

Mayor's Corner

August 30th, 2021

I had hoped, after the last 18 months of discussions about the development of JR Meadows 1 & JR Meadows 2, that the city could have at least a year or so before the next subdivision proposal.

I hoped that we'd all be able to focus on the positive activities around town: a newly dredged, cleaned out reservoir; a new main water line that will deliver 100% of its load to our holding tanks.

I'd hoped that we could celebrate the awarding of a \$5.8 million grant, which combined with the \$447,000 we received from the federal ARPA direct payments to local governments, and JR Meadows 1 sewer SDC prepayments, will almost completely cover the cost of upgrading our sewer pumping stations and main line replacements. (Not exactly glamorous stuff, but each dollar of those grants and payments is a dollar you and I do not have to scrape up.)

I thought we could celebrate seeing our businesses open and thriving, and new businesses arriving.

And we certainly can and should celebrate all of those events...

But life goes on, and so, Friday afternoon notice was given of a public hearing scheduled for the next Planning Commission meeting on Monday, Sept. 20.

This is a request for a ZONING change only!

This is the [link to the notice](#).

Yes, it's the same developer building out JR 1 & 2. Beyond this, I cannot comment on the merits of the project, as I, along with the City Council will have to vote whether or not to approve this zoning change.

I want you all to be aware now that this hearing will be coming up in about three weeks.

I want you to have some time to learn about this project, to learn about the hearing process, and to understand what constitutes an actionable objection, or support.

I encourage anyone with questions or concerns either about the process, or about the actual zoning classification, to please contact city staff with your questions!

I'm not expecting you all to dance with joy over the idea of another development, however, if you can take the time to learn some basics about the planning and approval process, you may find yourselves in a position to effect positive changes, either through your own suggestions or by supporting suggestions others make.

What I encourage you to do is, if you have concerns or questions about this project, find a half-hour to contact our city planning staff, and ask for their help understanding the process. PLEASE remember, these folks are doing their job. They will do their best to help you navigate the system, and if you don't understand what they are saying, please tell them...kindly. They want you to be informed and educated about the process.

And please remember: Legally, the city cannot unilaterally refuse to allow a zoning change, but with the input of our citizens, we can impose conditions that may make it more in line with the image we want for our city. But we need your input to guide us!