



December 22, 2021

Re: Suspension of Rezoning Request

The City of New Buffalo is currently involved in a review and update of its Zoning Ordinance. The main goal of the update is to ensure that the Zoning Ordinance supports the community vision as outlined in the 2018 Master Plan. Additionally, the city is undertaking this endeavor for the following:

- Legal protection, as there must be a rational basis for zoning decisions and requirements.
- To reflect federal and state law pertaining to land use and zoning.
- To incorporate plain language and resolve conflicts that are the result of decades of incremental updates. The use of plain and clear language to define uses and terms strengthens the legal standing of ordinance interpretations.
- To address confusing concepts that have led to inconsistent application of code.
- To adapt to societal changes that conflict with narrow use categories and single-use zoning, such as allowing home offices, businesses, accessory units, and accessory structures within homes and on single-family lots.

During the review and updating process, the city has chosen to suspend any requests for the rezoning of properties. This suspension does not include normal building activities, such as site plan reviews or building permit requests. It is anticipated that the review and update process will tentatively conclude in July 2022.

If there are any questions regarding the specifics of each ordinance, feel free to contact me. I can be reached at (269) 469-1500 or via email at [dwatson@cityofnewbuffalo.org](mailto:dwatson@cityofnewbuffalo.org).

Darwin Watson, City Manager