



BRYAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OKs REWRITTEN INTERIM DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

BRYAN COUNTY, GA – Oct. 10, 2018 – At last night’s Bryan County Board of Commissioners meeting, the commission conducted a second reading of the Interim Development Ordinance and voted to approve the measure. This rewrite of Bryan County development codes contains two important components, each designed to simplify the process and ensure well-controlled, organizational growth in the community.

The first component makes it easier for county staff by more clearly defining their roles as they pertain to processes that subdivisions and planned communities must go through for approval. And, by cleaning up some unnecessary jargon and removing redundant steps in the process, developers will enjoy a more streamlined, simplified procedure as well.

The second component mostly applies to developments containing plats in the Article 11 stage that have not already have approved. Any plats that previously were signed off on by the commission are exempt. However, any future phases of subdivisions without article 11 approval will now have to abide by enhanced building safety standards, such as using construction materials with higher wind-zone resistance. Special attention will also need to be paid to aesthetic considerations, as they add to property values and, thus, help maintain the tax base as well as private property values for current residents. When the tax base is well-maintained, Bryan County can continue to generate the revenue needed to ensure residents’ safety and comfort by providing services necessary to a good quality of life.

“By passing the Interim Development Ordinance, the Bryan County Commission has signified its commitment to keeping our communities organized, attractive and well-planned. Our residents deserve safe homes in neighborhoods that are well-planned and easy to access. This ordinance helps us take the first step in that direction,” said County Administrator Ben Taylor.

The next step in the code rewrites is creating and passing a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), which will bring the Planning & Zoning code section and the subdivision code sections together. However, that will take approximately another year and will be a more comprehensive and involved task than the recently-approved Interim Development Ordinance (IDO). Implementing the IDO first enables Bryan County to implement some of the most-needed measures a bit sooner than if they'd waited for the UDO to be completed. The preliminary step helps to keep growth orderly and controlled.

Bryan County's Planning & Zoning codes had not been updated since 1995. According to Taylor, it's time to bring it all together so there are fewer opportunities for conflict. This process is bringing about a modernized way to accomplish solid growth practices in the county – something that will ensure our communities remain accessible and well-constructed for current and future residents.

For more information about Bryan County, please visit www.bryancountyga.org.

– ENDS –

For media inquiries, please contact Hollie Barnidge at hollie@lesleyfrancispr.com or 912-272-8651 or Lesley Francis at lesley@francis.com or 912-429-3950 or the team at 912-417-LFPR (5377).