

# CITY OF CONWAY, ARKANSAS PLANNING COMMISSION

May 15, 2023 • 6:30pm • 1111 Main Street

Planning Commission meeting procedures (per by-laws adopted July 19, 1993; amended September 20, 2021)
*Subdivision Review items are included for consideration as administrative reviews to determine compliance with the Conway Subdivision Ordinance, Zoning Code, and applicable plans. Such items are not conducted as public hearings.
**Order and conduct for public hearings: Following the announcement of the item by the Chair, Planning Staff will present the report findings. Following Staff presentation the Applicant is granted up to 10 minutes for additional presentation with subsequent favorable public comments limited to 3 minutes per person. If opposed parties are present the initial speaker is then granted up to 10 minutes with each subsequent public comment limited to 3 minutes per person. No person shall address the Planning Commission without first being recognized by the Chair and stating his/her name and address for the public record. All questions/ remarks shall be made from the podium and addressed through the Chair to the Commission as a whole. Any group with common interest shall select a speaker to address the Commission on behalf of the group; repetitive comments will be limited.



# City of Conway PLANNING COMMISSION

May 15, 2023

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Rebekah Fincher, Chair Laura King, Vice-Chair Drew Spurgers, Secretary Alexander Baney Adam Bell Mark Ferguson Latisha Sanders-Jones Lori Quinn Ethan Reed

The Conway Planning
Commission makes
recommendations to the City
Council on public hearing
items. Items reviewed on this
agenda will be considered by
the City Council as early as
May 23, 2023.

Items not approved by the Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Adjustment may be appealed to the City Council within 30 days of the date of denial. Call to Order [Board of Zoning Adjustment] and Roll Call.

Finding of a Quorum.

### I. Variance Review\*\*

A. Request for variance to allow primary building height in excess of maximum allowed in the C-2 zoning district for property located at 3200 Dave Ward Drive (VAR-0323-0048)

Adjourn.

Call to Order [Planning Commission] and Roll Call.

Finding of a Quorum.

Approval of Minutes. April 17, 2023

# I. Appeal Review

A. Review of Appeal: Sign Variance Denial - Over-height sign at 1505 E Oak St (APP-0323-0053)

# II. Public Hearings\*\*

- A. Request to rezone property at 2138 Old Morrilton Highway from R-2 to O-1 (REZ-0123-0006)
- B. Request to rezone a  $\pm 0.55$  acre portion of 1540 Old Morrilton Highway from R-1 to C-3 (REZ-0323-0055)
- C. Request for variance to reduce planting screen easement along east property boundary for property located at 112 Shamrock Drive (VAR-0423-0059)
- D. Request to rezone property located at 1700 South Boulevard from R-2A to S-1 (REZ-0423-0061)

### III. Announcements/Additional Business

A. Items as decided by the Commission

Adjourn.

### **APPLICANT/AUTHORIZED AGENT**

Brandon Rush Engineering Services, Inc. 1207 Old Missouri Rd Springdale, AR 72765

# **OWNERS**

Paladino Real Properties, LLC 225 Sturgis Rd Conway, AR 72032 New Life Church of Arkansas, Inc. 633 S Country Club Rd Conway, AR 72034



# **SITE AREA**

Location. 3200 Dave Ward Dr.

Site Area. ±6.29 acres.

Current Zoning. C-2 (Neighborhood Commercial District).

Existing Structures. None.

Overlay. None.

**Requested Zoning Variance.** Allow building height of 38'. This will be a variance of 13' from the maximum allowed 25'.

**General Overview.** The applicant is proposing a new grocery store with a fuel component. The main structure will be 26' tall with two attached towers that will be 32' and 38' tall. This exceeds the maximum building height of 25' allowed in the C-2 zoning district.

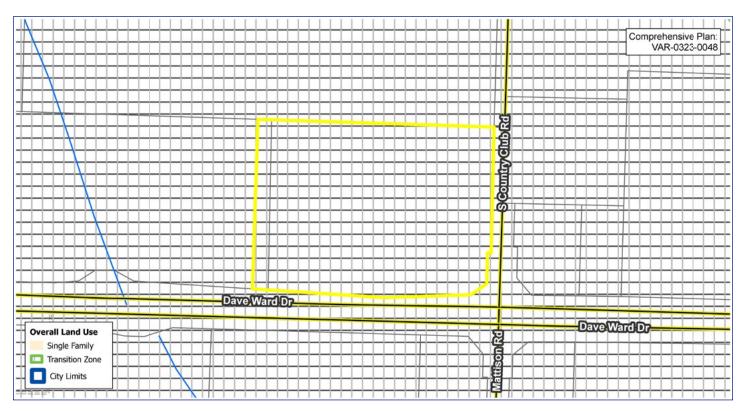
# **Zoning Ordinance Regulations**.

C-2 zoning district requires:

Lot Area - Minimum 5,000 sf.

Building Height - Maximum height of two stories and 25'.





**Basis of Variance Review.** The Planning Commission acting as the Board of Zoning Adjustment, should only grant zoning variances if strict enforcement of the zoning ordinance will cause undue hardship due to circumstances unique to the individual property. Variances should only be granted when it is demonstrated that such action will be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance. The Commission may impose conditions in granting a variance to ensure compliance and to protect adjacent property.

# **STAFF COMMENTS**

- Given the location of the site and surrounding properties, this variance will likely not have a negative impact to the area.
- Allowing the variance would not preclude the applicant from meeting all other requirements of the zone.
- This variance permit will only apply to the principle building, the grocery store, exclusive of the fuel canopy and additions and/or redevelopment. Any additional structures will be required to meet the 25' maximum height allowed by the zoning code.
- The request is consistent with the Transitional Zone Comprehensive Plan designation for the site. This district allows for more intense land uses (multi family, professional offices, limited commercial) when deemed appropriate only when sensitivity to adjoining residential areas is taken into account.

# STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

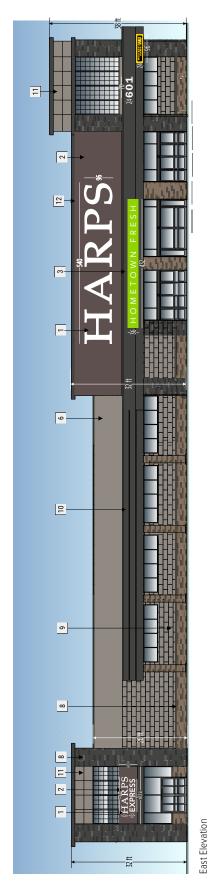
Staff recommends approval of the request on the basis that granting the variance would allow appropriate development of the site without harming adjacent property. If this property redevelops in the future, any new structure and/or expansion will be required to meet all applicable codes and ordinances.

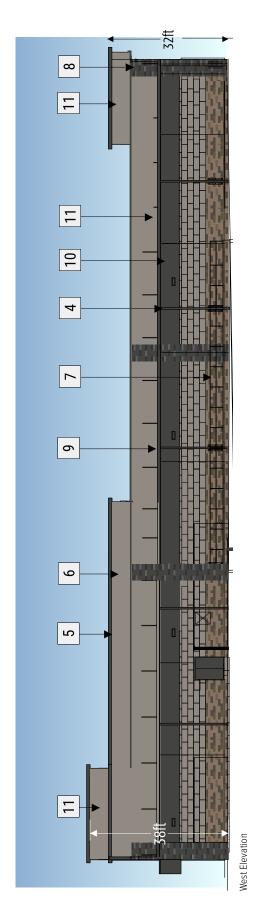
Planning recommends the following conditions of approval:

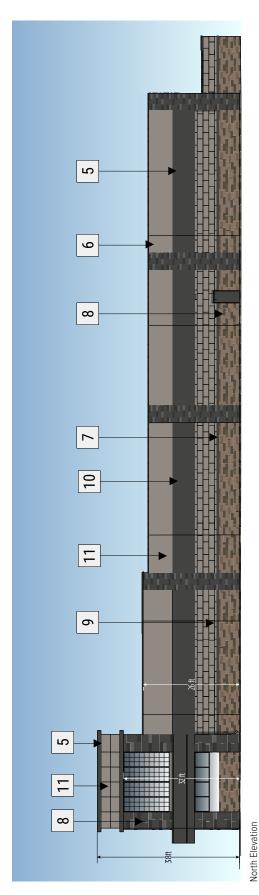
- 1. The allowed maximum height for the building is 38' (*The detached fuel canopy must comply with height regulations per Zoning Code §306.4 and in accordance with CUP-1122-0387*).
- 2. Any additional structures or redevelopment will be required to meet the 25' maximum height allowed by the zoning code.

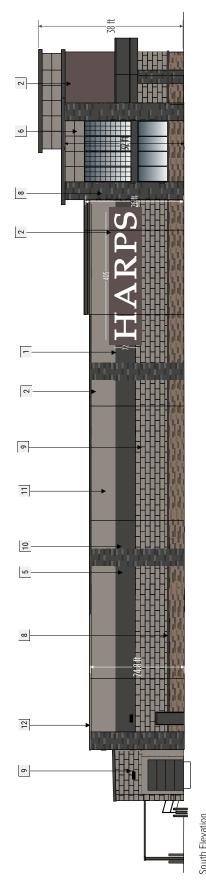
# **SAMPLE MOTION**

I move to accept the staff recommendation to approve the request with the conditions indicated in the staff report on the basis that as conditioned, it allows for appropriate use of the property and would not likely negatively impact adjacent property.











View from the subject property looking SW



View from the subject property looking  ${\sf N}$ 



View of the subject property from the private drive looking  ${\sf E}$ 



View from the subject property looking  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{NW}}$ 



View from the subject property looking  ${\sf E}$ 



View from the subject property looking SE

1505 E Oak Street

### **APPLICANT/AUTHORIZED AGENT**

Lora Rand Arkansas Sign & Neon 8525 Distribution Drive Little Rock, AR 72209

# **OWNER**

Linn Commercial Limited Partnership 1525 East Oak St Conway, AR 72032



# **SITE DATA**

Location. 1505 E Oak St.

**Site Area.** ±1.28 acres.

Current Zoning. C-3 (Highway Service and Open Display Commercial).

Existing Structures. None.

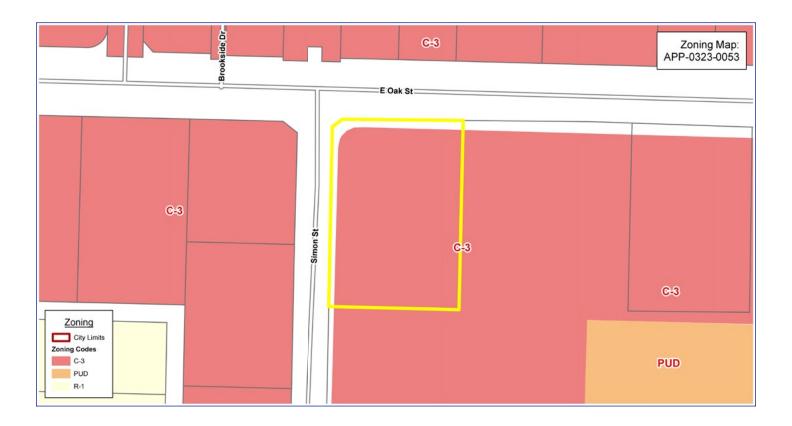
Overlay/Subarea Plan. Oak Street Ahead.

**Signage Allowance.** Properties zoned C-3 and ≤ 5 acres are allowed:

- one monument or two-pole sign per street frontage
- sign height ≤ 8 feet
- sign area up ≤ 64 square feet

**Sign Variance.** The Zoning Code allows for sign variance requests related to any sign requirement established by the ordinance excluding sign area and electronic messaging. The variance *request shall demonstrate that special conditions or circumstances exist that are not applicable to other lands, structures, or buildings such that a literal interpretation of the ordinance would result in an undue hardship (Zoning Code §1208.7).* 

1505 E Oak Street





1505 F Oak Street

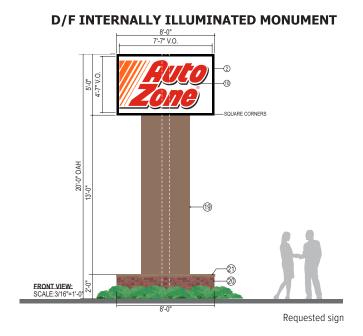
# **REQUEST**

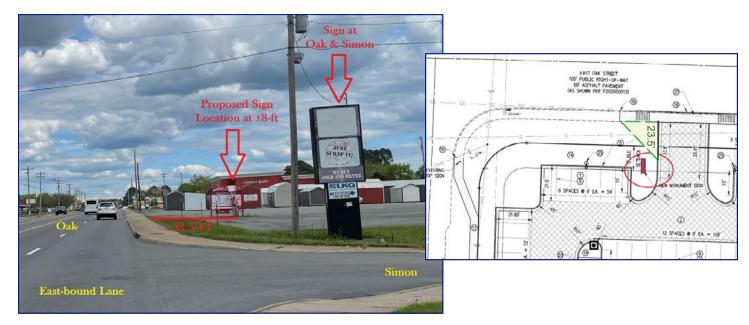
The applicant is appealing the Director of Planning's denial of a requested sign variance to allow a sign height of 20'.

# **STAFF COMMENTS**

After a review of the request the Director made the following considerations:

- The applicant stated in their hardship that an existing off-premise directional sign on the corner of EOak Stand Simon Stwould block the visibility of AutoZone's sign from traffic heading east along EOak St.
  - a. The Director visited the site and planned location of the sign, and it does not appear that the sign at the corner of E Oak St and Simon St would interfere with the visibility of the sign heading east on Oak St. The exhibit provided shows the approximate location of the proposed sign and the sign at the corner of Oak & Simon. In the future, it is expected that the non-conforming sign at Oak and Simon Streets will be removed with future redevelopment or new development.





- The Director reviewed considerations the applicant's discussion regarding businesses as to other within the area of the proposed AutoZone location having existing taller freestanding signs in which the applicant believes that by requesting a taller sign this would not take away from other area businesses.
  - a. The City Council, at the unanimous request of the Planning Commission, has recently adopted new considerations for the Oak Street Corridor with the Oak Street Ahead corridor plan. This frontage is within Oak Street District 3 Conceptual Area. Oak Street Ahead promotes considerations for sign regulations applying to all new development or redevelopment along this corridor. While staff is aware of non-conforming issues related to signage within this area, staff interprets the recently adopted considerations as a desire by the Council and Commission to reduce non-conforming issues along this corridor and considers signs to be an issue along Oak St which need more in-depth review and consideration.

1505 E Oak Street



City of Conway Planning & Development 1111 Main Street Conway, AR 72032

RE: Letter of Appeal to the Variance record (VAR-0323-0039) 1505 E OAK ST

# Dear Planning Commission:

We are requesting an appeal from the decision of the Director of Planning & Development who denied the variance request on variance record VAR-0323-0039 requesting a larger freestanding sign for AutoZone

Per theemail from Kris Paxton, Director of Planning & Development of the City of Conway on 3/23/23 to Lora Rand at Arkansas Sign, the variance request for a larger freestanding sign for AutoZone at was denied.

Per the email from the Director: The off-premise directional sign on the corner of Oak & Simon does not appear to interfere with the line of site from the travel lanes along Oak Street. There are known non-conforming signs along Oak Street that will be addressed during future redevelopment of those businesses along the Oak Street Corridor. The City of Conway policy along this corridor is in the process of being revised, and this variance request does not align with the intent of those policy considerations.

There are many existing freestanding signs along Oak Street that are not within the interstate signage allowance zone so by requesting a larger freestanding sign it is not out of place as to what is already existing in the area. We do not know when future redevelopment in the area will take place or if existing businesses that already have freestanding signs will be part of that redevelopment. There is an off-premise directional sign right on the corner of the property which will stand out more than an on premise ground sign for the actual business that will be on the property.

b. While Oak Street Ahead supports an Auto Parts District use at the corner of Simon St and Oak St, the Simon St intersection is envisioned as a future gateway into the district, implying beautification along this area in the future with redevelopment. The Oak Street Ahead project also supported this consideration in the City Quality section, in which Oak Street east of I-40 is encouraged to become a Green Corridor, walkable with less oversized parking and more greenery. Exceeding sign requirements may be counterproductive to this setting and maintains non-conforming standards along the corridor during redevelopment and new development.

c. In addition, the Planning Commission Bylaws state, "Precedents - Each item docketed shall be decided upon its own merit and circumstances attendant thereto. No action shall be considered a precedent for future action."





View from subject property looking E along E Oak St



View of subject property looking E across Simon St intersection



View from subject property looking W along E Oak St

### **APPLICANT/OWNER**

Faustino Hurtado 2130 Old Morrilton Hwy Conway, AR 72032



# **SITE AREA**

**Location.** 2138 Old Morrilton Hwy; Lot 1A of UGH Group LLC Replat. North side of Old Morrilton Hwy between the Salem Rd/ Friendship Rd intersection.

Site Area. ±1.87 acres.

Current Zoning. R-2 (Two Family Residential District).

**Requested Rezoning.** O-1 (General Office District).

**Adjacent Zoning.** North: C-3 (Highway Service and Open Display District); East: R-2 and MF-1 (Multi-Family District; 12 units/acre); West: R-2; South: A-1 (Agricultural District).

**Existing Structures.** Driveway off of Old Morrilton Hwy; no existing buildings.

Overlay. None.

Comprehensive Plan. Planned Unit Development.

**Projected Traffic Impact.** With a rezoning to O-1, the traffic impact could be significant. The highest traffic generating uses permitted by right in O-1 are associated with institutional uses such as schools and churches. Depending on the type and level of school, this could yield more than 1,000 vehicle trips per typical weekday. No defined use has been provided at this time.





Current Traffic Counts. 9,700 ADT - Old Morrilton Hwy (just east of the site).

Flood/Drainage. The site is not within any FEMA flood zones.

Utilities. The applicant will need to coordinate the extension of any utilities with Conway Corporation.

Master Street Plan. Old Morrilton Hwy/Hwy 64 – Major Arterial (100' ROW).

Street Improvement. No improvements are planned at this time.

# **STAFF COMMENTS**

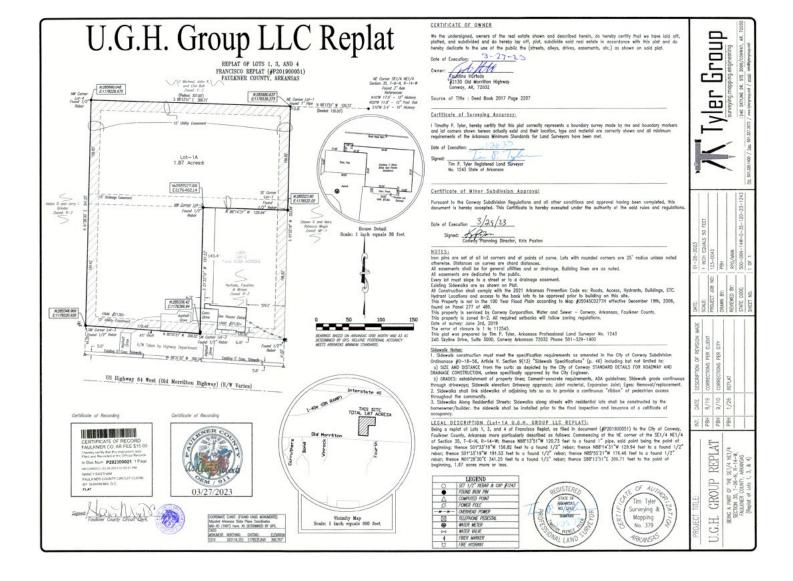
- The applicant is requesting to rezone ±1.87 acres from R-2 to O-1.
- The land use plan designates this area as Planned Unit Development. O-1 is consistent with a type of development that may be found in a PUD. However, there are generally greater restrictions rezoning to O-1.
- With the improvements to access to the I-40 corridor, this area will likely develop with higher intensity uses in the future.
- Sidewalks are required for all street frontages on new lots, including Old Morrilton Hwy.
- The request will not likely negatively impact adjacent property.

### STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends approval of the request. Rezoning to a general office district is consistent with projected future growth in this area. This rezoning will allow for appropriate use of the property and will not likely negatively impact adjacent properties.

# **SAMPLE MOTION**

I move to accept the staff recommendation to approve the rezoning request on the basis that it will allow for appropriate use of the property and will not likely negatively impact adjacent property.





View of subject property from Old Morrilton Hwy looking  ${\sf N}$ 



Property adjacent to the W



Property adjacent to the E



Property adjacent to the S, across Old Morrilton Hwy

# ± 0.55 acres at 1575 Pike Ridge Road

### **APPLICANT/AUTHORIZED AGENT**

Engage Management 201 Lee Andrew Ln Conway, AR 72034

### OWNER

Gene Salter Properties, Inc. PO Box 11778 Conway, AR 72034



# **SITE DATA**

Location. 1575 Pike Ridge Rd.

**Site Area**. ±0.55 acres.

Current Zoning. R-1 (One Family Residential).

Requested Rezoning. C-3 (Open Display and Highway Commercial).

Adjacent Zoning. West, South: C-3; East: R-1; North: unzoned ARDOT ROW

Existing Structures. None.

Overlay. None.

Comprehensive Plan. Commercial.

**Project Traffic Impact.** An accurate traffic impact is difficult to estimate for an undeveloped site given the wide range of uses allowed in the proposed zoning district. With a rezoning to C-3 and the site developed with the most intense use, the increase in traffic impact could be significant. The most intense use permitted by-right in the C-3 zoning district is considered to be a drive-through restaurant. A typical size drive-through restaurant can generate up to 1,039 vehicle trips per typical weekday. However, as the site only has frontage on Pike Ridge Rd, it is more likely that this ±0.55 acre property will be developed in conjunction with the remainder of the C-3





# ± 0.55 acres at 1575 Pike Ridge Road

property to the west and the majority of trips distributed onto Old Morrilton Hwy.

Current Traffic Counts. 18,000 ADT - Old Morrilton Hwy (at the site).

Flood/Drainage. No portion of the property lies within a FEMA flood hazard zone.

**Utilities.** The applicant will need to coordinate with Conway Corporation for the extension of utilities at the time of development.

Master Street Plan. Old Morrilton Hwy/Hwy 64 - Major Arterial (100' ROW); Pike Ridge Rd -Local Nonresidential (50' ROW).

**Street Improvement.** None planned at this time.

# **STAFF COMMENTS**

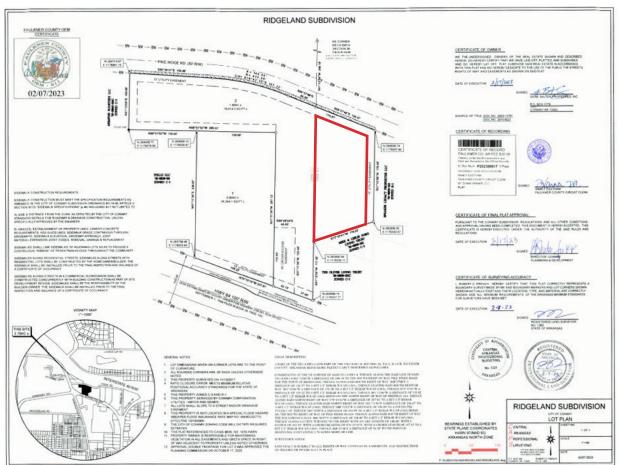
- The applicant is requesting to rezone a ±0.55 acre portion of Lot 2 Ridgeland Subdivision [±1.80 acres] to a comparable zoning.
- The requested zoning district is congruent with the Comprehensive Plan.
- The rezoning will not likely negatively impact adjacent property.

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the rezoning request on the basis that it is congruent with the Comprehensive Plan and will allow for appropriate use of the property.

# **SAMPLE MOTION**

I move to accept the staff recommendation to approve the request on the basis that it is congruent with the Comprehensive Plan and will not likely negatively impact adjacent property.



# ± 0.55 acres at 1575 Pike Ridge Road



View of subject property from Pike Ridge Rd looking  ${\sf S}$ 



Property across Old Morrilton Hwy to the  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{S}}$ 



View of subject property from Old Morrilton Hwy looking  ${\bf N}$ 



Property adjacent to the E



Property across Old Morrilton Hwy to the  ${\sf S}$ 

# 112 Shamrock Drive

### **APPLICANT/AUTHORIZED AGENT**

Brandon Foiles Crafton Tull 1000 Ledgelawn Dr Conway, AR 72034

### **OWNER**

Aimee McGough 112 Shamrock Dr Conway, AR 72034



# **SITE DATA**

Location. 112 Shamrock Dr.

Current Zoning. MF-3 (Multi-family, 24 units/acre).

**Existing Structures.** 2,377 sf single-family residence, in-ground swimming pool.

Overlay. None.

**Requested Zoning Variance.** Allow a reduction in the planting screen easement from 15' to 5', along the east property boundary; S Farris Rd frontage.

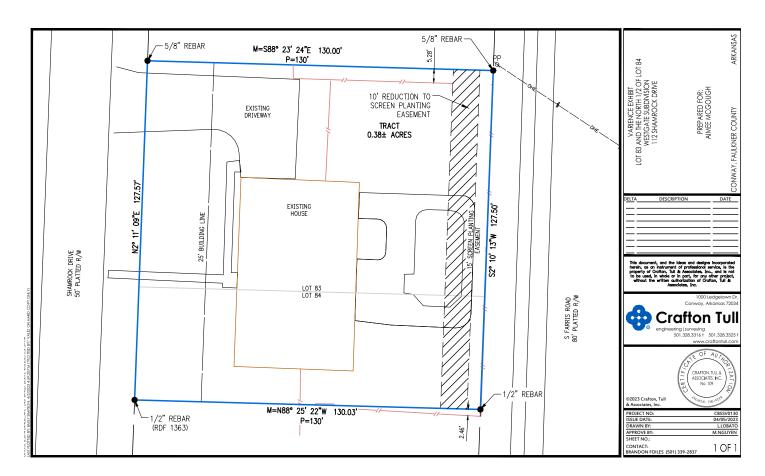
**General Overview.** The applicant is requesting to reduce the platted planting screen easement at the rear of the property to allow for the sale of the property. A previous property owner installed an in-ground pool encroaching into the planting screen easement; the date of the pool installation is unknown. An exception would need to be permitted to reduce the depth of the platted easement. A replat of the property may also be required.

**Subdivision Regulations.** "...Where double frontage exists, a planting screen easement of at least ten feet shall be provided along a portion of the lot abutting the traffic artery or other use where screening is required. In this circumstance there shall be no right of access across the planting screen easement." Art IV §5.F(7)

112 Shamrock Drive







**Basis of Variance Review.** In accordance with Art V §11of the Subdivision Regulations, the Planning Commission may permit special exceptions to the rules and regulations when, in the opinion of the Commission, such exceptions are in keeping with the intent of these rules and regulations and when exceptions will provide for a development which will be in conformance with existing platting of the general neighborhood of the proposed subdivision. The Commission may impose conditions in granting an exception.

# **STAFF COMMENTS**

- The encroachment condition was created by a prior property owner.
- The encroachment is hindering clear title work and preventing the sale of the property.
- An existing 6' wooden privacy fence serves as ample and appropriate screening of the use from the traffic artery.
- There are no underground utility facilities located within the current planting screen easement; Conway Corporation has no objection to the requested exception.
- At the discretion of the Planning Commission, replatting of the property to indicate the reduced easement and correct the lot configuration may be required.
- This is an existing structure with no proposed expansion at this time.

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Planning Staff recommends approval of the exception, with suggested conditions below, on the basis that permitting the exception would allow for appropriate conforming use of the site without harming adjacent property.

Suggested conditions of approval:

- 1. The exception is only valid pertaining to the existing structure [pool] and encroachment; no further or additional encroachment is permitted by means of expansion of the pool or addition of any accessory structure.
- 2. There shall be no right of access [from S Farris Rd] across any portion of the planting screen easement.
- 3. Replatting of the property may be required at the discretion of the Planning Commission.



View of rear of subject property from S Farris Rd looking W



Properties adjacent to the S



View of front of subject property from Shamrock Dr looking SE



Properties adjacent to the N

1700 South Blvd

### **APPLICANT/AUTHORIZED AGENT**

Emily Ferris Sowell Architects 1315 North St, Ste 100 Conway, AR 72034

# **OWNER**

Milestones Services, Inc. / Faulkner County Day School Inc. 1700 South Blvd Conway, AR 72034



# **SITE DATA**

Location. 1700 South Blvd.

Site Area. ±1.86 acres.

Current Zoning. R-2A (Two Family Residential).

Requested Rezoning. S-1 (Institutional).

**Adjacent Zoning.** West, East, North, South: R-2A (2 properties with Conditional Use Permits to allow Religious Activities at 1715 South Blvd and Office with adjacent parking at 222 Ash St).

**Existing Structures.** Approximately 26,984 sf of childcare and supporting facilities plus associated outdoor play area equipment.

Overlay. Old Conway Design Overlay District.

Comprehensive Plan. Single Family Residential.

**Project Traffic Impact.** No increase in traffic is anticipated as no change in use is proposed. The rezoning request is to bring the long-established use of the site into zoning conformance.

1700 South Blvd





# 1700 South Blvd

**Current Traffic Counts.** No traffic data is available for this site. The nearest data is 1,800 ADT - Conway Blvd (north of the intersection at South Blvd).

Flood/Drainage. No portion of the property lies within a FEMA flood hazard zone.

Utilities. The site is developed.

Master Street Plan. South Blvd - Major Arterial (100' ROW); Davis St - Collector (60' ROW).

Street Improvement. None planned at this time.

# **STAFF COMMENTS**

- The applicant is requesting to rezone ±1.86 acres from R-2A to S-1.
- This rezoning appears to create no change of use. The applicant is seeking the rezoning to bring the site into conformance with current zoning standards.
- The land use plan designates this area as Single-Family Development. However, this site has been used as an institutional use for decades, first as a church and then as a school.
- The adjacent property to the south is also used for educational/institutional purposes. This rezoning appears consistent with uses in the area.
- Any new development/redevelopment will be subject to development review in accordance with Article 10 of the Conway Zoning Code
- The rezoning request will not likely negatively impact adjacent property.

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of the rezoning. The proposed zoning would bring the site into zoning compliance and would not negatively impact adjacent property.

# **SAMPLE MOTION**

I move to accept the staff recommendation to approve the rezoning request on the basis that it will bring this property into compliance and will not likely negatively impact adjacent property.



View of subject property from Davis St looking  ${\sf E}$ 



View of subject property from South Blvd looking N



Properties adjacent to the N (along Ash St)



View of subject property from Davis St looking E



View of subject property from Ash St looking  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{NW}}$ 



Properties adjacent to the E, across Ash St

Subject: RE: Milestones REZ-0423-0061

**Date:** Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 11:26:54 AM Central Daylight Time **From:** Lisa Mabry-Williams < Lisa.Williams@conwayarkansas.gov>

**To:** planning <planning@conwayarkansas.gov>

Can you please send me the difference in restrictions/allowed uses for a property zoned R2A with a conditional use and S1? Being in a historic overlay district, how will the new zoning affect the property? Thank you.

From: planning <planning@conwayarkansas.gov>

Sent: Thursday, May 4, 2023 11:11 AM

To: Lisa Mabry-Williams < Lisa.Williams@conwayarkansas.gov>

Subject: Re: Milestones REZ-0423-0061

Please find attached all files provided with the application to rezone property located at 1700 South Blvd. You can also view the status of this record by utilizing the search function of the <u>Civic Access Customer Portal</u> and searching for REZ-0423-0061.

Would you like for your previous email to be included in the staff report as a public comment?

If you have additional questions please feel free to reach out to staff. Thank you,
City of Conway • Planning & Development
1111 Main Street • Conway, AR 72032
(501) 450-6105

From: Lisa Mabry-Williams < Lisa. Williams@conwayarkansas.gov >

**Date:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 11:29 AM **To:** planning conwayarkansas.gov>

Subject: Milestones REZ-0423-0061

As a concerned homeowner in the area, I request copies of all documents submitted by Sowell Architects and Milestones in reference to rezoning the property, located in a historic residential area, from R2A to S1. Thank you.

Lisa

# **APPENDIX**

# **Development Review Approvals**

- Captain D's 1610 Old Morrilton Hwy (SDR-1122-0396)
- Westrock Coffee Distribution Center, 1430 William J Clark Dr (SDR-0323-0047)

# Plats filed for record (Lot Splits, Lot Mergers, and Final Plats)

- Thielke Replat (P2023-00024)
- Tupelo Ridge Phase 5 Correction (P2023-00025)
- Hamley Subdivision (P2023-00026)
- Replat of Parts of Lots 11 and 14, Conway Gardens Subdivision (P2023-00027)