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### Spring Oaks residents oppose moving entrance to water well site

[Print Page](#)

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A second group of residents opposing plans for a water well facility in showed up in force at the Oak Ridge North City Council meeting Monday.

Spring Oaks residents, who live near the proposed entrance to the Southern Montgomery County Municipal Utility District well site near the Village of Oak Ridge Grove in ORN, packed the City Council chambers to express their concern with a proposed change in the well sites entrance from Oak Ridge Grove Drive to Oakhurst Drive.

The council, which was considering whether or not to help SMCMUD pay for a bridge into the site – a condition that would allow the relocation of the entrance -- voted to table the decision until it received a more concrete proposal from the MUD on its concessions to residents. The MUD has asked ORN to pay for half the cost of the bridge into the site, which is expected to cost \$225,000-\$250,000.

A representative from Darling Homes, the builder of the VORG subdivision, also promised the company would contribute toward the construction of a fence on the property to minimize the visual impact of the development.

But the new group of residents at the meeting, some of whom have lived in Spring Oaks for more than 40 years, weren't excited about the prospect of the entrance to the well facility in their back yards either.

Several, including Linda Maddux, a 42-year resident of Spring Oaks, raised concerns about the possibly unsightly building being constructed in their backyards and the possibility of traffic generated by the facility.

"I would also like to express my concern over spending \$250,000 of the taxpayers money for this unnecessary option...," Maddux told the council. "It is very difficult to understand how this \$250,000 expense can be justified during these trying economic times."

The proposal before the council, which was commit to participate financially on the relocation of the entrance to the facility, did not go over well with all of the council.

"Until I see everything in black and white on a map and line item by line item, I'm not going to vote on it," said Councilmember Leah Gray.

Gray, as well as Mayor Pro Tem James Walton, asked the SMCMUD board to bring back a written contract that would detail how the MUD would reforest the site, details on the screening and color of the 500,000 gallon water storage tank and a timeframe in which the improvements to the site.

The request will go before the SMCMUD board before coming back to the ORN City Council.

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