

RESOLUTION NO. 18-24

RESOLUTION OPPOSING STATE PREEMPTION OF LOCAL ZONING AUTHORITY AND STATE MANDATED ZONING STANDARDS.

WHEREAS, a series of legislative bills, including HF 4009, HF 4010, HF 3168, HF 2235, SF 3964, SF 3303, SF 3080 and SF 3980, among others and hereinafter referred to as “the Bills”, proposes to preempt local zoning authority to direct the development of housing by mandating broad and blunt State zoning standards for all cities in the metropolitan area, including Minnetrista, and many cities in greater Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the Bills remove resident participation in the democratic process by imposing administrative approval of significant subdivision and development applications and thereby eliminating the ability of residents to petition their local or any elected officials in a public forum regarding the impacts of an application on them or their community; and

WHEREAS, land development has significant and wide-ranging implications on the local and regional environment, transportation facilities, public and private utilities, schools, and public safety operations, among many other systems; and

WHEREAS, the development standards mandated by the Bills are unreasonable, impractical, and fail to comprehensively consider the environmental, social, and economic impacts of its mandates; and

WHEREAS, Minnetrista supports providing a range of housing options for people of all incomes and at all stages of life, as evidenced by zoning regulation amendments for elderly housing, changes to its PUD ordinance supporting elderly housing, the allowance of Accessory Dwelling Units on any residential parcel by conditional use permit, and considering changes to its zoning regulations and map to facilitate high-density residential uses in alignment with its comprehensive land use plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Minnetrista recognizes that local control and public input are critical democratic attributes that should not be infringed upon; and

WHEREAS, zoning decisions are hyper-local and cities engage their residents to develop unique and innovative development and infrastructure that reflect local attributes, values, conditions, and goals, as well as comprehensively consider and plan for infrastructure investments to support planned and managed development; and

WHEREAS, Minnetrista - although a metropolitan area city - exemplifies a community where development and infrastructure patterns limit the ability to achieve the mandates set for in the Bill, notably municipal water serves only half the community, many roads are built to rural standards with no shoulders, curbs, sidewalks, transit options or adequate width for on-street parking; and

WHEREAS, the Minnetrista City Council finds that the broad and blunt statutory requirements in the Bill fail to consider or address such development and public improvement patterns, and if imposed, will result in unintended and negative outcomes for residents; and

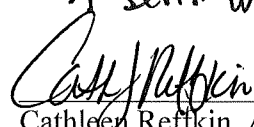
WHEREAS, the Minnetrista City Council finds that no analysis has been conducted to understand how the Bills' mandates will impact the environment, transportation facilities, public and private utilities, schools, local government finances, and public safety operations; and

WHEREAS, the Minnetrista City Council finds the Bills infringe on the democratic rights of residents to participate in decisions that directly impact their properties, neighborhood, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Minnetrista City Council finds the Bills infringe upon resident input and engagement which is crucial to the democratic process, and where resident access to government happens most frequently and effectively at the local level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MINNETRISTA, that the City of Minnetrista opposes the Bills, any future versions of the Bills, and any bills which preempt a local unit of government's decision-making authority, eliminates resident participation in the democratic process, and imposes State mandated zoning standards.

This resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Minnetrista on the 18th day of March, 2024, by a vote of 3 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Absent: Whalen, MacGregor

Cathleen Reffkin, Acting Mayor

ATTEST:


Ann Meyerhoff, City Clerk

(seal)

