

PUBLIC HEARING ON REZONING OF LIBRARY PROPERTY

July 9, 2007 – 6:00 p.m.

President Richard Donley opened the public hearing regarding the request for rezoning Hillsboro Library property at the corner of West Main Street and Willettsville Pike from Residential A to Residential B. Jennifer West was representing the request.

President Donley explained the hearing was to allow for public comment or question on the request. Ms. West explained that the Board of Trustees had purchased property on South High Street and were anticipating the construction of a new building that would be closer to the school and there was an increasing use being made of the library. With the new library in place they would then need to dispose of the current library property and they thought it would be more marketable as Residential B rather than Residential A. Residential A is extremely limited and B would attract more potential buyers.

Mr. Young explained that basically the only things allowed in Residential B would be residential homes, apartments, some limited offices like a doctor's office or a lawyer's office or an insurance agency. He said that it was really limited on what you could have. Residential A is strictly residential which it is now except a library is allowed in Residential A like a school would be allowed in Residential A.

Mr. Young asked Ms. West what she thought they would attract by going to Residential B. Ms. West responded; offices like doctor's offices, real estate offices, beauty shops or insurance offices. Something like that.

Jay Cooper of 365 West Main Street spoke explaining that he is catty-corner across from the library. He said that he came with two purposes. He said that he had had a note from Tom Wilson and Beverly Palmer who are the children of the Wilson family who donated the property for the library. Mr. Wilson and Ms. Palmer had asked Mr. Cooper to be their agent at the meeting since they could not attend.

Mr. Wilson had explained that when his parents had donated the property, they had not intended for it to be zoned anything except Residential A. A family home is maintained adjacent to the library so they feel they can speak on behalf of the deceased parents as well as property owners.

Mr. Cooper said that he also liked the area as it was presently zoned and felt changing one property would be "spot zoning" and he wanted to voice his opposition to the change. He said that he could appreciate the library's position since financially it would be more viable but he didn't understand that that was the purpose of zoning.

Mr. Walker said that they had been trying to get away from "spot zoning" and they were back in the same boat they are in every time they turn around. He said that he could feel for them but he thought rezoning would be a mistake.

Mrs. Fran Cole asked Ms. West if all of the children at the new school were bussed since she said that she couldn't see too many walking there. If they are bussed then she wanted to know why that new location was going to be a lot more convenient for the school children. Ms. West said that they were right next door now.

President Donley said that this matter would go to the Planning Commission and then back to Council and into Zoning and Annexation.

With no further business to come before the public hearing, President Donley declared the hearing closed.

Beverly Brown, Secretary