

AGENDA REQUEST

FOR: COUNCIL MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2013

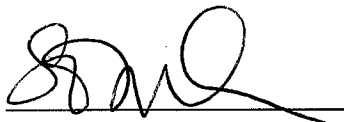
FROM:

COUNCILMEMBER SARAH MARSH
MAYOR LIONELD JORDAN

ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TITLE AND SUBJECT:

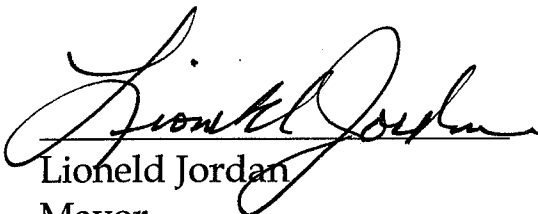
A Resolution To Oppose The Permitting And Operation Of The Concentrated Hog Farm Along A Major Tributary To The Buffalo National River

APPROVED FOR AGENDA:



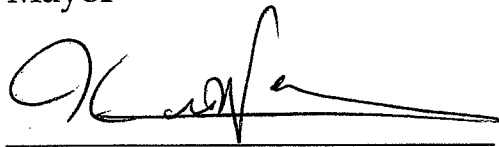
Sarah Marsh
Councilmember

4/4/2013
Date



Lioneld Jordan
Mayor

4/3/13
Date



City Attorney
(as to form)

4/3/13
Date



Kit Williams
City Attorney

Jason B. Kelley
Assistant City Attorney

TO: Mayor Jordan
City Council

CC: Don Marr, Chief of Staff

FROM: Kit Williams, City Attorney

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kit Williams', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DATE: April 3, 2013

RE: Resolution To Oppose the Permitting and Operation of the Concentrated Hog Farm Along a Major Tributary To The Buffalo National River

Councilmember Sarah Marsh and Mayor Jordan asked me to draft a Resolution to express the City Council's opposition to the permitting and operation of the 6,500 hog factory farm along a major tributary of the Buffalo National River. Even though this concentrated hog factory farm operation is planned to be located in another county, its adverse impact on regional tourism and the quality of life of our citizens who have for decades enjoyed the opportunity to canoe or hike along the pristine and wild Buffalo River certainly affects our City.

It is hard to imagine how the United States Farm Services Agency could have concluded in its environmental assessment of this 6,500 concentrated hog factory farm operation a "finding of no significant impact." Other states with a history of these types of concentrated and confined hog factory farm operations have suffered such degradations to their water and air that they have passed new and much stricter regulations for these confined, factory hog farms. To avoid these new regulations, the owners of these operations are now trying to move to new states (like Arkansas) which have not yet learned the hard lessons and the need for stricter water and air pollution standards for these types of factory farm hog operations.

Hog excrement not only smells very much worse than chicken or cow manure, but it is much more similar to human waste in its water polluting capabilities. The ADEQ would never allow a city of 6,500 people to just use

lagoons that can easily overflow after a storm and flow into the nearby creek (and on to the Buffalo National River a few miles away) to store and “treat” human waste. And yet the waste and excrement from this factory farm with 6,500 hogs is supposed to be handled by these “lagoons.” These lagoons will be like massive pollution bombs, armed and aimed at the Buffalo National Wild and Scenic River only a few miles away, just waiting for the right rain storm to release their concentrated and disgusting pollution into our national treasure.

A factory farm of this size which necessarily creates a very substantial flow of septic waste should be required to operate a permitted waste water treatment plant (not a lagoon system) with an effluent standard comparable to those required for human waste water plants at least for removal of ecoli, fecal and other dangerous pollutants.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE PERMITTING AND OPERATION OF
THE CONCENTRATED HOG FARM ALONG A MAJOR TRIBUTARY TO
THE BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER**

WHEREAS, the Buffalo National River was the first National River to be so designated by the United States Congress in recognition of its outstanding beauty, clean and clear water and unspoiled character; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service has acquired watershed and worked for years to preserve the Buffalo National River's pristine quality for our citizens and our children to enjoy forever; and

WHEREAS, the unspoiled character, beauty and clean water of the Buffalo National River has drawn substantial tourism and has been an important economic engine for this entire region including the City of Fayetteville for decades and if protected from environmental dangers like concentrated hog farm operations will continue to provide substantial economic benefits for this entire region; and

WHEREAS, a confined and concentrated 6,500 hog farm located next to a major tributary to and very near the Buffalo National River severely endangers and threatens massive air and water pollution of the Buffalo National River and thereby threatens the substantial economics, cultural, and recreational benefits our region has long enjoyed from this Wild and Scenic National River; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fayetteville requests that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality reevaluate and reassess the propriety of granting a permit to this massive factory hog farm; and

WHEREAS, the ADEQ, if it continues to permit this massive confined hog operation, should treat this 6,500 hog farm similar to a 6,500 person city for purposes of wastewater treatment and should require all effluent from this confined hog farm to meet the same standards set for city wastewater plants.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:**

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby opposes the permitting and operation of the concentrated hog farm along a major tributary to the Buffalo National River and requests that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality review and reassess the propriety of permitting this massive hog farm at this location.

Section 2: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby requests that any large concentrated hog farm anywhere in Arkansas be required to contain and process all hog sewage to the same standards as effluent from a city wastewater plant.

PASSED and **APPROVED** this 16th day of April, 2013.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

By: _____
LIONELD JORDAN, Mayor

By: _____
SONDRA E. SMITH, City Clerk/Treasurer

