

‘Totally against it’

Elliott says he won't support 1,900 homes along Hwy 130

BY RILEY MORNINGSTAR
THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County Councilman John Elliott said he will do everything in his power to withhold public money from

paying for infrastructure for four proposed subdivisions totaling nearly 1,900 residential lots along the Keowee River.

Elliott's comments came in a Tuesday county council meeting, moments after Seneca resident

Mike McAllister shared his thoughts on a Journal article from earlier this month breaking the news about the 746-acre project revealed in an Oconee

SEE HOMES, PAGE A2



CALEB GILBERT | THE JOURNAL

Plans for nearly 2,000 residential homes along S.C. Highway 130 were unveiled at an Oconee County Planning Commission meeting.

HOMES: 'You can't stop it'

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County Planning Commission meeting. A total of 1,894 residential lots are planned with an additional 61 acres designated for commercial use, with the land not having any zoning restrictions. County officials are unaware of any existing sewer or water lines already in place at the development.

McAllister said his concern on the project focused on the stretch of future traffic on S.C. Highway 130 (Rochester Highway) from Ingles up to Duke Energy's Oconee Nuclear Station.

"There are people all over this country coming in here and building housing developments. It's going to look like when you fly in over someplace in Los Angeles or someplace like that before it's over," he said. "You can't stop it."

The only publicly known requirement for the project is the South Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) and Oconee requiring a traffic study be done ahead of construction. McAllister called on the developers to create their own access points on the backside of Old Clemson Highway.

"Let them put in all the infrastructure," he said. "Let them do everything that they're wanting to but that would take money out of their pocket, right? You would have three access points on Highway 130 from these subdivisions, it's a bad idea."

Elliott, who represents the district the housing would come into,

said he was "totally against that four developments."

"Absolutely. Possibly 6,000 people accessing that 130. There's no way to make it four lanes, as you point out," he said. "The dikes are there, it's a done deal. There's some beautiful areas in Mountain Rest but you start out on 130 above Ingles and come up the Rochester Highway and those



Elliott

two dikes ... hopefully you're not driving, but look out at the lake and these beautiful mountains and then you come up on the woods on both sides.

"One side is where they want to put it. Density ... It's like not even quarter acre lots. These are going to be cookie cutter houses. I am totally against it. I'm not sure how to stop it but I am not going to let taxpayers pay for any sewer going up there or any water lines going up there. If the developer wants to do it, he's on his own."

PROPERTY DETAILS

Councilman Julian Davis said Keowee River Preservation Group LLC submitted plans when it acquired the land "15-16 years ago." The land is now valued at \$6 million.

"For whatever reason, it didn't happen then," he said. "It's, honestly, growing pains. Am I for incentivizing that? No."

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Mann

accuse him of threatening you and the law wouldn't even take it. Lie number two.

"If the Republican Party has no more credibility or integrity as they are following right now with the manipulations and things are different, the Grand Old Party is going to be in a bad shape."

MANN RESPONDS

Mann said in a statement Wednesday that Hart's comments were "unfortunate."

... to the United States in the 1960s, who I to a Soviet official he "prepared to wait for answer until hell freezes over" when pressing whether the communist country would install nuclear missiles in Cuba. ... went on to attack Mann two incidents that happened in the last year. Hart issue with his comment fall that he would help ... party chairman and ... David McMahan "finish his term) strong" after the of ...