

Residents want landscape at treatment plant

BY LADONNA BEEKER
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SENECA — Residents of Normandy Shores subdivision had two things to tell Seneca City Council on Tuesday night: Get the landscape right at the treatment plant and do it now.

Six residents from the neighborhood expressed concerns about the "eyesore" in their subdivision, which they claim has decreased their property values.

"We are heartbroken," said resident Earl Clevenger. "Our property values have been double hit and most of us were blindsided."

Clevenger said he missed seeing the 40-year-old forest that surrounded the treatment plant.

In order to get a "forest" back in Normandy Shores, the residents told city council Tuesday that seeds needed to be planted now for certain large tree breeds.

"We suggest you take an interest in this problem," said resident Bob Atwater. "We are looking for action and no further delays."

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LANDSCAPE: 'We are adamant that ... it is done right'

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Resident and homeowner's association president Cynthia Gilster said she's lost confidence in the city.

"We have no confidence it will be done right," Gilster said. "Everything is in a vacuum, and communication is important. We are adamant that from this point on, it is done right. Time is of the essence."

After hearing complaints from residents, Mayor Dan Alexander announced that the light and water committee will meet at 6 p.m. Oct. 20 at Seneca City Hall to review plans to help ad-

dress resident concerns. Alexander said the plans include landscaping and a fence.

"Time is very important here," he said. "We understand the importance."

Utilities Director Bob Faires said the city received requests to remove the dead trees on the property that continuously fell down.

In doing so, city workers realized there were more sick trees on the property.

"The perimeter was in a state of disrepair," Faires said. "I didn't communicate with the homeowner's association and these are people who

ride by the plant every day. I fully understand (their concerns). (Looking back), I would've communicated a lot better, so the end result would've been better."

Councilman Anthony Scott proposed that if the committee is in agreement with the plans it reviews next week and it's within the budget, members will be allowed to move forward with the project. Council unanimously approved that motion.

Council members Ernest Riley and Andrea Alewine were absent from Tuesday's meeting.

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