

-----Original Message-----

From: Patti Lack <pglack@suddenlink.net>

Sent: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 11:24 AM

To: lonnieroberts@yahoo.com; Derrel Smith <derrel.smith@jonesboro.org>

Cc: City Clerk <CityClerk@jonesboro.org>; Harold Perrin <HPerrin@jonesboro.org>; Mike Downing <MDowning@jonesboro.org>; mjackso06@nyit.edu; jim@little-arch.com; jwreece@suddenlink.net; paul@protectingusall.com; dmzladyer@gmail.com; Kevin@baileygc.com; jimandflo1@att.net; dhandwork@astate.edu

Subject: Explaining my appeal on RZ 20:19/Changes needed

Good Morning to all of you!

Last week, I requested an appeal hearing regarding RZ-20-19 for the decision made by the MAPC on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, to forward the rezoning request to the City Council was for the following reasons:

I have also indicated some questions I would appreciate to get some answers.

The reasons why I requested an appeal are:

1. Before the MAPC meeting started on 10-27-2020, I went up to Lonnie and told him that there were going to be several concerned citizens calling up during the Public Comment section. Lonnie informed all the commissioners and the audience that there were going to be phone calls coming in.

-Throughout the first part of the discussion on this rezoning, Lonnie asked 3 times if there were any phone calls and the sign showing the phone number to call in was shown once. The citizens know not to call in until after the discussion and before the vote.

-At the end part of the discussion, both Paul Ford and Mary Margaret Jackson requested to abstain from the vote. Carol Duncan replied but did not give a clear answer of whether they could or not. I would have thought that this would be a common question that could have been answered with a yes or no!

-After this, Lonnie took the vote from all the members WITHOUT asking if there was any Public Comments.

-There were phone calls! I had several Citizens waiting for the Public Comment Section to speak. None, none of the phone calls were answered except by an answering machine stating that "this person is unavailable at this time, please leave a message".

Two of these citizens took snapshots of their calls- one tried 7 times and the other 16 times to call in! I talked to several others after the meeting and they said that they just got a busy signal. After the meeting adjourned, I went up to Lonnie and to Tracey and asked if there were any phone calls and they said "none".

My QUESTIONS are-

- Why didn't the Chairman not follow, what probably is not absolute rules on conducting a meeting in these virus times, but it's not fair that the citizens were not able to voice their opinion. Whether it would have changed your vote or not. We need to follow the procedure and be fair.

-Why did this happen? Do we need a new phone system? And was this the first time?

-Was the requests from Mr. Ford and Mrs. Jackson abstaining legally from the vote a YES or NO?

2. I wrote a letter to Derrel Smith and copied Mayor Perrin, Mike Downing addressing the unprofessionalism of his approach when replying back to Mrs. Jackson towards the end of the committees discussion.

Many members on my FB 280 made comments to me stating the same thing. I hope the Derrel has apologized.

3. Question #13 on the Application for a Zoning Ordinance.

Question 13 states- How do neighbors feel about the proposed rezoning? Please attach minutes of the neighborhood meeting held to discuss the proposed rezoning or notes from individuals. If the proposal has not been discussed with neighbors, please attach a statement explaining the reason. Failure to consult with neighbors may result in hearing the application.

-Derrel said in the meeting (minute 58:28 of the video), that this is not a requirement. Just a suggestion "if" there is an established neighborhood.

-If this is just a suggestion, WHY is it on the application? It is so easy for the applicant to write "no meeting has been held at this time" or leave it blank.

-I went through all the rezoning requests that have been sent to the MAPC for approval.

If I counted correctly, there has been 20 rezoning requests, 14 of these had Question #13 left blank, or stated No notification other than CD letter. In the case of

RZ-20-19, Mr. Pickle wrote "No meeting has been held at this time". There has been 6 Neighborhood meetings conducted with the 20 rezoning requests.

-Mr. Pickle stated at the beginning of this rezoning discussion that "he didn't know he was suppose to have a meeting"!

I would understand that but this is not his first rezoning request.

My QUESTIONS are:

-Since there is no side note/\* stating that this question (#13) is just a suggestion, then should we should all assume that it is a requirement or mandatory to have a neighborhood meeting with all rezoning requests- Correct? And it should be. I would think that all of you would agree that we need to consider all impacts of a new development in our community and let the neighboring citizens have input.

-So if you agree that we make #13 a requirement on the Application for a Zoning Ordinance, what is the first steps we take to amend this form?

I appreciate your time in reading my email. My appeal was heard at the City Council meeting on Thursday, November 5th. The first reading of ORD-20:49 was also heard.

I look forward to your answers and ways to make changes to these items.

Thank you,  
Patti Lack