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## Bradenton council takes stand against Amendment 4

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BRADENTON — The City Council has approved a resolution opposing the proposed Florida Constitution amendment that puts comprehensive plan changes to a vote of the public.

The resolution, adopted by the council in a 3-2 vote Wednesday, states that the Florida Hometown Democracy initiative would “impede progress on smarter growth polices” and “poses a grave threat to Florida’s unique quality of life.”

Councilmen Gene Gallo, Patrick Roff and Bemis Smith voted for the resolution, although Smith questioned City Attorney Bill Lisch if approval would require the city to expend any funds to support any opposition.

Lisch said the resolution simply states the council’s position on the proposed amendment.

That was one of the reasons Councilman Harold Byrd, who along with Councilwoman Marianne Barnebey voted against the resolution, gave today in a telephone interview for his dissenting vote.

“I don’t think this is something the council should formally take a stand on,” Byrd said, “because we are so directly involved.”

He said that because the council now has the power to change the comprehensive plan, it should not take a position for or against the amendment.

“We’re too close to the issue,” Byrd said. “It’s important to let our constituents know the consequences, good and bad, and let them make the decision to vote for or against the amendment.”

He also pointed out the city already has lobbyists outlining its position through the Florida League of Cities.

Barnebey was not available for comment at the time of this posting.