

City Council Agenda Memo

From: Charles L. Richter, City Engineer

Meeting: August 23, 2022 / September 13, 2022

Subject: Ordinance 22-030: Dynamic Braking Prohibition

Person(s) Responsible: Charles L. Richter, City Engineer

Summary:

The ordinance would prohibit the use of dynamic braking within City limits.

Background:

The City has received complaints regarding the loud noise caused by the use of dynamic brakes around the city. Dynamic brakes, often referred to as Jake Brakes, are devices on larger trucks used for braking without the use of wheel brakes. These “Jake Brakes” use engine compression rather conventional wheel brakes. When activated, especially at higher speeds, these “Jake Brakes” can create a loud noise which travels large distances. In areas such as along the Highway 14 Bypass, where there are traffic signals, these devices, when activated, can be heard day and night. Many communities in South Dakota have ordinances prohibiting the use of dynamic braking within city limits to reduce noise pollution.

Item Details:

The proposed ordinance defines what is considered a dynamic braking device, the prohibition, and allowable exceptions to this ordinance. The ordinance prohibits the use of dynamic braking devices, unless it is needed in an emergency. This prohibition would be city-wide. The one exception to this prohibition would allow the use of these devices in emergency response vehicles.

The local business community was engaged for feedback.

Legal Consideration:

The City Attorney’s Office drafted the ordinance.

Strategic Plan Consideration:

Service and Innovation Excellence – This ordinance will reduce noise pollution for residents along busy streets.

Financial Consideration:

None

Options and Recommendation:

The City Council has the following options:

1. Approve as presented
2. Amend
3. Deny
4. Move the item to a study session
5. Discuss / take no action / table

The Traffic Safety Committee unanimously voted approval and staff recommends approval.

Supporting Documentation:

Memo

Ordinance