

business

SECTION D

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Council OKs apartments

By Edward Gately

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An apartment complex that will replace Rural/Metro Corp.'s billing and call center was approved by the City Council.

The council also gave the go-ahead for an eight-story condominium complex in downtown's entertainment district and a face-lift for an aging Fry's shopping center.

Wood Partners, a developer of multifamily residences, plans to build a four-story, 218-unit apartment complex at the northeastern corner of Indian School and Granite Reef roads. The site has been home to the Rural/Metro center, which is closing.

The \$35 million apartment complex will be named Alta Scottsdale.

The proposal initially drew fierce opposition from nearby residents and had been facing a legal protest that would have forced a supermajority 6-1 vote for council approval. However, the city received letters from four property owners rescinding their signatures, rendering the protest no longer valid.

The council voted, 5-2, to approve a non-major General Plan amendment, a rezoning and development plan for the complex, with the provision that the building height won't exceed 46 feet. Councilmen Bob Littlefield and Guy Phillips voted no.

Numerous residents told the council the developer worked with them to address their concerns and made changes in the proposal to gain their support.

Those changes include: a reduction in units to 218 from 223; lowering building heights to two stories from three along Granite Reef; and a new wall matching the complex's architecture along Granite Reef adjacent to nearby single-family homes with matching landscaping.

The developer also agreed to fund traffic-calming efforts if warranted, said John Berry, a zoning attorney representing Wood Partners.

"We also agreed to pay for changes to the traffic signal at Granite Reef and Indian School to solve some of the bottlenecks that the neighbors described at that traffic signal," he said.