

Staff Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Sarah Smith, Comm. Dev. Director
Date: August 12, 2020
Re: August 12, 2020 City Council Meeting Agenda - Staff Recommendation to Amend Agenda to Add New/Additional Information – Comments to Be Added to Public Record for Regular Agenda Item No.7 for the Public Hearings and Consideration of the Commerce Place Applications

Request

As provided under Agenda Item No. 3, Staff respectfully recommends the August 12, 2020 City Council meeting agenda be amended to add new/additional information to Regular Agenda Item No. 7 regarding the City Council’s public hearings and consideration of the applications for the proposed Commerce Place project:

New/Additional Information

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Comments To Be Added To Public Record for City Council	Pages 1586 B – 1586 D
Discussion/Consideration of Regular Meeting Agenda Item No. 7	

Steve and Audette

Dear Mayor and City Council:

At the 8/12/20 Council Meeting and beyond, please vote to keep the current zoning at Commerce Place.

Respectfully submitted.

Steve and Dawn Audette
3146 Highland BLVD, Mound MN

Jeff Kuiper

My name is Jeff Kuiper and I reside at 1761 Shorewood Lane, Mound.

I purchased my home in Mound in 2010 after spending close to a year in looking for a home in a desirable community. Prior to buying, I heard comments about Mound's history of being a blue collar community. That fact actually appealed to me. I also heard comments of the drug culture in Mound. 15 years ago, Mound was often referred to as Meth Mound.

While looking at different communities, I saw work that had been done in Mound to improve the community. Much of the drug culture had been pushed out of the community. There were signs of positive growth. I saw Mound as a diamond in the rough with lots of potential.

Over the past 10 years, there has been continuous efforts by the City, the community and law enforcement to make our city clean, safe and a great place to live and raise a family. In my neighborhood I have seen a large increase of families with young children! I have witnessed investments and improvements in the Westonka School District. It has become an all around well respected school district. I felt so good about this community that I invested in two additional properties!

Now I see this proposal for the development of high density housing and I scratch my head. Does the city really want to move in this direction? Is this really in the best interest of the residents of Mound? Does this benefit the residents of Mound or does this benefit others outside the Mound community? Are we considering changing the zoning on this property to meet the needs of the developer? Does this create a positive development for the city of Mound that will attract small business to our community? The increased traffic alone will be enough to encourage one to avoid the business district.

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I question that this will be an asset to the community that residents will be proud of. I fear the issues that come with high density housing. I have heard of other communities that now regret the high density developments in their communities.

I think Mound is a great community with so much potential for positive growth. If a high density development goes through, there will be no turning back if the direction of the community isn't a positive one. Do we really want high density housing as the centerpiece of our community creating additional congestion in an already busy location. Please think this through before going down this path. A very large number of Mound residents are definitely against the high density development in this area.

Personally, I am all for the new construction in Mound that will bring in residents who want to contribute and invest in the community that will make it a cleaner, safer place to live adding to our quality of life, a place where people will want to move to and not away from in order to raise their families.

Thank you for listening and your consideration.

Kim McIntosh

Hi, as a resident of Mound, I would like to voice my opposition to this project. I feel Mound should focus on getting more small businesses instead to create a main street feel. Getting more housing and people would do the opposite of that.

Thanks,

*Kim McIntosh
3301 Warner Ln*

Gary and Deb Stueven

Dear Sarah,

In direct response to the letter you sent us on July 23, 2020, we are:

1. *Against the rezoning of the properties*
2. *Against the proposed land use and subdivision requests for the proposed Commerce Place development project*

We strongly believe that this downtown intersection is the physical and visual center of our city, heavily used, and changes here will directly impact all residents of our city, schools, surrounding neighbors/municipalities, businesses, and visitors (from the lake, trails, and roads) for decades. We respectfully request the city council members to vote "NO" to these proposals.

*Sincerely,
Gary and Deb Stueven
2100 Fern Lane
Mound, MN 55364*

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