

Last Friday evening, October 5, I received a memo from the Mayor Connie Tatton.

She proposes in her letter to the City Council that she will be changing the Midway Municipal Code and the Midway City General Plan of 2011 to redefine the term Agriculture.

To include: aquaponics (fish farming), aquaculture, hydroponics, commercial greenhouses (with no restrictions on size), artificial lighting and many more exceptions. Redefining the term agriculture opens the door to not only RA 1-43 zoning, but can allow anyone to obtain this zoning.

And, all of this is to take place with one proposed Planning Commission Meeting in November and then to come before the City Council in December...all in less than Sixty Days.

I have no property bordering RA 1-43 zoning at this time. As a City Councilman, I feel it is my responsibility to represent all property owners in this city. Some may think that one planning commission hearing and one City Council Meeting public hearing in less than sixty days is sufficient for the citizens...when most citizens don't know that these meetings are public hearings. Furthermore, many Midway Property Owners will not be here during the holiday months of November and December. This is questionable timing...

Where are those who desire this change besides the Mayor? They have yet to come forth. If they are not willing to go public, why is the Mayor doing this for them? It says in her draft that it is the intent of the City Council to encourage this. To my knowledge it has not been discussed with the City Council and I am not encouraging or supporting these changes.

As pertaining to this new technology, there is at this time one large hydroponic farm in Castledale, Utah (not including fish) and it is far removed from population and is struggling to be profitable. Why in this small municipality is the Mayor jeopardizing the quality of life in this town? With Commercial Greenhouses, will come increased traffic, minimal wage employment, and little, if any, tax revenue.

There is a commercial area already zoned along Main Street. Why, Mayor are you opening the door to potential large scale commercial agribusiness in this small residential community that could be located anywhere in our municipality.

I love Midway. And many of us live here, because the current Municipal Code and Midway General Plan protect and preserve the rural, residential and recreational atmosphere of this beautiful little city.

Mayor Tatton and other city council members who favor this sweeping change... Why and for Whom are you making these changes in such a hurry? Why this rush to change city codes that will so dramatically change the landscape and scenic vistas of this mountain town. A change of this magnitude needs to be carefully studied and communicated to all Midway Citizens well in advance of any serious consideration or approval...and, in the Light of Day.

City Councilman ,Steve Ashton

Presented to Midway City Council, October 11,2012