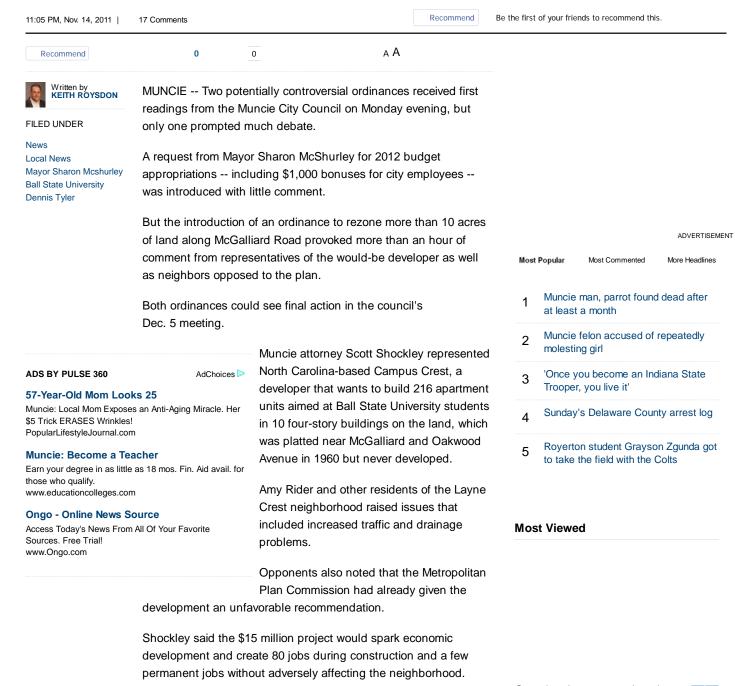
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Apartment rezoning request, bonuses introduced



The attorney also noted that more than half the residents of the

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neighborhood had entered into agreements -- and been paid \$2,000 each -- in 2006 not to oppose development of the land.

But Rider noted that the agreement did not cover changing the zoning to multi-family residential.

Rider said residents knew the land would be developed but did not believe the apartment complex was the best use.

She also raised objections to the possibility that increased traffic and poor visibility might lead to car-pedestrian accidents.

"I don't think one person needs to be struck by a car," Rider said. "Maybe that's just my humanity."

Several residents of the neighborhood spoke against the project, which council members said they would take under advisement until their December meeting.

McShurley -- who announced the bonuses shortly before losing her re-election bid to Democratic Party mayoral candidate Dennis Tyler -- spoke only briefly during the council meeting. City Controller Mary Ann Kratochvil presented the request for budget appropriations, including the bonuses.

Kratochvil emphasized several times that the city had enough funds to pay for the requests but needed council's appropriation.

City council President Sam Marshall called the financial figuring behind the request "a little mystery."

Contact business editor Keith Roysdon at 213-5828. Find him on Twitter at www.twitter.com/keithroysdon.

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