

August 14, 2023

To the Members of the Personnel & Finance Committee,

Re: 2023 OA-009, amending Chapter 10 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances, regarding salvage operations

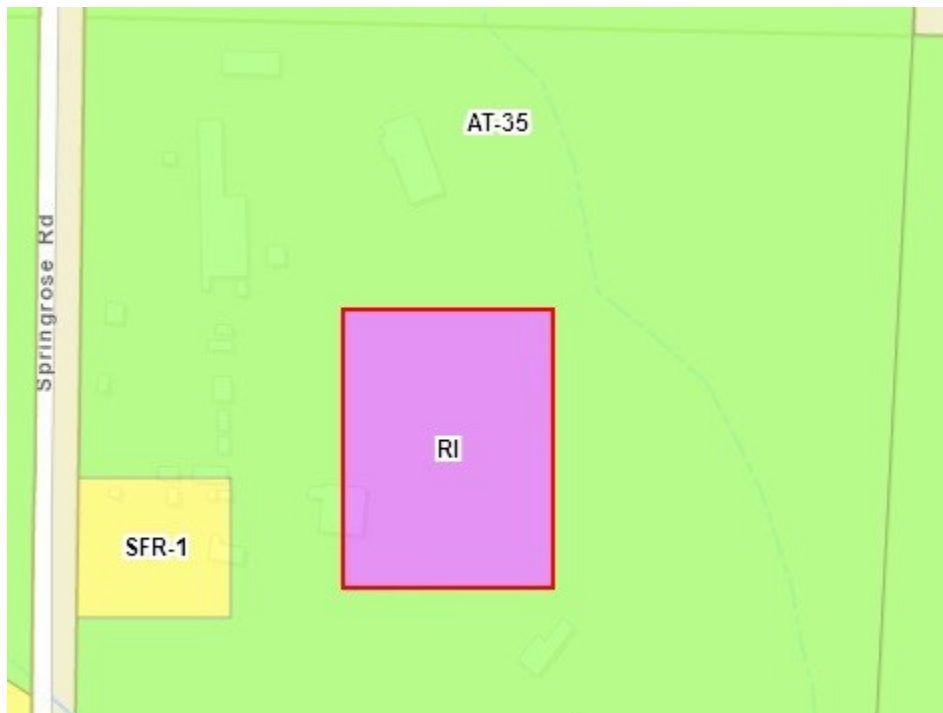
After considering the discussion during your July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and Director Todd Violante's August 10<sup>th</sup> memo, I ask you to vote against 2023 OA-009 due to the proposed removal of oversight by the Zoning & Land Regulation Committee.

Salvage yards are important for recycling and I support effective county oversight of conditional use permits for salvage operations. However, evidence indicates that current inspection practices are deficient. The proposed OA will remove transparency and oversight.

Chapter 10 provides that licenses for salvage yards expire on July 1 of each year. Last year, the 2022 inspection report was available in Legistar in June. The ZLR Committee approved license renewals on June 28, 2022. To date, the 2023 inspection report is not available in Legistar and the license renewals have not been brought to the ZLR Committee.

Director Violante's memo states the requirement for salvage material to be "within the zoning area/CUP boundary." Evidence shows that the annual inspections have not been effective at maintaining salvage operations within approved boundaries.

For example, a salvage operation in the Town of Verona operates under conditional use permit (CUP) #419. The Rural Zoning layer of DCiMap shows the parcel includes agricultural (AT-35) and residential (SFR-1) zoning districts. Salvage operations are prohibited in these districts. The Rural Industrial (RI) zoning district corresponds to the approved area (red outline) for this salvage operation:



Using DCiMap, this red outline can be shown on an aerial image from 1987, shortly after CUP #419 was approved:



This images shows activity corresponding to the RI zoning district. (Due to mapping constraints, the zoning area shown by DCiMap may be shifted slightly.)

Here is the corresponding 2022 image:



It is evident that activity has expanded beyond the RI area. To provide detail, here is a zoomed in view of the area indicated by the yellow circle:



This yellow school bus is visible in aerial images dating back to 2010 yet none of the annual inspection reports indicate that this bus or other items shown are outside of the approved area.

Condition 5 of CUP #419 states:

No storage of inoperative vehicles, junk or other materials beyond the boundaries of the salvage yard enclosed.

In addition to voting against 2023 OA-009, I ask county supervisors to evaluate whether current inspection practices are deficient. I am not asking county supervisors to take action regarding any specific salvage operation.

I am a Town of Verona supervisor and these are my views. I am not writing on behalf of anyone else. The town board and staff have no enforcement authority regarding conditional use permits and I have not consulted with them in writing this letter.

Sincerely,

Tom Mathies