



Shakopee City Council

April 1, 2025

5.e

Agenda Item: State legislation on Revoking City Zoning Authority and Public Participation in Zoning Decisions under the guise of Affordable Housing Legislation

Prepared by: William Reynolds, City Administrator

Reviewed by:

Action to be considered:

Approval of Resolution R2025-042 Supporting Retention of City Zoning Authority

Motion Type:

Simple Majority

Background:

Local city governments across the State of Minnesota are under siege. Current legislation being considered by the state legislature seeks to strip basic and fundamental controls cities have used for decades to ensure the viability of communities and will destroy a city's zoning power.

These legislative actions seek to gut the ability of cities to exercise control over local zoning and infrastructure issues and remove the current process that garners input from local residents. In essence they will allow developers to make those decision without any input from the community.

These state-level actions will determine what can be allowed in every one of the individual and distinct 853 Minnesota cities - a one size fits all approach that will deny local governments the ability to look at the nuances and conditions of each individual city. If enacted, they will throw out decades of comprehensive planning at the stroke of a pen.

Probably more concerning is the lack of any controls that will ensure more affordable housing will be the outcome of these actions. If there are savings, those savings will become builder's profits; they will continue to charge what the market will bear, and nothing in this legislation will prevent that from happening.

The City of Shakopee recognizes the urgent need for affordable housing and supports multiple avenues to actually achieve goals that will deliver affordable housing. In fact, Shakopee has been a leader in the effort as we have supported responsibly managed, low-income higher density housing and have provided options for naturally occurring

affordable housing stock as part of our commitment to "life cycle housing." In the last decade, Shakopee has approved 360 units of affordable housing including 20 single-family residences. In addition, we have passed a fair housing act, have instituted a crime-free multi-family housing program, and have adopted a rental license and inspection program to ensure all rental housing meets basic conditions for habitation.

Rigid state mandates on these traditional local issues - which ban any community input and ignore infrastructure realities - destroy the long-standing relationship between the state, local governments and their residents, and will have long-lasting adverse effects.

Recommendation:

Approval.

Budget Impact:

Unkown at this time.

Attachments:

[Res Affordable Housing.docx](#)