

eComment
Resolution 2022-032 & Ordinance 2022-14

Kristine Schmidt

Location:

Submitted At: 2:47pm 05-17-22

I oppose two items being on the consent agenda: Resolution 2022-32 (classifying Borough lands) and Ordinance 2022-14 (selling Borough lands), and request that the Assembly remove those items from the consent agenda.

Resolution 2022-32 was on the Planning Commission agenda 5/2/22, two weeks ago, and the Commission removed several parcels. I question the decision to put this item on the consent agenda in the first place. Classification (and sale) of Borough lands is always contentious, so a resolution and ordinance like these should never be on the consent agenda. In addition, the resolution (and the ordinance) should be amended to reflect the Planning Commission decision to remove parcels, and the other Advisory Planning Commission recommendations to reclassify or remove parcels.

I also protest the process for Ordinance 2022-14, sale of Borough lands. Most of the parcels listed for sale in this ordinance were before the Planning Commission on 5/2/22, in Resolution 2022-32, ONLY for classification. The staff memo in support of Resolution 2022-32 specifically states: "Upon classification the subject parcels would be available for future management actions consistent with the classification, including potential disposal." Note the word POTENTIAL. Yet not one word was heard from Borough staff during the Planning Commission meeting that these parcels would be up for sale in two weeks. If people attending the Commission meeting on 5/2/22 had known that the Borough Administration planned to put the Resolution 2022-32 parcels up for sale in two weeks, some of us citizens attending the meeting might have testified differently.

I am concerned about what I see as the increasing lack of transparency and openness about Borough plans for lands which belong to all of us. Borough communities should be informed well ahead of time about parcels that the Borough Administration considers "surplus" and plans to sell; especially with no process whatsoever for public comment or future planning for an area. Borough residents did not get notice that the lands listed in Ordinance 2022-14 were considered "surplus" -- even property owners who lived nearby were not notified of immediately pending sales, just that the lands could "potentially" be disposed of.

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I attended the 5/2/22 Planning Commission meeting primarily to object to the two Nikiski parcels in Resolution 2022-32, which the Planning Commission recommended be removed. Although the two parcels are not in Ordinance 2022-14, they may come up again in another ordinance, and the Assembly needs to know that these two parcels have no road access, and the nearest access, Neighbors Road, is not (and has never been) a public road -- although it is Borough-maintained, like many private roads in the Borough. The public should not be misinformed that there is public road access to these parcels, as the staff report suggests.

Thank you for considering these comments.
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