

August 5, 2014

Please read this letter at the August 5, 2014 meeting of the Planning Commission and enter it into the public record.

I am resigning my position as Planning Commissioner, effective immediately.

I can no longer serve in good conscious, given the flawed processes we are working under.

I continue to be dismayed at the manner in which the Zoning Ordinance was developed and proposed, without any public input or analysis of data which could support proposed changes. The changes that are proposed may have a significant detrimental effect on residential property values for the citizens of the County. The proposed ordinance strips property owners of their rights to maintain their property value by eliminating the Special Use Process for virtually all uses, many of which could decimate property values and adversely affect the quality of life of citizens of this County. I have written previously about the ways in which the proposed Zoning Ordinance does not meet the intent of State Code and is inconsistent with the Northampton County Comprehensive Plan. I will not reiterate that here, as it is part of the public record already.

The statements of a fellow Planning Commissioner, Mike Ward, are of particular concern to me. The Planning Commission is now working to finish an update of the Comprehensive Plan, which was put on hold so that we could make a desperate attempt to review the proposed Zoning Ordinance in a ridiculously short period of time. During our review of the Comprehensive Plan, Mr. Ward has stated that we should work to have the Comprehensive Plan fit into the proposed Zoning Ordinance. This is absolutely not the appropriate approach and I have grave concerns with the fact that a Planning Commissioner holds that view.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served my fellow citizens and I have done that to the best of my ability.

Martina Coker