

January 30, 2019

Dear Chapel Hill Mayor Hemminger and Town Council Members,

Tonight the Manager is asking the Town Council to start a public process by contacting other local governments, OWASA and engineers, to support changes that would alter historic underlying land use agreements. This action is premature by any definition. Neither the public nor the Council has been asked to evaluate the merit of this proposal in a public session devoted to a consideration of the desired changes.

References in passing conversations by Town Council members during the Future Land Use Plan discussions, such as comments made at economic sustainability committee meetings or in general land use discussions do not amount to adequate public notice nor opportunity for input.

As you know Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Orange County and OWASA enacted a Comprehensive Land Use Agreement in 1986 that formed the urban service boundary and the rural buffer. The Water and Sewer Boundary Agreement followed in 2001. It addressed several issues including a recurring problem of sewer extensions outside the urban services area. In several instances, governments and OWASA had made utility extensions for what they perceived were good reasons, but in so doing undermined the efficacy of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The Water and Sewer Boundary Agreement's purpose was to provide a backstop for the land use agreement and to clarify OWASA policy.

If the Council is contemplating a change in our underlying land use agreement, the reasons for the change must be clearly stated and the properties to be served by the change must be named in the agenda item, taking into account the environmental consequences.

We therefore call upon the Council to:

- Solicit input from property owners and neighborhoods adjacent to the areas where changes are contemplated,
- Explicitly state the reasons for these proposed utility extensions, explain what public purpose would be served by doing so, and name specific properties that would be affected; and
- Schedule a public hearing on this policy decision before any direction is given to the manager to spend money or take action.

Respecting the proper process is an integral part of Council action and we call upon you to protect our land use plans.

Water and Sewer Boundary Agreement

http://www01.townofcarrboro.org/BoA/Agendas/2010/04_06_2010_D3A.pdf

Signers:

Pete Andrews
Magie Brache
Joe Buonfiglio
Bill and Anne Brashear
Linda Brown
Margaret Brown
Silvia Clements
Julie Coleman
Peter deLeeuw
Glen H. Elder, Jr.
Joan Guilkey
Charles Humble
Rudy Juliano
Brian and Lauren King
Terry Kitson
Fred Lampe
Meighen E. Lowe
Livy Ludington
M.S. Marks
Julie McClintock
John Morris
Michele and Roland Normand
Marie Rossettie
David Schwartz
Paula Sherman
Del Snow
Chris Tommerdahl
Sandy Turbeville
Benjamin Warshaw
Neva Whybark
Diane Willis