

PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

10-0353R

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY TO WITHHOLD FROM SALE CERTAIN TAX FORFEITED PARCELS (ANNUAL LIST).

CITY PROPOSAL:

RESOLVED, that the board of commissioners of St. Louis County is hereby requested to withhold from sale for the public interest and to classify as conservation the following parcels from the county auditor's list of properties which have been declared tax forfeited and title thereto vested in the state:

Parcel ID and Legal Description	Location	Reason
010-2230-00310 Home Acres First Division Block 1, Lot 31	west side of Joshua Avenue 900 feet north of Page Street (Duluth Heights)	planned roadway corridor (Joshua Avenue)

Approved as to form:

Attorney

PC/PLNG KD:eu 06182010

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: This resolution exercises authority granted to municipalities by Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 282, to disapprove of the classification of tax forfeited lands upon notification from the board of county commissioners. The city's response, via resolution, must be sent to the county within 60 days of receiving notice.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 282.01, Subdivision 1; all parcels of land becoming the property of the state of Minnesota in trust through forfeiture for nonpayment of real estate taxes shall be classified as conservation or nonconservation. Lands classified Conservation are those properties for which there is potential for some public purpose.

This resolution requests the Saint Louis County Board of Commissioners classify as conservation a parcel of tax forfeited land and to withhold it from sale. In total, 24 parcels of land forfeited in Duluth in 2009 and this resolution requests that only one parcel be classified conservation. The balance will be made available for sale in the future.

The Duluth city planning commission, at its June 8, 2010, regular meeting, reviewed a list of recommendations for the classification of tax forfeited lands prepared by Planning Division staff with input from other city divisions. The Commission voted to recommend this list to the city council and Saint Louis County Board of Commissioners and in doing so, they considered the goals of a successful classification process:

- (a) To encourage the most economical and efficient use of the property for transportation, roads, water supply, drainage, sanitation, education, and recreation.
- (b) To reduce the city's local government expenses.
- (c) To conserve and develop Duluth's natural resources.
- (d) To encourage economic development in suitable areas.

The parcel to be classified conservation is in the area being studied for the extension of Joshua Avenue from Maple Grove Road to Arrowhead Road. It is the only parcel in a large block of tax forfeited land that, if it were sold, would significantly reduce options for routing the road. Please see the letter dated June 3, 2010 from City Engineer Cindy Voigt.

Summary of Recommendation	
Parcels forfeited in 2008	24
Parcels recommended for conservation class	1
Parcels recommended for nonconservation class and release for sale	23