

WORK SESSION—AUGUST 29, 2019

Minutes of the Huntsville Town Council Work Session, held at the Huntsville Town Hall, 7309 East 200 South at 6:30 PM regarding the purposed round-about.

Attending: Mayor Truett, CM Bill Wangsgard, CM Wendy McKay, Rex Harris, Richard Sorenson, Dave Robinson

Mayor Truett welcomed the Town Council Members. He wanted to talk about the round-about in a work session. He explained that we had talked about the round-about in a public meeting previously but wanted to work through some of the obstacles with a project like this. He wanted to let everyone that he has talked with CM Max Ferre'. Mayor Truett has also received an opinion email from Blake. Mayor Truett stated Max has changed his mind about the round-about and is not in favor of it. Blake has also expressed his opinion which is leaning toward no round-about. **(See Attachment #1)** Mayor Truett stated he can see both sides.

Mayor Truett has met with Gary regarding the issue of plowing. He has also driven around with Mike LaRose regarding the paving of the road. Mike was not in favor of the round-about. Mayor Truett got a bid from Mike for repaving with a crown in the road so that the road would be well drained at that intersection. Mayor Truett turned the time over to Rex, Town Engineer.

Rex stated that as a traffic engineer, he recognizes that round-about have their place and serve a purpose but doesn't believe that this intersection is a place for a round-about. He stated he did some research regarding how the Town could add a round about to this location. Rex stated he drew the smallest size round-about that would be allowed. It would require a driving speed of 10-15 mph. At this size with outside curbs installed, there is about 18 feet of lane. At the allowed speed, trailers can get through the intersection straight through the round-about.

Mayor Truett asked if there was a better way to slow the flow of traffic at that intersection, since that was the main idea of the round-about. Rex stated that the wide-open road feeling of this intersection makes people comfortable speeding. He stated the best way to slow traffic is to narrow the road. Rex believes the bulb outs between the park and the soccer fields (hotel) would slow traffic. Mayor Truett asked about a four way stop.

Rex states that a four-way stop would be a little difficult at this intersection because the stop signs are not all visible because of the awkwardness of the intersection. The current stop signs are set back and in order to move the stop signs forward, there would need to be concrete islands that come out to present the stop sign.

CM Wendy McKay like the idea of a quaint looking deterrent. She stated she liked the idea of changing the texture or color of the pavement. The walkways/crosswalk could be outlined or marked with a different texture or color. With additional planters, which could be removable, it could make the street look great and still be able to slow traffic. She also stated that many of the solutions that have been given provide a lot of obstacles for snow plowing.

Rex stated the Council needed to be mindful of the maintenance that will be involved.

Mayor Truett asked Rex if we could push out the cross-walk, change the texture of the area that would act as a cross walk and then still make it a four way stop. Rex stated there are safety standards for cross walks. Not having “real” cross walks would give pedestrians a false sense of security. Rex explained that driver expectancy plays a big part in this intersection. He stated there might be a need for additional signage to prevent the driver’s running the lights. Rex stated the best idea for slowing traffic is bulb out’s for the street between the hotel and the park.

Mayor Truett stated that the reason the road is so wide is because of school buses for the elementary school. Mayor Truett still likes the idea of the bulb outs in addition to the changes in the intersection with texture and color. CM McKay is supportive of both ideas. CM Bill Wangsgard likes both ideas as well. Rex pointed out that the winter plowing done between the park and hotel could be plowed straight down the street. The winter parking at that street is not in demand.

Mayor Truett purposed putting the asphaltting job on the agenda for the next Town Council. He gave Rex the assignment of putting together this plan for the Town Council Meeting next week. Rex likes this idea better than a round-about. Mayor Truett stated the main idea is safety. He believes it needs to be a four-way stop.

Richard Sorenson commented he liked the new idea presented. Mayor Truett asked Rex if he could put together some drawings for the 5th of September. Mayor Truett will present the Council with a plan to pave the intersection this year and then they will try to asphalt first and then put the plan together for a four-way stop and bulb-outs down the street between the park and the hotel.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Beckki Endicott, Recorder