

Near the end of the council meeting on March 11th, the mayor announced a possible building development (video timestamp 42:42). The mayor stated that this information was public and available for review, but she did not disclose that residents would have to pay for copies.

Following this announcement, I requested “all documents” related to the discussion. The process to obtain these documents was unnecessarily difficult—the response took four days, required two separate requests, and cost me \$9.25.

I drove to the town hall to pay for and collect my requested documents. The file I received contained 37 pages. For the attached information, I have removed irrelevant content, such as cover pages and an October 2021 report on the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker for a proposed RV park development back in 2022. More importantly, a key document was missing. During the meeting, the mayor referenced a “letter” from the county regarding ***an interlocal agreement*** for the county to assume zoning authority over an 8-acre parcel. This parcel, located within the ETJ and under Foxfire’s jurisdiction, is the proposed development’s only access point (main entrance) to the main road of Jackson Springs Rd, while the remaining 133-acre site falls under Moore County’s jurisdiction.

The absence of a copy of this letter is significant, as it is essential for residents to fully understand the situation. This is how misinformation gets passed along.

I have done my best to piece this information together and explain it as clearly as possible.

Why aren’t residents able to attend meetings fully informed about the topics being discussed? Is it to discourage us from asking questions? Many communities provide complete meeting documents bundled with their agendas—why can’t we adopt this standard? While this practice has been discussed in past council meetings, it has yet to be implemented. Residents deserve timely and accessible information to be able to participate and contribute meaningfully at council meetings. I urge the council to prioritize transparency by ensuring that all meeting documents are readily accessible to the public ***in advance*** and free of charge.

The public has the right to see the agenda and accompanying handouts as soon as they are created.

North Carolina Open Government Guide:

<https://ncdoj.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2019-Open-Government-Guide-2.pdf>