



Chatham County Planning Board Agenda Notes

Date: October 4, 2016

Agenda Item: VIII. 2.

Attachment #: 1

☐ **Subdivision** ☐ **Conditional Use Permit** ☒ **Rezoning Request**
☐ **Other:**

Subject:	Request by the Chatham County Board of Commissioners to amend Section 10.13, Table of Permitted Uses, of the Zoning Ordinance to revise multiple uses in the Light and Heavy Industrial zoning districts that are currently permitted by right to conditional use permits.
Action Requested:	See Recommendation
Attachments:	1. Table of permitted uses with proposed revisions (hard copies were provided at the September meeting and are also available on the county website)

Introduction & Background:

On August 15, 2016, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners discussed revising the uses listed in Section 10.13 Table of Permitted Uses under the industrial district designations. With the growth of the county and promotion of two potential industrial sites in the county, the commissioners thought that a review of all the uses under the industrial designations was warranted. At the conclusion of the discussion the commissioners decided that some uses should be changed from permitted (P) to conditional uses (CU). A public hearing was scheduled and advertised.

The legislative public hearing was held September 19, 2016. Planning staff presented the text amendment and no one provided input on the request. The matter was referred to the Planning Board for review and recommendation.

Discussion & Analysis:

The Chatham County Zoning Ordinance was originally adopted in 1968 and applied to two townships. It has subsequently expanded to cover the entire county, outside the municipal land use jurisdictions, based on need and growth pressures. Since zoning was originally adopted there have been many changes in the county resulting from industrial, commercial and residential growth leading to an increased tax base. As growth occurs, regulations and ordinances need to be revisited to ensure there are appropriate measures in place that protect property values and lifestyles, and identify and mitigate any adverse environmental impacts.

With the potential for two new industrial parks proposed in the county, one within the Town of Siler City's zoning jurisdiction and the other in Moncure, the Commissioners thought it was the appropriate time to review the list of industrial uses. They evaluated whether certain uses were more intrusive on surrounding properties and should be required to go through a more comprehensive review before the use was considered for approval.

Attachment 1 is the table of permitted uses and those uses that are suggested to be changed from "P", permitted by right, to "CU", conditional use permit, are highlighted in yellow. There are 139 uses listed in the industrial categories. 20 out of 139 are proposed to be changed to conditional use permits. These are uses that may have hazardous chemicals, materials, or processes that should be reviewed more closely and required to go through the conditional use permitting process. This process allows the Planning Board and Commissioners to request and receive additional documentation and reports that are otherwise not required through the general standards of the ordinance. The conditional use process also requires the proposed industrial use be subject the public hearing process so that citizens are made aware of the type of industry, the process in which they operate, identification of existing or potential environmental concerns in close proximity to the use, and other issues that may arise before they are considered for approval.

Recommendation:

The Planning Board has up to three meetings in which to make a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.

Should you recommendation be for approval of the requested modifications to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, a proposed consistency statement has been included for your consideration.

The text amendment to the Chatham County Zoning Ordinance, Section 10.13 Table of Permitted Uses, specifically the industrial districts classifications, is consistent with The Land Conservation and Development Plan by expanding the list of industrial uses that are subject to a process that aides in the protection of ground and surface waters, wildlife habitats, property values, and economic growth. The Plan includes that the county should "design a process that invites and facilitates the location of businesses in the preferred commercial and industrial sites" and "discourage commercial and industrial development in other settings [...]."