

December 2, 2015

To Mayor Brent Marshall and the Grantsville City Council:

I respectfully ask you to table the rezoning of city property east of the Clark Historic Farm until new members of the City Council are seated and the city has formulated a comprehensive plan for our historic district.

In the last two years, this City Council considered a Historic Preservation Commission, tabled it, but has not revisited it since. Now, it's even more important that we do so.

Today's rezoning is the first step towards a cemetery east of the Clark Farm. Could that be the best location for more plots? Perhaps. Then again, there may be better locations if you look at the big picture. Before the City Council decides, I suggest we get input from a Historic Preservation Commission – one that draws from diverse interests.

We need citizens, for instance, who care about our city's history. Citizens who are into sports and ballfields. Citizens who want to be buried "at the Clark Farm." Citizens who represent the Clark Farm. Citizens with land use and planning experience. They could then make recommendations to the City Council, who would use those as a springboard for a comprehensive plan. Then, by all means, if a rezoning is needed, we can consider it.

I feel your pain. Three years is a long time to kick this issue around. I'm sure you are more than ready to be done with it. But rushing this through back-to-back meetings for political expediency is not wise nor is it responsible. Taking a few more months to steadily but surely consider land use options that will impact our city forever isn't a lot to ask for, is it?

If you vote to pass this today, this is what I'm afraid will happen: the land will be rezoned, a Conditional Use Permit will be granted, and cemetery plans will be rammed down the throats of our citizenry. Are you surprised that there is, and would constantly be, a public outcry at every turn through such a process?

If you wait until the start of the year, what are *you* afraid of? That new members of the city council will not work with you on this issue? I would hope you would consider that, speaking for myself, I am eager to help you find a solution to this. Along with that, I would love to bring fresh ideas and input from citizens we represent.

After all, this decision impacts not just you, not just me, but all of us. As a city, we fought the prison together. Do you remember how satisfying that was? We need to work on this one *together*.

You sit here for a period of time, stewards of our city's future, and so will I the next four years. You hold the power to vote for something that others could possibly undo once they take office. Please, let's not go that direction.

Let us instead open our minds to the possibility of first, studying our options and achieving a broad consensus. Second, planning holistically instead of just piecemeal. And third, if needed, asking for suitable rezoning that will reflect what is in the best interest of our city, for generations to come. Again, I ask that you table this decision after the start of the year.

Sincerely,
Jewel Allen