

October 2, 2007

Jonesboro City Council

Mayor & fellow Councilmembers –

I have in my hand a stack of emails generated by me to various entities within the city administration.....all relative to the blockage on Bridger Creek in the Windsor Landing Subdivision. As you all know, Windsor Landing was flooded this past week. Granted, this was most likely in excess of a 100-year flood event, however, the blockage in this creek, known to the city administration for over two years, was also a contributing factor.

Let me be very clear about my involvement with Bridger Creek. I am a Bridger and my family has owned land in and around this creek since the mid-1800's. I'm very familiar with this creek. I can find no one, including my 92-year-old mother who moved to that area in 1939, who can remember the creek ever flooding. My husband is the primary marketing director for Windsor Landing. He is an independent contractor, hired by the developer to market his subdivision. We have no financial interests in the area with the exception of the interest any realtor would have when they sell a piece of property in that, or any area of the city. I have gotten the calls on the Ward 3 area simply because my husband is well-known to the residents and my mother-in-law (now deceased), my sister-in-law and my son own homes in Windsor Landing. My interest in this particular issue is based on one thing and one thing alone – the need to give citizens peace of mind that their homes will be safe to the best of the ability of this city to do so. The city administration has known that this area could be in jeopardy for over two years and did nothing to solve the problem. I want it also made very clear that none of my family interests had damage from the flood this past week. The creek did breach in front of my son's home, however. It was because of the close proximity of his home to the creek that I became aware of the problem.

In early July, 2005, I met Teddy Hooten at the point on the creek where the blockage is most significant. Mr. Hooten promised me that he would have his crew there before the end of that month. He indicated they were over near the airport and they would immediately come to Bridger. The

following week, he advised me they had a small job to do on Moore Creek and it would be delayed a few days. I have no idea how many phone calls and personal contacts I have made over the two plus years asking for help with this problem and the only resolution I have had was from Erick Woodruff a months or so ago when he promised me the creek would be cleaned on October 22, 2007. . Kelly Panneck has been invaluable in his efforts to move this project forward. This came too late, of course

The developer had cleaned out the creek himself for some time when his engineer was advised by someone in the city engineering department to cease this practice. It is unknown to me who told him this, but I was aware of this when I first contacted Mr. Hooten. This was, in part, my greatest concern.

Large trees had fallen into the creek where a double-S portion of the creek lies. The trees had fallen because of a great amount of erosion under the banks of the creek. This was shown to Mr. Hooten in July, 2005, and has since been shown to other city employees. It is both significant and apparent.

Several young families, most two-income families with children, mortgages and bills to pay have been harmed and I can only hope this can become a lesson to the city administration that when a job needs to be done, it needs to be done BEFORE a crisis occurs. For those in Windsor Landing, it's too late to debate this issue, however, it is not too late for the other areas where Councilmembers, at the request of our citizens, have repeatedly asked for help and been ignored. This needs to stop now.

The following is an email I sent to Teddy Hooten on 1/16/07: “ **Teddy – The first time I had you out to Bridger Creek was July, 2005. When you left you told me you would have someone out there the end of that month to unblock it at the bend at the end of Whitecliff. Since that time we’ve talked about this and I am just simply at the end of my rope on this. This thing is going to come out of its’ banks before it is over IF we don’t unblock the creek. My understanding is that we diverted water from Sage Meadows into that creek? Although it’s deep, it isn’t that wide. During the heavy rain last summer, my son who lives right next to it called us, we went out there and the water was within about four inches of the top of the creek and it looked like Niagara Falls as it came over the trees that had fallen into the**

creek at the bend. These trees have fallen from erosion, I believe, and something needs to be done before we have 300+ homes out there that possibly could flood. If we aren't going to do something, then let's just tell those folks we don't intend to and let them deal with it personally. Please let me know something ASAP." There was never a response.

Thank you.