

Falls City Business Asking for Change to Warehousing Ordinance

(KLZA)-- At the end of a long meeting of the Falls City Council Monday night was an issue concerning warehousing in the business district of downtown Falls City.

Earlier this year Harmon's O.K. Tire purchased a property on the southwest corner of 19th and Stone Street. Melvin Harmon says after he spent money to build racks to hold wheels on the parking lot of the property he was notified that is not allowed.

City Attorney Mike Dunn said that the location is zoned Business 1, and warehousing is not a permitted use or special exception use meaning the Council could not authorize a change without total amending the zoning ordinance.

Harmon said he feels the property has been improved since the purchase.

Diana Orton, Manager of the Grand Weaver Hotel spoke on behalf of Mitch Glaeser who owns the hotel and several other buildings in downtown Falls City. Reading from a letter Glaeser wrote Orton asked about the appropriateness of having warehousing in such close proximity to the downtown business area.

Orton went on to convey concerns about the damage to businesses and air contamination if the tires in the Harmon's warehouse at their facilities were to catch fire.

Harmon said if they were unable to keep their inventory, they could not continue to operate the business that is about to celebrate 75 years in Falls City. City Administrator Gary Jorn told Harmon that he would let him know when the zoning committee meets.

Many Signals Communications