

Dear Mayor and City Council Members,

Please put this letter before the Elk Ridge meeting on Friday 29, 2016.

I have strong concerns about the proposed landscaping codes. I have been a resident of Elk Ridge City for 19 years. I love this city and the area. I desire Elk Ridge to be a beautiful city as any other citizen would.

However, the new proposed codes are not what I believe is a practical solution. I enjoyed the process of creating my yard and the atmosphere it has created. The sloped landscape of Elk Ridge is a challenge that took me six months to decide on what I wanted for permanent retention. I also enjoyed that it was a family project that we concurred together and when it was completed, we could say we did it.

I do not want every yard in Elk Ridge to look the same. This is very possible if developers are making the decisions. The cheapest yard is making it all grass and the water consumption will be drastically increased.

I strongly believe section 4 is overkill. I do not believe citizens of Elk Ridge should be forced to pay a certified engineer to design their yard. I live on Hudson Lane and our street is beautiful. We were not burdened with this cost. I walk by Councilman Dale Bigler's house and admire it. He can take pride that he created his atmosphere and he did not need to pay an engineer. This is impractical.

I believe a citizen that disagrees with an idea should offer a solution. I recommend that the resident pays \$2,500.00 deposit on the yard. This deposit would have a time period attached to it. This gives citizens time to analyze their ideas and implement them. I hope that one or more of my children build a house in Elk Ridge. If that happens, this is a wonderful opportunity to grow as a person. I remember the headaches and the rewards of turning my house into my own paradise. It took almost two years but our family turned the raw land into our sanctuary. The deposit is plenty of incentive to get their landscape developed.

Thank You,  
Richard Barton.