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Clemson resident concerned with Keowee Trail matter

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CLEMSON — A man who calls Clemson home hopes other residents will turn out to Monday's city council meeting and let the members know their feelings about development inside the city, particularly around Lake Hartwell.

Derek Hodgin, a former mayor of Westminster who now lives in Clemson, said he plans to bring to the meeting a summary of the approved construction projects within the city in recent months.

The particular agenda item that concerns Hodgin is first reading of an ordinance for a proposed text amendment to allow a height of 65 feet for structures in the CM, or Commercial Mixed-Use District, for properties

abutting Keowee Trail.

Keowee Trail is the road that runs from U.S. Highway 123 to College Avenue past the Larry W. Abernathy Waterfront Park.

Hodgin's main point of contention is the 65-foot height limit for construction that he believes could lead to eyesores along the lakefront.

"It's a secondary road," Hodgin said. "There's no studies about the tree line or the shadow that it will cast on the lake or discussions with the Corps (of Engineers). Probably the biggest thing for me is they haven't adjusted what they've already approved."

"They keep riding this wave of, 'The university's growing; we've got to keep up,' but they've got like a half-dozen of these mega-projects that have been approved in the last 12

months that haven't been constructed yet."

Hodgin, a licensed professional engineer who operates Construction Science & Engineering Inc. in Westminster, has been vocal about what he believes is an overabundance of recent development in Clemson.

But because he lives across the lake from the Keowee Trail waterfront, Hodgin admits he has particular concern about this action item.

"They're talking about putting big stuff all around the lake," he said. "Just take your time. I'll just have to enjoy it while I can, I guess."

Monday's meeting of Clemson City Council is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.

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