

Dale Says New Urban Renewal Plan Different

By Dan Black

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Government: Nampa mayor supports smaller district.

NAMPA — Nampa Mayor Tom Dale has no problem supporting the proposed urban renewal district.

He ran for office with a pledge that he would ask for an advisory vote of Nampans, and that if they opposed using urban renewal funds for road widening on Garrity Boulevard and the overpass project at Kings Corner, he would allow the urban renewal district to sunset. Nampans voted 60 percent against urban renewal and Dale let the district dissolve. Voters later backed a bond to fund the road projects.

But does Dale think supporting a new district contradicts his previous pledge?

“It was very specific,” he said Wednesday. “The pledge in that campaign was upheld.”

Dale said the new district is different, with different projects, different boundaries and protections that provide accountability and transparency not in place for the last urban renewal district.

Councilmember Lynda Clark agreed.

“He clearly kept his commitment,” she said, adding that the new plan, “is not the same.”

The proposed boundaries for a new urban renewal district is about one-quarter the size of the previous one, and includes no residential land.

The plan before the city now also has specific projects delineated with individual price tags. It also specifies its commissioners are the same as the city council, making them subject to voters' wishes. It also mandates public hearings before changes can be made to the plan.