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ITEM 6, COUNCIL 6/19/12

P. Lattimore

**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