

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 6:15 p.m.
SEPTEMBER 20, 2021**

To Order:

Chairman Martin DeVries called the Committee of the Whole meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Led by President Martin DeVries.

Roll Call:

Members present: Councilwoman Holly Swenk, Councilman Dennis Boose, Councilman Bruce Abens, Councilman Clifford Winkel, Councilman James Maleski and President Martin DeVries.

Councilman Jason Jacobs was excused.

Also present: Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Safety-Service Director Jeff Armbruster, Clerk of Council Nancy Linden, Deputy Clerk of Council Tina Wieber and Director of Public Utilities Tara Peet.

Minutes:

None.

Correspondence:

President DeVries asked for correspondence regarding T 109-2021.

Clerk of Council Linden read an email from Lindsey Camou of 37740 Avalon Drive which was in opposition of the roundabout.

Clerk of Council Linden noted that additional correspondence was received from Tonya M. Stillwell in support of the roundabout and Tony & Gladys Kay in opposition of the roundabout.

New Business - discussion regarding T 109-2021:

Mayor Corcoran stated this is the third roundabout proposed in the City of which two are already constructed. He noted the City maintains the west section of Mills Road and Avon maintains the east side. This area falls within the responsibility of North Ridgeville. There were alternatives discussed for this site such as signalization. There have been several accidents in this area and they are looking at this roundabout from a safety standpoint. The safest and most financially responsible option was the peanut shaped roundabout. Roundabouts help to slow traffic. The other two roundabouts in the City have had no issues with the exception of a drunk driver at the new roundabout. Mayor Corcoran stated the signalized intersection would include the building of additional lanes which includes additional cost. Mayor Corcoran stated he understands the concerns of additional traffic and speed, but the roundabout won't bring more traffic, it will just slow the traffic that is already in existence. Mayor Corcoran stated that just because new homes come to the area doesn't mean they will travel through Avalon. The traffic study from June 2021 actually showed a significant reduction in traffic over a five year period.

Roundabouts are designed to slow traffic down. This would cause cars to slow more than if the roundabout was not in existence. He contacted the Police Chief for traffic detail and reported that there have been 68 traffic enforcements in the last 9.5 months. The traffic study shows not many cars drive thru the subdivision but rather live within the subdivision.

Engineer Rodriguez stated in a 9 hour period, 268 vehicles out of 2000 were cut thru vehicles or 13%.

Mayor Corcoran stated drivers only have to look left when they come through a roundabout which reduces conflicts making them safer. He added that the goal is to increase safety. How the intersection is designed today allows cars to jump traffic. Mayor Corcoran stated there have been 4 accidents so far in 2021.

President DeVries asked for comments from members of the Administration.

Engineer Rodriguez stated the reports are available for those who would like to view them.

President DeVries asked how many accidents have been at the Mills and State Route 83 roundabout.

Engineer Rodriguez stated one because of a high speed car chase.

President DeVries asked members of Council for any questions or comments.

Councilwoman Swenk stated on page 4 of the traffic study it referenced number from June 2019 which didn't include manual counts. She asked if that were a typo.

Mayor Corcoran stated it was a typo and it was completed in 2016.

Councilwoman Swenk stated she is most concerned with increased speed especially at the entrance of Avalon and she asked if speed bumps can be installed. She further added she has an issue with the roundabout being at the entrance of a development.

Engineer Rodriguez stated the average traffic speed was a 25.7 mph and the highest was 30 mph through Avalon based on the traffic study this year. The 2016 report showed an average of 25 mph and the 85th percentile of 30 mph. The tubes were out for a week during the work week and weekend and they have good data. There isn't a speed problem according to report.

President DeVries asked what has been done to slow traffic off of the roundabout into Avalon.

Engineer Rodriguez stated the curve of the roundabout will slow traffic. Calculations were done that state the average speed in is 15 mph and 19 mph out which is slower than the posted speed sign of 25 mph.

Councilman Maleski stated he has unique experience and has worked with people discussing this issue. He felt this roundabout is going to make things safer. He agreed that there is an issue with

traffic currently in the Avalon development and felt this would help slow things and make it safer.

President DeVries opened up public comment. He stated this was not an interactive session but an opportunity to speak and state opinions.

Tim Golay, 36845 Mills Rd. stated he is the new guy on the block that built the house at the corner of Stoney Ridge and Mills Road. He stated he watches the speeders on his porch going at least 50-60 mph. He felt that something should be done to reduce speed coming into Avalon.

Lindsey Camou, 37940 Avalon Dr. stated the latest traffic study was done when college and school were virtual and the previous one was done during a blizzard and added they should not be considered.

Jim Smolik, 38610 Avalon Dr. stated the stop sign does not work at Avalon. He stated he appreciates Council's roundabout consideration. Mr. Smolik noted that he has 25 years of municipal engineering experience and roundabouts are proven to be the safest as well as slow traffic. Mr. Smolik stated that the traffic on Avalon is a completely separate issue than the intersection. He stated signalizing isn't as safe and it is more expensive. Mr. Smolik stated as a professional engineer, he felt this is the best option and applauded Council.

Deborah Evanish, 37748 Avalon Dr. stated she is the corner house on north side of Avalon. She asked if the island will be removed at Avalon.

Engineer Rodriguez stated it will be reduced.

Mrs. Evanish asked how it would be reduced. She didn't feel this would be safer going into Avalon. She felt the stop sign that is in existence now will do a better job than the roundabout. Mrs. Evanish felt now that Center Ridge Road was open, traffic congestion was not an issue anymore. She felt Avalon was poorly engineered.

Louise Myles, 37797 Avalon Dr. stated she has spoken before and has never had trouble getting out. She felt the roundabout would not help anyone. She has never witnessed an accident and she is through this intersection 2-4 times a day. She stated she read in the newspaper the roundabout will cost more than signalization. Mrs. Myles felt this was not needed.

Gary Crumley, 37773 Avalon Dr. stated the reduced traffic flow mentioned in the study is due to Covid-19. Volume has increased every year. He felt the accident count mentioned by the Mayor is comparable to the accidents in Avalon. He felt the results of the traffic study were incorrect. Mr. Crumley stated he was told this roundabout was a done deal. He added roundabouts were not for subdivisions.

Dan Folino, 37828 Avalon Dr. stated he built the first home in Avalon in that section. He can attest to the increased traffic through the years. Mr. Folino stated the traffic study was done during Covid-19 therefore not making it a reliable tool. He felt that this roundabout will allow people to speed coming down Stoney into the Avalon development.

Jim DelMonte, 37908 Avalon Dr. stated he lived in Avalon for 12 years and the traffic has increased each year with no decrease. He noted he loves the roundabout at Mills and State Route 83 but agreed a roundabout should not be at the entrance of a development. He stated the average speed going through Avalon is not 30 mph. Mr. DelMonte stated he now sold his home because he felt the leadership has done nothing for the Avalon residents.

President DeVries asked for any further comments. No further discussion was offered. President DeVries closed the public comment section.

Mayor Corcoran stated the engineering firm conducted the traffic study on January 9, 2020, before Covid-19. The study dated June 22, 2021 encompasses a traffic count done on May 4, 2021.

Councilwoman Swenk stated she understood there is an issue at Mills and Stoney and added if the roundabout was approved, she felt something should be done to slow traffic at the entrance of Avalon.

Mr. Crumley stated he collected a petition with 31 signatures to submit in opposition of the roundabout from Avalon residents.

President DeVries stated the purpose of the meeting was to hear the public’s feedback which is why they are going to send it to Council for further consideration.

Moved by Abens and seconded by Maleski to send T 109-2021 to City Council for further consideration.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion carried.

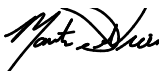
Yes – 5 No – 1(Swenk)

Councilman Boose thanked everyone for their comments and opinions.

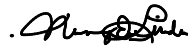
Adjournment:

Chairman DeVries adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Approval of minutes on October 4, 2021.



PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



CLERK OF COUNCIL