August 26, 2019

John Day City Council
City Manager Nick Green
450 East Main
John Day OR 97845

 Re: Zoning Issue

Dear City Council and Mr. Green:

I own property at 235 S. Canyon Blvd. It is my husband’s former office. In talking with Mr. Green, I learned that in 2005 a previous city council put in place a restriction that limits use in certain areas near downtown to commercial use only.

Our property is under that restriction. It is a Sears and Roebuck house, purchased from the catalog, built by Lloyd Ogilvie, and it was a residence when we moved to John Day. At some point it became an office and we purchased the property in 1998. The property has been for sale for over two years as a commercial office building. We have had zero interest from commercial buyers. This spring, we had an offer from a buyer who wished to use it as her home, but she became discouraged when she learned of the zoning restriction. She withdrew her offer when she learned of the lengthy process and potential complications that could result in seeking a zoning change.

In point of fact, there are several properties in that same zoned block that are out of compliance with zoning regulations and are being used as residences right now.

 I have been part of the Project Advisory Committee for the city, and I know the Council is very aware of the need to develop more housing within the city limits. There is a surplus of commercial properties and a scarcity of quality housing. I don’t believe that the 2005 restriction is in keeping with the progressive, multiple-use plans that the council wishes to move forward in our city at this time.

Thank you very much for considering my request to remove the 2005 restriction so that properties like ours can be used for either residences or businesses.

Sincerely,

Chris Cronin

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