

2.21.32 Councilor Francis:

I do support the motion for a few reasons. A lot of the discussions, points that were made here today with respect to the provincial requirement of 20 years supply, supply and demand, and how we have to ensure a balanced approach to provide a stock of housing that is both balanced and what that stock looks like, what the cost of that stock is and the location.. all over the city, and I agree, I think intensification is important, I think filling in the gaps is important and just because we don't offer a housing stock in this area or other parts of the city doesn't mean that people are going to go necessarily where we want them to go. Just take a look at the surrounding municipalities around Windsor and their housing boom. So it makes sense to me with respect to what Mr. Hunt said about market leakage to provide a flexible supply where people can go in any part of the city and purchase whatever home they want in the price range they want I think it's important that they have the options available to them where they could choose. That's important for me.

And the only other thing I will say is I firmly believe and I came into this room today wanting to listen to everyone and I firmly believe that everyone in this community and certainly everyone in this room wants a new hospital. I've heard that several times and I'll take people for their word. I will say that Your Worship, when you explained the situation earlier this evening and said well if it went here, there and people are arguing that we won't get it. I did hear someone in the audience say "well good. That's fine. That's your opinion, everyone's entitled to their opinion and I'm certainly entitled to mine." So let me be clear. That's not an option for me. Not getting a brand new hospital is no option for me. And it's not an option for tens of thousands of others, of our citizens that want a new hospital. That want an improved healthcare system. So for those reasons, I'll support the motion.