

Mayor says Summerfield Farms critics 'jumped to conclusions'

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SUMMERFIELD - Mayor BJ Barnes said critics of developer David Couch's proposal to expand Summerfield Farms "have jumped to conclusions" about the Town Council's position on the development.

The council hasn't voiced support or opposition since hearing a presentation from Couch in September. Later, Barnes and Town Manager Scott Manager attended a meeting with Couch and officials with the city of Greensboro and Guilford County to learn more details about the developer's proposal.

"I want to reiterate (that) nothing has come before the council at this point," Barnes told the council during its meeting Nov. 10. "This is just a concept that was brought before us to be considered."

Couch is proposing extending water and sewer lines from Greensboro to Summerfield Farms, where he plans a mix of residential and commercial development on 650 acres of rolling pastures and woodlands between Pleasant Ridge Road and Interstate 73.

Residents and business owners in the Village at Summerfield Farms - not Summerfield taxpayers - would pay for water and sewer services, according to Couch.

The developer raised the possibility that water and sewer services may be extended to businesses on U.S. 220. In that case, the owners would pay for the additional utilities, he said.

Last month's meeting of Summerfield, Greensboro and county officials produced no decision about whether to act on Couch's proposal.

"All the parties came together and listened," Whitaker told the Summerfield council during its meeting last week.

The jurisdictions instructed their attorney to take a closer look at the possibility of creating a special tax district to pay for the extension of water and sewer lines to Summerfield Farms, Whitaker said.

Whitaker and Barnes posted a summary of the meeting on the town's website, www.summerfieldnc.gov. It appears under the News & Notices tab.