



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Winstead and City Councilmembers

FROM: Jessica Simulcik Smith, City Clerk

DATE: February 3, 2015

RE: Documents received at 2/02/15 Council Meeting

CC: Debbie Tarry, City Manager
John Norris, Assistant City Manager

Attached hereto are documents received from the public at your February 2, 2015 City Council Business Meeting.

- 1) Written comments regarding light rail station subarea planning process submitted by Dan Jocoby.

Dan Jacoby

Public comment to the Shoreline City Council

February 2, 2015

I moved here from New York City, where the City Council has 51 members who work full time. As a result, they have two committee hearings on every bill. At the first hearing, the public is invited to comment. They vote at the second hearing, by which time Council members have been able to consider the public comments.

Here, we have seven Council members who work part time, so there really isn't an opportunity for multiple committee hearings on all legislation. But there is something you can do to give yourselves more opportunity to hear, digest and consider public comment on all legislation — that is to invite public comment on a proposed ordinance at one meeting and then hold a vote at a later meeting.

This happens sometimes, when the agenda includes discussion of a particular item for future consideration. It should happen always.

Now we are dealing with a major issue regarding the future of Shoreline, specifically rezoning around the planned light rail stations. While the public has had many opportunities to comment, there is a looming problem. There will be more than a few amendments proposed, and quite possibly a significant change to the map currently being considered as the "preferred alternative."

These are major changes to a major piece of legislation. The public should be able to consider those proposed changes and comment on them — and the Council should have the chance to reflect on public input — well before a final vote is taken. In addition, there are problems that need to be addressed prior to a final vote:

1. There has been little discussion of how rezoning will change the character not only of the rezoned areas, but also of the adjoining neighborhoods;
2. The Council has just begun discussion of how to proceed regarding affordable housing;
3. The questions regarding the hydrology of much of the planned rezoning area, at least along 185th St., have not been addressed, much less discussed;
4. Many people whose property could be rezoned (and would almost certainly have to sell) have what appear to be legitimate fears about the future sale value of their property, fears that have not been adequately addressed; and
5. Nobody seems to question assumptions regarding future population growth, especially projected growth more than a decade out, when business cycles, new technologies, and generational impacts are completely unpredictable.

I strongly urge this Council to postpone any final decision until all these items are addressed. As I've said before, there is no need to rush — nobody is planning to start building apartment complexes on Saturday, or a week from Saturday, or a month from Saturday, or even a year from Saturday. You have the time; please take it.

Thank you.