
Minutes of the **Regular Meeting/Special Town Meeting** of the **Riverdale City Council** held Wednesday, **February 24, 2010** at 6:34 p.m. at the Riverdale Senior Center, 4433 S. 900 W.

Members Present: Bruce Burrows, Mayor
David Gibby, Councilor
Shelly Jenkins, Councilor
Don Hunt, Councilor
Norm Searle, Councilor
Alan Arnold, Councilor

Others Present: Larry Hansen, City Administrator; Steve Brooks, City Attorney; Lynn Moulding, Public Works Director; Randy Daily, Community Development Director; Dave Hansen, Police Chief; James Ebert, Police Lieutenant; Doug Illum, Fire Chief; Jeannette Hall, Community Services Director; Marilyn Banasky, City Recorder; and 145 citizens.

A. Welcome & Roll Call

Mayor Burrows called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present. He noted that all Councilmembers were present. He stated that this is a Town Meeting and also a City Council meeting with a public hearing regarding Ritter Drive.

B. Update from Police and Public Works on the Ritter Drive 90 day trial period

Police Lieutenant, James Ebert, reported that most of the data they collected was from the speed signs that were placed on Ritter Drive and that the other information was from their records management system regarding citations and accidents. He explained that he looked at three areas when collecting data: 1) safety; 2) traffic volume and 3) speed. He stated that he looked at data on Ritter Drive from December 2, 2008 – February 9, 2009 and compared it to December 1, 2009 – February 9, 2010. He reported that there has been no big increase or decrease in accidents, but that citations increased significantly due to the road closure. He reported that traffic volume has decreased since the road was closed and that the speed of traffic has remained consistent. He stated that there has been no change in the area of safety and speed, but a big change on traffic volume since the road was closed.

Lynn Moulding reported that he had nothing new to report.

C. Action Items

1. a. Hold public hearing to receive and consider the flow and travel of traffic on Ritter Drive.

Mayor Burrows reported that he had been contacted by several individuals who were not able to come tonight and wanted their information read into the record. He explained that he would not read the entire letters, but the individuals name and substance of their letter.

Gary & Lori Boatright, Brian Ripley, Aaron Josley, Laura Decker, Jeffery Pealer, Kirt Bloxham and family, and Tracy Kelson all oppose closure of the road. He stated that he received three letters that are in favor of either a partial closure or full closure of the road.

Mayor Burrows opened the public hearing at 6:46 p.m.

Mary McDonald reported that she lives by the Motor Vu drive-in and her husband goes to work at the Roy entrance to Hill. She stated that this change will cost him approximately 700 more miles per year to get to work. She inquired how many of the Mayor and Council live on that stretch of road. She stated that tells her why that road is a private drive and if the residents on that road want to keep it that way, they should maintain it themselves.

Gary Griffiths reported that he appreciated the editorial in the newspaper by Tracy Kelson and knows she is upset that some of the questions she asked have not been responded to. He stated that he filed a GRAMA request with Riverdale City, UDOT, and Homeland Security to request any and all information on Freeway Park Drive, Ritter Drive and 1500 West for the last five years. He explained that in order to do an accurate traffic study they need five years of data. He reported that he found information on the internet that UDOT has an ATRS at 1150 West and Ritter Drive where it has been doing traffic counts for the last three years. He explained that in 2007 the traffic count was 3,000 and in 2008 was 2855. He distributed a copy of the report to the Mayor and Council. He stated that he has had a number of accidents at his home on Ritter Drive and has parked their truck on the lawn in front of the house because the street sign and utility pole have been hit before. He reported that during inclement weather a car went through and totaled the truck parked in front of his house and if it had not been there, the car would have went in the house where his boy slept. He reported that a car also came through and wiped out his fence right where the kids are picked up by the school bus and that the parents contacted the school district and changed the bus stop because of Ritter Drive.

Jay Tillotson reported that he has lived on 1200 West since 1972 and has seen an increase of traffic when the private schools were approved without taking into consideration of how kids would get to school. He stated that the parents drop their kids off and go up Ritter Drive. He suggested that they make both schools have exits that turn north only and direct them to Riverdale Road and have an officer make sure they stay off Ritter Drive. He feels they should consider the safety of the kids up there as the kids in Cherry Creek have to cross the frontage road to catch the bus. He stated that they should open the road back up like a public road, and make the school people drop people off at the school on Riverdale Road instead of Ritter Drive.

Michael Hendry reported that he does not live on Ritter Drive but has enjoyed the slow flow of traffic and wants it to continue. He stated that someone in the audience wants to know how the Larry H Miller move will affect the traffic.

Leo Morin reported that he has lived on 1225 West for the last 17 years and that over the years he has watched a lot of improvements on Ritter Drive and has seen traffic increase. He stated that the speed limit has been decreased to 25 mph and the solar operated radar signs are an improvement. He wondered if the 1500 West road extension had also caused traffic issues. He stated that over the course of the years it seems like everything has been done

except putting in speed bumps. He stated that he has nothing against the people on the street but feels that speed bumps might be a consideration. He explained that he personally finds the extra detour he takes, puts him about 1 mile round trip out of his way. He wondered if it was possible to abandon the small stopped section of the street and let them make it a gated community or dead end it and take care of it themselves.

Linda Baird reported that she lived on Ritter Drive and thinks what they did is fine and closing the road is great. She stated that when you buy a home you want a neighborhood and not a freeway, so if they have to take a 60 second detour, that isn't an issue. She reported that there are children on the street and that there is a safety issue as there are no sidewalks, the road narrows, and people don't obey the speed limit. She reported that the people who live on that street know what goes on. She stated that people on Ritter Drive know how bad it is when they try to turn into their driveways and people got mad. She thought it was a good thing even though her house was taken to make room for the 1500 West road extension. She knows a lot of people don't have to put up with what they have to as it is a dangerous small road with an extreme amount of traffic.

Caron Boswell reported that she appreciates what the City did as it taught her to go different ways but feels it isn't fair to close that road. She wonders what will happen when Falcon Hill comes in and where will the traffic go.

Rodney Hammond reported that he lives south of Christian Heritage and has been in Riverdale for 6 to 7 years. He stated that he has been impacted by the closure as he goes to work through the Roy gate. He stated that his main concern is the amount of traffic that is being diverted to the side roads and increase on 5150 South and down 5175 South. He feels that this is just diverting the problem from the intersection of Ritter Drive and Freeway Park Drive to 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive. He feels that intersection is more dangerous to make a left turn.

Bart Howell lives on Ritter Drive and has a speed limit sign outside of his kitchen window. He stated that since the speed signs went in, the kids clock themselves to see how fast they go. He reported that there are no sidewalks in front of his house where kids catch the bus and he thinks that is dangerous. He feels that they should close the road and that it is not a burden to know that kids will be safer on that road. He stated that his wife was getting the mail and almost got hit by a car when the road was closed. He feels another problem is other people using the road, not Riverdale residents.

Rebecca Holland reported that she grew up on Ritter Drive and when she was a kid, Ritter Drive was not a busy street but later became that way. She stated that traffic has slowed down with the partial closing but people are not obeying the road closed signs and she feels that traffic will increase again. She stated that she is not sure that the partial closing at Freeway Park Drive will work, as people go around the sign anyway. Her other concern is at the intersection by the Cinedome as it is a nightmare whether you are turning left or right.

Doug Bennion stated that both he and his mom have a concern at the top by Cherry Creek because the bus has to go up there and turn to go down Ritter Drive to pick up the kids on Ritter, which puts the kids at Cherry Creek at risk. He also thinks that having to take the turn

there will cause an accident there. He feels it is easier to open the road up and put a light at the top of Ritter Drive.

Sterling Bennion reported that with the way it is now, the bus stops on the other side of the frontage road across from Cherry Creek. He stated that the kids have to cross in front or behind it and then cross the frontage road which is a hazard to children. He thinks that diverting the traffic is a short term solution to a growing problem and that traffic will continue to increase. He stated that the real solution is to improve Ritter Drive and the short term solution is to put a light at the top so that cars can turn onto the frontage road. His other concern is about the legality of closing a public road as their taxes pay for that road.

Lori Fleming stated that she is speaking on behalf of her parents, Howard and Deann Dixon, who live on Ritter Drive. She read a letter from her parents who expressed their thankfulness for the change on Ritter Drive. They stated that it has been a blessing not to worry and be able to pull in and out of their driveway.

Ranier Such reported that he lives on 1250 West and is a school bus driver for Weber School District and that he picks up at Cherry Creek. He stated that prior to the closure, when kids crossed the road, cars would run the reds and that he had a few incidents where kids were hit. He reported that since closing the road, he hasn't had one problem as there isn't any traffic coming down Ritter Drive and South Weber Drive. He stated that he turns around at Cherry Creek and picks up and drops off on the right side so the kids do not have to cross the road. He is for Ritter Drive either being closed, leaving it how it is now, or putting in speed bumps. He feels there is definitely a safety issue with kids on that road.

Kevin Higgs reported that he watched Ritter Drive as he grew up and it was pretty quiet. He stated that he lives on a private drive, but they own it. He feels that we all pay taxes and should have use of it. He stated that South Weber Drive is very busy as well and has had people also flip him off when pulling into his private drive. He stated that this is creating precedence and everyone will want the City to do it for their busy roads. He feels that if the City closes it off or makes it one-way they should do it for him on South Weber Drive.

Randy Kariger reported that he lives on South Weber Drive and thinks it is great to close the road and have a private road, but If they do it for Ritter, do it for South Weber Drive. He stated that then he could back out and go to work without causing a traffic jam.

Jess Decaria stated that when he bought property it was against a hill and the flood came on Sunday. He reported that the previous person said cars came down Ritter Drive and hit a truck and he feels that people have to take precautions on their own to protect their house. He stated that he is not against closing, or for closing Ritter. He thinks that those in favor of closing Ritter Drive have lost one perspective of it. He feels if the road is closed and they go to sell their houses, they will only get pennies on the dollar for them. He stated that there have been accidents but people must learn to protect themselves first and not depend on others to do it. He feels that it will affect all our property taxes and that they will lose value on their homes.

Connie Sherman reported that she lives on Ritter Drive and thanked them for the changes and stated that she has seen a big difference as the road is no longer a freeway and she can get out

of her driveway. She wondered how many of them would like to have a freeway and semi trucks driving past their house as that is what was on Ritter Drive until the changes were made. She stated that in just the last 5 to 6 years they have had this terrible problem with the traffic. She appreciates some of the comments and would like to have the street blocked off like it was years ago and thinks it would be wonderful to have it that way again.

John Anderson reported that he has owned his home for 24 years. He stated that he works on base and uses Ritter Drive every day. He stated that it has not inconvenienced him one bit to go to work on base and that the inconvenience isn't that big of a deal. He reported that his back yard is on 1050 and the traffic has been cut on that road. He is in favor of closing the road.

Robert Milne reported that he has lived on South Weber Drive for 26 years. He is concerned that this is one side against the other and that he can sympathize with them. He stated that everyone in Riverdale is experiencing traffic as we cater to business. He stated that South Weber Drive is a motor speed way for the car lots in Riverdale and that he would like to know how many accidents there have been at the hair pin turn on South Weber Drive. He reported that since this has happened, he hasn't seen an officer patrolling South Weber Drive. He feels we need all the ingress and egress out of this town that we can and that it makes no sense to close Ritter Drive. He stated that it needs to be controlled but his concern is who is paying for that and if there is an accident on Riverdale Road, where will the traffic go? He feels they should either widen it or control it.

Michelle Haggerty stated that she lives south of Ritter Drive and hated the closure. She reported that a few weeks ago she realized the traffic was less. She stated that as far as safety goes, she feels it is better as there is less traffic. She is neutral now, but a few weeks ago she didn't want it closed.

Art Sansa reported that he lives on 700 West and based on the data he sees no basis to close the road other than reducing the traffic flow. He stated that other than the preferences of the residents, he sees no reason to close it.

Kathleen Sandberg thinks that the decreased traffic flow has helped Ritter Drive but she is concerned about the 1500 West and Riverdale Road intersection. She reported that in 2008, there were 19 accidents in that intersection where there were only three at Ritter Drive and Freeway Park Drive. She feels something needs to be done for Ritter Drive but that there needs to be a safe way for residents south of Ritter to get into their homes, or go to Salt Lake, or work. She doesn't think 1500 West is a safe way to go based on the information received from UDOT and until they can get something safer in that area, Ritter drive should remain open. She feels that once the safety issues are taken care of then she has no problem closing Ritter Drive.

Wayne Higgs stated that if they close it completely there is not enough room to turn a bus there and kids will have to walk to the end of the road. He understands that Ritter drive is a Weber County road and wonders how can the City change property they don't own? He stated that if it is a Weber County road the City must have their permission to change it. He reported that he works for the State of Utah and has talked to UDOT employees. He stated that this has affected their travel and will increase our tax base. He stated that South Weber

Drive is part of a national historic highway that went from coast to coast and if Ritter Drive is a continuation of that, then they have changed that. He reported that he grew up on 1150 and had HAFB traffic going by his home at 45 mph. He stated that his dad put up a 6 foot chain link fence to protect them. He understands where people are coming from when they say they are flipped off and hit but he has never heard of a child being hit on Ritter Drive.

Marian Griffiths reported that her son was hit on his motorcycle on Ritter Drive as a hit and run accident. She stated that she takes her son to HAFB every morning and drives around the loop and it is not a big deal. She stated that when she hears about complaints from people from other cities going up Ritter Drive that she is amazed that they complain. She stated that there is a way to snow plow cul-de-sacs and that they have several traffic studies. She stated that this is the biggest turnout she has seen for a meeting regarding Ritter Drive. She reported that they will not be building a rock wall in her front yard as she doesn't think she should have to do that. She asked the City Council to vote not on emotion, but on facts.

Tracy Kelson reported that she would like to address a few things. She stated that she would like to address the reason that people from other cities complain. She stated that she grew up in Riverdale and her parents live on South Weber Drive and she is familiar with the road. She stated that she now lives in Roy, which is the sister city of Riverdale. She stated that the people who come to Riverdale to shop will go elsewhere. She stated that people from other cities do care. She wondered if the people on Ritter would complain if South Weber Drive was closing as it is not safe down there. She stated that you don't close a road for no reason. It is just not right.

Virginia Molyneaus stated that she is concerned with the intersection of 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive, regardless of what happens to Ritter Drive. She feels that something needs to happen at that intersection but also at the other end. She wondered why put up a stop sign there, because if they close that road, why not come up the road without stopping.

Don Higgs reported that he has lived in Riverdale since 1956. He stated that he sat in meeting a week ago where the City Council discussed Ritter Drive and 700 West. He thinks people need to think about when Riverdale Road wasn't even there and remember that traffic will increase on our roads. He wondered if they were going to close all the roads when they get busier or do we need to just live with some of this. He suggested widening Ritter Drive. He reported that his house was taken out by the freeway in 1964 and thinks they should widen it to four lanes and put a traffic signal at the top. He thinks the problem just moved from one intersection to the other.

Rena Zentz reported that this is more complicated than she first realized. She thinks the construction on Riverdale Road helps but is concerned about 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive. She feels they changed one problem for another and inconvenienced a lot of people. She doesn't see improvement and opposes the closure.

Trina Hansen stated that she used to live on 5100 and now lives off Ritter Drive. She reported that a kid did almost get hit on Ritter Drive when catching the bus. She thinks there is a safety issue. She reported that when turning right off 1345 West she almost got rear ended and was honked at. She does go to Layton to work and now goes on Riverdale Road and is concerned about that light being so long.

Sandy Hunt reported that she has lived in Riverdale for 21 years and that she doesn't have an opinion, but wants something done. She knows people are angry because they have to take an alternative route but thinks the issue started when the commercial area came and Riverdale Road got busy. She stated that it is actually faster to take Riverdale Road and 1500 West home. She knows that people are angry but that all the people are asking for is a quiet neighborhood like they used to have.

Will Maxwell wondered if there was a way to make Ritter Drive safer while keeping it open. He stated that he lives on South Weber Drive and walks up Ritter Drive to go to Roy. He feels it would be nice to have curb, gutter, and sidewalk as the road is narrow. He reported that one Christmas Eve they had eight cars crash into their property on South Weber Drive. He stated that a neighbor down the street installed a 4" steel pipe fence after someone crashed into their yard. He doesn't think the government should have to take care of them.

RaeAnn Brown stated that she doesn't feel it is fair to have a private driveway. She stated that she pays sales tax in Riverdale and will shop elsewhere if Ritter Drive remains closed. She reported that there is a problem with snow and 1500 west. She stated that the people on Ritter Drive have a problem and feels it should be widened, made safer, and sidewalks put in.

Dale Baker reported that he is opposed to the closing of Ritter Drive. He is concerned about the intersection of 1500 West and Freeway Park drive as it is scary. He feels if they really want to help Ritter drive, they should put a round-a-bout on it.

Jane Hall reported that she lives on 5175 South and appreciates Riverdale Road. She thinks a lot of people outside of the city are using Riverdale Road and is concerned about Larry Miller moving to the Cinedome property as that will increase traffic. She is also concerned that the businesses south of the Cinedome property will bring additional traffic. She is opposed to closing Ritter Drive for that reason. She stated that they need to have more than 5175 South to move traffic. She appreciates the problems on Ritter Drive and feels something needs to be done.

Mike Davis reported that he lives on Ritter Drive and although he understands that the police officer says there is not a safety issue, he has lived on the bottom of Ritter Drive for 20 years the traffic gets backed up. He stated that there will be 8 to 10 cars backed up between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. He also understands the safety issue at the 1500 intersection and was under the impression that when Riverdale Road was improved, that would help Ritter Drive traffic. He stated that when their children go out to play, they have them play in the back or side yard. He feels the speeders on the road are the people traveling through the area. He reported that since the road was closed his kids can cross the street. He feels that people will find out that Riverdale Road gets them to their place more freely and he appreciates what is being done. He stated that he initially didn't want the road completely closed but that now he wants the road completely closed.

Whitney Snitchler reported that she understands the traffic flow is a lot. She recently hit someone who ran the stop sign and had to have a Roy officer respond to the accident as the Riverdale officers were busy. She is opposed to closing it and thinks they should leave it open for emergencies.

Alan Murphy reported that his frustration is that it looks like they are favoring people at the top of the hill. He stated that if they are going to block it off, then block it off as it is a pain to go around. If they are going to open it up, put in curb, gutter, and sidewalks. He stated that he likes it either way.

Eileen Poulson reported that when there is a snow storm people can barely make it up or down Ritter Drive. She stated that she works at HAFB and slid down the hill in the last snow storm. She reported that South Weber Drive is a state road where Ritter Drive is a city road.

Pat Crezee wondered when Aunt Nancy's Assisted Living center gets built if it will exit on to the frontage road or onto Ritter Drive. Randy Daily reported that it will exit on to Ritter Drive. Ms. Crezee wondered if they thought of making Ritter one-way from 1500 West to the frontage road westbound so they can still use Ritter Drive. She feels this would also stop traffic from coming down the hill when it was stormy if all the traffic was westbound. She reported that the City standards say that cul-de-sacs are not desirable. She stated that the assisted living center will cause more EMS people to go in and have longer response times if Ritter isn't looked at. She stated that the paramedics for Riverdale must come from Roy.

Lynn Wheeler stated that he would like to see Ritter Drive remain closed.

Chad Buckner reported that the changes have been great and that he has noticed a whole lot less traffic. He feels that when it comes to safety, the traffic volume is key. He stated that the whole Ritter Drive thing has been a problem for many years. He reported that he has lived at the very top of Ritter for the last 2 to 3 years and that it has been extremely busy. He stated that there have been a lot of things brought up in this meeting that opened his eyes. He stated that for those of us who live there, the quality has been improved. He feels that something needs to be done and believes the road closure would be great for him but that he can only speak for himself. He appreciates what has been done.

Holly Snitchler has lived in Riverdale for 32 years and has seen a lot of things go on. She has noticed the traffic getting heavier with development and that the private school on 1050 West has had an impact. She feels for the residents on Ritter Drive and feels their needs should be addressed. She feels that closing roads is not the answer to improving traffic and that this can be addressed in other ways. She stated that the lights are long on Riverdale Road now and the 1500 West intersection is dangerous. She always felt there were only one or two ways out and to have one taken away makes her feel trapped. She stated that it seems like the wrong direction to cut out roads. She suggested brainstorming and getting solutions with the same passions as have been expressed tonight. She feels that closing roads will decrease her property value. She also feels that she doesn't want to pay for maintenance and upkeep for a private drive.

Christopher Higgs stated that he feels one issue is people who live outside of the City are causing problems on Ritter Drive. He stated that the solution is to block it off to non-residents of Riverdale or charge a toll to non-residents.

Jeff Abbot reported that he has lived in Riverdale for 20 years and that he believes Ritter is a safety concern. He would recommend opening it back up and doing another study to see if it

is that bad. He stated that people have gotten used to traveling on Riverdale Road and feels the statistics will change.

Richard Hall thinks that the problem started after the flood on Ritter Drive and that businesses have compounded the issue. He feels that if they widen the road, that will also compound the issue. He did question the accident count on upper Ritter Drive as he feels there have been a lot of accidents there. He is concerned about 1500 west and thinks people go too fast down that hill. He reported that there was once talk of making Ritter a toll road and issue ID's to residents, and charge others a small amount to use that road.

Nona Watkins reported that traffic will increase everywhere over time and the problem will get bigger. She feels putting that amount of traffic on roads will just complicate it even more and that Riverdale Road is confusing and dangerous during construction. She would like to see it more livable for everyone.

Hank Cragun stated that he appreciates the Mayor and Council and is glad that the residents don't have to make those decisions.

Stacey Davis reported that her major concern is the safety of Ritter Drive. She has seen children get off the bus and they almost get hit. She appreciates what has been done.

John Anderson stated that he has heard people talk about taxes and reported that he has had to call the City to plow his road every time.

Motion: Councilor Gibby moved to close the public hearing. Councilor Arnold seconded the motion.

Call the Question:

The motion passed unanimously.

The public hearing was closed at 8:21 p.m.

b. Consideration of action concerning the flow and travel of traffic on Ritter Drive.

Mayor Burrows reported that he appreciates the comments and opened the floor up to the Councilmembers for discussion.

Councilor Hunt reported that he appreciates the participation and understands that this is a very emotional topic with residents on either side of the issue. He stated that there was an inference that this was being pursued by the Council because they live by Ritter Drive, and if anyone is affected by this change, it is those that live closest to it. He stated that he travels Ritter Drive daily and the bottom line is our neighborhoods are impacted because of the excessive traffic. He cited that the Wilbur Smith study reported that the road was not designed for the amount of traffic that it currently has and that it has become an east-west corridor with no sidewalks, curb, or gutter. He stated that he looked at the potential of making Ritter one-way eastbound to 1500 West, which would allow traffic flow to access Ritter from Freeway Park Drive and could take traffic away from the 1500 West intersection, and eliminate the west bound traffic and redirect them to Riverdale Road.

Councilor Searle reported that he thinks it is important for the City Council to try to make a decision in the best interest of all of south Riverdale. He stated that he doesn't like the way things are now and that the citations that were issued have promoted anger and compounded it. He believes there are safety issues on Ritter Drive and that the residents of south Riverdale need another way out. He explained that the Wilbur Smith study gave three options to get traffic out. 1) have a parallel road running along side of Ritter Drive; 2) Connect 1150 West to 5600 South in Roy; 3) upgrade Ritter Drive. Councilor Searle reported that upgrading Ritter Drive would cost between \$4 to \$5 million dollars and that these funds are not available. He feels it would be nice to have more than one option to help spread the traffic out on the south end of the City and that he knows the residents on 1150 West were very opposed to having additional traffic on their road. He stated that he thinks we need to compromise. He reported that during the January City Council meeting, Kathleen Sandberg expressed some of the same thoughts she did tonight on the intersection of 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive and recommended making the west end of Ritter Drive one-way going west. He stated that by doing that it would take care of the problem of the intersection of 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive and also give people in south Riverdale a way to go up Ritter Drive to go to the base, freeway, or Roy. He explained that coming home for people would take longer to go around on Freeway Park Drive and turn onto 1500 West, but thinks that is something that should be considered and thinks it is workable. He is concerned that traffic going westbound would increase, but feels that some measures could be done there to try to keep traffic slow. He suggested considering speed bumps on South Weber Drive and Ritter Drive to slow traffic and feels they still need to upgrade and widen Ritter to make it better as funds become available and enforce the speed limit. Councilor Searle reported that he has received requests from residents to make the speed limit 30 - 35 mph and lower the speed limit to 25 mph from Cherry Creek to 1500 West to help slow the flow of traffic. He thinks a round-a-bout on the east end of Ritter Drive would keep traffic flowing and help with safety concerns. He also recommended that there be a separate right and left turn lanes at the west end of Ritter Drive to turn onto Freeway Park Drive.

Councilor Jenkins reported that the City has no jurisdiction over South Weber Drive, Riverdale Road, 1050 West, and 1150 West as they are all state roads. She stated that they understand that South Weber Drive has the same kind of problems as Ritter Drive, but that they can't deal with them. She stated that the traffic study indicated that if there is a round-a-bout on the west end that there should also be one on the east end, but the City doesn't have jurisdiction on the east end and she feels that would attract more traffic on Ritter Drive with a round-a-bout. She reported that in order to upgrade Ritter Drive, the City would have to purchase the right-of-way and widen the street to 60 feet and even if the City were to get federal matching funds they would still need to bond. Councilor Jenkins reported that the 2004 Wilbur Smith traffic study didn't take into consideration the recent changes of 1500 West and the impact on the intersection of 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive. She stated that the road was in failure in 2004 because of backing at the west end and that the east-west corridors are a major concern. She reported that every solution has an impact on someone and that there is a serious issue with Ritter Drive that they can't ignore. She stated that they are all concerned with the impact to the intersection of 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive and inquired if there was any interest to have a quick impact study done at a very reasonable cost to the City to provide an alternative access. She explained that they have not closed the road and she thinks they still need to look at things. She suggested getting numbers together and talk to staff, traffic engineers and people who have expertise in this area.

Councilor Arnold reported that he lives just off Ritter Drive and enjoys the peace it has brought, but thinks the way it was set up was a bad idea. He thinks the change has brought a lot of good things and has lowered the number of cars on Ritter Drive. He stated that he works on base and doesn't have a problem taking the detour. He stated some ideas in the traffic study are not feasible and would like to bring commercial creep to their attention. He reported that he is against the commercial creep and wants to keep residential areas residential. He thinks the traffic studies are outdated now that 1500 West and Riverdale Road are finished. He stated that he knows the biggest issue is the bad drivers and that makes Ritter Drive unsafe. He feels that with Ritter Drive being an east-west corridor and with emergency vehicles, and traffic patterns, they have boxed themselves in. He feels they need to do traffic calming measures and strictly enforce the 25 mph speed limit. He reported that he would not be in favor of closing the road as he doesn't feel that is legally correct. He thinks it should always be an option to have Ritter Drive open.

Councilor Gibby stated that he appreciates so many people coming and that he has been worried about Ritter Drive everyday he has been on the Council. He reported that he doesn't think that having 2,000 cars travel on Ritter Drive is a viable alternative and has been disappointed at the "poor me" attitude that has been displayed tonight. He stated that he views Ritter Drive all day long from his business and can see 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive and has watched the intersection. He reported that the longest wait time a car had was 1 minute 20 seconds. He wants to be a good neighbor and hasn't seen that tonight. He stated that he doesn't think restoring Ritter Drive to 2,000 cars a day is a viable option and they can either close it or they can make it one-way and hope that traffic doesn't come back. He feels that making it one-way westbound could help solve the problem at 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive and that they would need to put traffic calming devices for traffic going the other way. He stated they could make it one-way eastbound, but thinks one-way westbound makes more sense with traffic flow. He hopes they will do what is good for everyone and be kind to people who live on Ritter Drive and face these kinds of problems. He recommended making traffic one-way westbound and put in traffic calming devices other than leaving it the way it is.

Mayor Burrows reported that there are a lot of things in the works and discussed Falcon Hill and the Larry H Miller development and how they might affect traffic. He stated that they will need to take them into account and be extremely cautious that they are not compounding the problem. He feels they have moved the problem from one place to another and stated that he was not in favor of closing Ritter Drive. He recommend that they take another 90 days and look at one of the options proposed tonight. He favors the one-way westbound from 1500 West to Freeway Park Drive and knows that they will still have a stacking effect.

Councilor Hunt reported that he thinks doing nothing is not an option and that he would never be in favor of going back. He is concerned with backup at Ritter Drive and Freeway Park Drive, but if westbound traffic is allowed at that intersection it will take pressure off the intersection at 1500 West and Freeway Park Drive. Councilor Jenkins stated that they have moved approximately 1,500 cars a day and that not all the cars are at the 1500 W/Freeway Park Drive intersection as they have found new routes. She feels the backing on Ritter Drive will make it unbearable and that she doesn't consider being a resident of Riverdale that it is a luxury to get out of our driveway. She thinks it needs to be carefully looked at and doesn't

want to keep changing the road and causing more confusion. She stated that she would be more in favor of leaving the changes in place to look at other options. She recommended doing a quick impact study and try to make the wisest decisions as they move forward. She wants to get back with staff and inquire further into an engineering study. She stated that she is not ready to vote on this tonight. Councilor Arnold reported that he really wants to push the sense of community and that he likes Councilor Gibby's compromise. He asked Chief Hansen to strictly enforce the 25 mph speed limit on Ritter. Councilor Searle reported that he agrees with Councilor Arnold and thinks the situation shouldn't continue. He thinks that they need to make a decision and eliminate the problem. Councilor Gibby recommended making Ritter Drive one-way westbound and restrict/narrow the road at 1500 West to one lane and put speed bumps there to discourage people from going westbound. Lynn Moulding reported that those changes could be accomplished within ten days to two weeks and would cost around \$5,000 to implement. Mayor Burrows suggested putting in table top or inverted V speed bumps. Mr. Moulding replied those would be more difficult to install quickly as asphalt is not available. He stated that they would have to do temporary speed bumps. Councilor Searle stated that if they slow the traffic going westbound, he feels that they should also slow the traffic going eastbound also. Councilor Hunt asked Councilor Gibby to clarify what he means by narrowing the road. Councilor Gibby stated that Ritter Drive would be narrowed down to one lane wide going westbound from 1500 West to Freeway Park Drive and have speed bumps put there to discourage traffic. He stated that the road would open back up to two lanes at the stop sign at Ritter Drive and Freeway Park Drive for right and left turn lanes. Councilor Hunt reported that he is not opposed to trying options, but feels that people are confused already. He stated that he would experiment to try to get it right but would still do the study as he is concerned about the backup on Ritter Drive and Freeway Park Drive. Councilor Arnold stated that the previous traffic study cost \$50,000 and that they talked about how tight current funding is during Strategic Planning and feels that the previous study has options they can't afford. He recommended having an experiment for 90 days would be happy to have traffic calming measures in place instead of paying for a new study. Councilor Searle stated that they learned a lot of lessons with last 90 day trial period and feels that they might learn new lessons by trying the one-way westbound traffic pattern. Councilor Jenkins stated that she wouldn't dream of asking to do another full transportation document, but thinks they should look at the expense as she would rather make an investment in doing it right the first time. She would like to have a study done and if these recommendations are solid then they will do them.

Motion: Councilor Arnold moved to eliminate the current traffic calming measures in place and make Ritter Drive one-way westbound from 1500 West to Freeway Park Drive with striping for a single lane and holding off on the speed bumps during a 90 day trial period and ask staff to look at traffic calming measures. Councilor Searle seconded the motion.

Councilor Gibby stated he feels that if they don't do something to calm traffic they will be backing traffic down Ritter Drive. He thinks they need to do something in addition to making it one-way westbound. Mayor Burrows suggested asking Mr. Moulding to bring back to them the best way to install traffic calming devices.

Friendly Amendment: Councilor Gibby moved to add that Ritter Drive have a restricted lane and some other traffic calming measures where it begins to one-way at 1500 West. Councilor Arnold agreed. Councilor Searle agreed as second.

Councilor Jenkins stated that if they open it up to allow a right turn, they will have people dumping right back into the 1500 West intersection. She thinks they need a study to ensure due diligence and thinks it would be wise to give this another meeting. Mayor Burrows stated that if they don't allow right turns on 1500 West then the residents that live in that area will have to go to 1050 West and go up the entire length of Ritter Drive. Councilor Arnold stated that he believes the traffic study recommend making Ritter Drive one-way. Mayor Burrows stated that if they did a study they would need to get information on the scope and get a timeframe and cost.

Call the Question:

Roll Call Vote: Councilor Gibby; Aye, Councilor Jenkins, Nay; Councilor Hunt, Aye; Councilor Searle, Aye; and Councilor Arnold, Aye. The motion passed with four in favor and one opposed.

I. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Council at this time, Councilor Arnold moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Jenkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:42 p.m.

Approved: March 16, 2010

Bruce Burrows, Mayor

Attest:

Marilyn Banasky, City Recorder