STATEMENT of J.H. McQUISTON on
APPROPRIATION for ZONING CODE REVISION

Honorable President and Members of the Council:

There is no doubt that the City’s Zoning Code requires a substantial amendment, because many lawsuits prevail against the City’s planning-process and manipulations and Officials’ disregard of it.

Article 13 forces the City to re-examine the processes now practiced by the Planning Department. The City cannot afford unnecessary process, nor should it be imposing extraneous burdens on reasonable development.

What I believe the City requires is a thoughtful Plan which the City will enforce and not destroy piecemeal. Developers are entitled to clear definitions of what will actually be upheld in the City Code, and also for the City’s obedience to State Planning restrictions.

The foregoing means Planning must be left to “experts” and not poisoned by “amateur-meddling”, which also destroys esprit de corps.

But Planning must not be hap-hazard and fraught with unrealistic schemes.

The Revision will mean a sea-change in how the City will look in the future. Don’t chisel on cost. You get what you pay for. But carefully monitor and correct when the research goes afield of reality.

DO NOT BELIEVE THOSE WHO CLAIM THE PRODUCT WILL BE:

“far more accessible to the general public by using a system that is easy to read and user-friendly. This will allow for faster and more definitive responses from City staff, and therefore result in better customer service.”

A worthwhile Code must be legally-sound, which means it cannot be easy to read; nonetheless, it must be overhauled and all the Community Plans must also be amended substantially.

Today, poor conformance to written City laws drastically hurts the City every day. Begin Tuesday to make things better.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. McQuiston

c: Interested parties