

FROM THE DESK OF

MAYOR RHONDA HAIGHT

April 3, 2023

I want everyone to understand that I do not take the position as Mayor or the powers afforded to this office lightly. I have my concerns surrounding the proposed zoning changes with Ordinance BR2023-06. In the present form the Zoning Ordinance has been presented and approved by four members of the City Council, I will exercise my power to veto this Ordinance.

These main complication with this is the allowance of landfills, go-kart/motor bike tracks, and paper or paper pulp manufacturing plants in Blue Ridge. With our city being only a 2 x 2 mile area, a landfill or pulp/paper pulp manufacturing plant could destroy our community. The smell of both would carry for miles. This would have a negative, if not devastating effect, on the lives of our residents and businesses alike.

In regard to go-kart/motor bike tracks, while I understand a track would be a great entertainment option to a younger generation, I am concerned about the impact it could have on noise levels in our community. Go-Karts are known to produce loud noise. Our residents have always appreciated the peaceful surroundings and the quietude that it offers. If we don't remove this use from our zoning, I fear tranquility of our neighborhoods will be seriously compromised. There are several large tracts of land located along Hwy 515 that also join residential areas that would allow for this use. I've spoken to many of the residents whose properties would be effected, and they have valid concerns over such a use.

In conclusion, I'd ask the council to move forward with an override of my veto with the following provision:

1. Remove Landfills, go-kart/motor bike tracks, and paper pulp manufacturing plants from the approved use list, which is located on pages 51-61 of Ordinance BR2023-06.

Thank you all for taking time to listen to my concerns. My mother has always told me that if you're going to do something, do it right. I can't in good conscience sign Ordinance BR2023-06 knowing the harm the items mentioned could do to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Rhonda Haight', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rhonda Haight