

To: Baltic Mayor Deb McIsaac, Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council
From: Bob Sittig, Superintendent, Baltic School District
Re: City and School Development
Date: September 14, 2022

Dear Mayor McIsaac, Planning and Zoning Commission, and City Council Members,

On behalf of the Baltic Board of Education, I respectfully ask for your serious consideration of the following matters.

1. I attended the Baltic City Council meeting September 13, 2022, at which a document was referenced that outlined demands the City is making of the Grant Park/Phillips Crossing developer Brian Hefty. I have been informed that at least one of the items on the list requires the developer to take immediate action on school property, i.e., "Grant Park Addition-Immediate Action Item-11. Remove sediment from drainage ditch through school property. Regrade and reseed as necessary." The District contends that the City has no authority to require a private citizen or any other entity to conduct work on school property without the permission of the District, and we demand that item be removed from the list of required actions by the developer. There is a second item, i.e., "Grant Park Addition-Immediate Action Item-9. Remove sediment from drainage ditch west of 5th Street riprap," which may involve work to be completed on school property. If the intent of that item was for the developer to complete work on school property, then that item should be removed also, or it should be amended to clearly delineate the scope of work does not include any work on school property.
2. The District is also aware that building permits for Grant Park and Phillips Crossing developments are being denied until the issues in the document referenced above are resolved. Residents of the Baltic School District recently passed a bond issue with 73% voting in favor of building a new high school based on the expectation of future growth in the City and District. Denying building permits is anti-development and sends a bad message to those who might consider making Baltic their home. If the denial of building permits is being used to motivate the developer to conform with the demands of the City, we would hope the issues can be resolved without harming people who bought a lot in the development and did nothing wrong. We contend that the denial of building permits is much more harmful to the City of Baltic, the Baltic School District, and individual residents of both the City of Baltic and the Baltic School District, than it is to the developer. New construction will increase the tax base of the City and District providing revenue increases for both, and it will bring more children to Baltic providing additional revenue to fund programs to benefit our students. In addition, the construction of new homes will directly affect the tax levy needed to pay for the new high school, so the denial of building permits will result in an increased tax burden for District residents. Once again, we ask that you find some other way to resolve the issues with the developer other than denying building permits.

Sincerely,



Bob Sittig
Superintendent
Baltic School District