended that three optimal locations are added to the current five fixed locations as follows:

- >Relocate Station 181 north of the current site; the optimal location is at Litchfield and Van Buren - recommended to be operational by 2019.
- >Additional location in West Goodyear (188); the optimal location is at Citrus and Yuma (plus one engine company) - recommended to be operational by 2022.
- >Additional location in South Goodyear (186); the optimal location is at Estrella and Willis (plus one engine company) - recommended to be operational by 2025.

Council direction following the Fire Station Study was to move all of the projects forward with an expected completion date of 2021.

- >By 2019 (estimated construction completion July 2019)
 - FS181 relocation near Litchfield Road and Van Buren Street
 - FS186 new station near Estrella Parkway and Willis Road (South Goodyear)
- >By 2021 (estimated construction completion July 2021)

-FS188 new station near Yuma and Citrus roads (West Goodyear)

Factors for consideration:

- >Minimize our response times
- >Maximize available city resources
- >Close to Optimal sites per Fire Station Study

The optimal location from "heat maps" for the location of Fire Station (FS) 181 was determined to be in the area of Litchfield Road and Van Buren Street. Two locations that appear to be the most reasonable are 137th Avenue and Test Drive, and land immediately south of the Police Department (PD) Operations building located on 144th Avenue south of Van Buren Street. This location has good central coverage, but not as good response time for north of I-10.

Chief Luizzi reviewed the budget for the Fire Station. He showed a side-by-side comparison between the two sites, and visual representations of the two sites.

The focus of the study was to minimize response times, maximize available city resources, and be close to the optimal site location.

Staff recommends relocating FS 181 to 137th Avenue and Test Drive in Palm Valley Crossing. Both of the sites are very similar in response times, but there are more unknowns for the site south of PD operations and there is a land cost consideration involved for that site.

Council Discussion:

>Asked if all three stations will be designed at the same time to save money. Chief Luizzi responded, yes, that the footprint will be the same for all three of the designs but the orientation will be different.

>Asked if there have been any concerns expressed by the business owners in the area. Chief Luizzi responded that staff had a conversation with the president of the landowners' association, but have not met with all of the owners yet. A meeting is set for this Thursday.

City Manager Brian Dalke spoke about the meeting between the president, Mr. Yates (owner of Yates Pontiac GMC). Mr. Yates questioned how often the fire trucks would come in and out and what route they would take. Chief Luizzi informed him that emergency calls average one every two hours. Based on that meeting, it was decided to set up a meeting with the rest of the HOA members this week.

>Asked if there will be a lot of noise generated by the new fire station. Chief Luizzi responded, yes. Lights and sirens are used in order to have the safest response time.

>Questioned whether this is really the best location, as it appears that the PD Operations site gives more coverage to Goodyear. Chief Luizzi responded that one of the things that does not show up on the response time maps are future roads. As future roads are added, the other areas will benefit with better response times.

>Feels it would be better to have the new fire station located near the PD facility.

- >Concerned with the Test Drive location since Goodyear is not building in that direction (east). Feels a location further west would be better.
- >Concerned that building FS 181 at the Test Drive location would mean there would be three fire stations within four square miles, and within eyesight of an existing fire station in Avondale.
- >The four minute response time goes well into the city of Avondale. Since we are not within the four minute response time window on Estrella Parkway south of Van Buren Street, it would be more beneficial to locate FS 181 more to the west. This would still provide Avondale with great coverage, but also provide tremendous centralized coverage.
- >The FS Study chose their suggested locations based on historical call volumes, which may not be a good indicator in this case.
- >Looking at the maps and the coverage, and the pros and cons, both locations appear fairly equal. Feels that the location south of PD Operations would provide better coverage.
- >It appears that the FS would be hidden at the Test Drive location. Feels it would be better to have the station more visible.
- >Growth appears to be headed more to the west and the south, so it would make more sense to locate the station in more of a centralized location for that area.
- >Asked why the Test Drive location was selected. Chief Luizzi stated that the developer who owns the land on McDowell Road site also owns the land on Test Drive and there is an opportunity to negotiate some sort of swap at little to no cost to the General Fund, rather than buying the entire piece of land outright.
- >Asked if the owner of the land south of PD Operations is willing to sell the land. Chief Luizzi responded that staff has not had any conversations with the developer yet.
- >Clarified that moving the site to south of PD Operations will require money to purchase the land (estimated to be close to \$350,000), as well as \$300,000 for the traffic light, plus infrastructure.
- >Wants to know if we can purchase the land and the entire cost for the project. Timing could affect the completion date. Wants a report on all the various moving pieces before a final decision is made.
- >For historical perspective, Council stated that FS 183 was built by SunCor on a piece of free land on the Goodyear/Avondale border. The location was used primarily because it was free. Relocating FS 181 into the right spot is critical from a public safety standpoint.
- >Thanked Chief Luizzi for trying to keep costs down by possibly doing a land swap, but feels the location south of PD Operations is a better area.

Mr. Dalke verified that staff will look at locations near the PD Operations location and bring back estimated costs and details on timing to Council before moving forward.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Comments, Commendations, Report on Current Events and Presentations by Mayor, Council Members, staff or members of the public.

Council attended or reported on the following:

- >Tour of the Michael Lewis and Company facility.
- >Congratulated Mayor Lord and Mr. Mellon for receiving distinguished awards for their dedication to our community from the Meals of Joy.
- >Anniversary ribbon cutting event for Foot Solutions and Estrella Cabinetry, located on PebbleCreek Pkwy and McDowell Rd.
- >Special Olympics Swimming and VIP Reception at Millenium High School.
- >Tour of the Military Veterans Resource Network building, which is going to be opening soon.
- >Attended the Arizona Manufacturers Summit.
- >Thanked everyone for the engagement that went on at last weeks Strategic Planning Retreat.

2. Manager's Summary of Current Events and Reports

The Manager may provide a brief summary of current events; however, there can be discussion only on the following matters:

1. Manager's Update on Council Related Matters:

- >Fall Festival at the Goodyear Ballpark is this coming Saturday from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

2. Update of Legislative Issues:

None.

3. Staff Summary of follow up action required:

4. Council members may direct inquiries to staff:

None.

5. Future Agenda Items:

None.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Lord adjourned the Work Session at 6:16 p.m.

Darcie McCracken, City Clerk

Georgia Lord, Mayor

Date: _____