

Mayor's Report 9_7_2023

Garden City Land Disposal

My opinions on this resolution haven't changed. The fact that there are three separate and conflicting amendments proves that the resolution is far from ready for Assembly approval.

Preparing the Garden City properties for sale will cost a lot of taxpayer money. Estimates presented by the Borough Manager total \$5.7 million, and this estimate is only going up in cost over the next few years.... That's millions of dollars to clear the properties, add streets, dig up the old underground infrastructure, replace sewer and water lines, etc. If approved, this resolution allows for the sale of government-subsidized lots that most residents won't be able to afford with any expectation to build. It also leaves Skagway without adequate RV Park opportunities.

Assemblymember Weddell's amendment addresses many of these issues and it's obvious a lot of thought and work went into it. I also appreciate it when Assemblymembers reference The Comprehensive Plan, something that was sorely lacking in the original resolution and subsequent amendments, likely because they're in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan.

Regardless, Garden City land disposal requires far more community input. I do think Weddell's proposal represents a good starting point, and it makes sense for Civic Affairs or Parks & Recreation to handle the issue on the committee level, rather than Finance.

We can save a lot of time at tonight's meeting by acknowledging the shortcomings in the original resolution by moving to "refer the motion to approve Resolution 23-30R to Civic Affairs", where Assemblyperson Weddell can further refine her prudent ideas with comprehensive community input. Perhaps Parks & Rec can tackle the portion of the resolution that would presumably focus on the RV Park. Finance can weigh-in on the resolution after it is finalized and all costs and cost—benefits are realized.

Public Decorum at Assembly Meetings

At the August 17 Assembly Meeting, there was an incident where I asked that an unruly member of the public be removed.

This outburst was not directed at the Assembly or Mayor, but toward another community member expressing their opinion during Hear Citizens Present. As long as I serve as Mayor, I will not allow anyone to intimidate community members from rightfully expressing their opinions at Assembly Meetings. This type of behavior is unacceptable.

In my opinion, the community member who was interrupted deserves an apology. Assembly Chambers is a safe space where all opinions and ideas are welcome. Attempting to intimidate or belittle community members with differing opinions will not be tolerated.

- Andrew Cremata