• 17.10.010. - Zoning regulations adopted; authority.

The board of county commissioners for Hall County, Georgia, as authorized by article IX, section IV, paragraph II of the Constitution of the State of Georgia, does hereby create a planning commission known as the Hall County Planning Commission, and a zoning board of adjustment known as the Hall County Zoning Board of Adjustment, and does hereby adopt zoning regulations for the following purposes: to define certain words used herein; to create zone boundaries; to regulate the locations of trades, professions, businesses, industries, apartment houses, and residences; to define the area of lots; to fix the location and size of yards and the alignment of buildings; to establish setback lines; to provide for nonconforming uses; to provide for the administration and enforcement thereof together with penalties for the violation of its provisions; to adopt a map or maps of any section or sections thereof for zoning purposes of the unincorporated areas of Hall County; to authorize variances and conditional uses; and to provide for court review.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 2; Code 1991, § 17.10.010; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

<u>Chapter 17.20 (Definitions) is hereby amended by inserting new Sections 17.20.1061 and</u> 17.20.1062 which provide as follows:

"17.20.1061. Special exception.

The term "special exception" when used in Title 17 shall refer to a variance, and shall be defined in the same manner as the term "variance" is defined herein.

17.20.1062. Special use.

The term "special use" when used in Title 17 shall refer to a conditional use, and shall be defined in the same manner as the term "conditional use" is defined herein."

17.240.110. - Lot density exceptions.

Residential zones. In all residential zoning districts except planned development districts, only one principal structure and its customary accessory buildings, including agricultural buildings, may be erected on any

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parcel recorded as a separate lot or tract with the clerk of superior court unless otherwise specifically permitted by either:

Approval of a site plan for multi-family development, in zones permitting such uses, by the planning commission;

Approval of a caretaker or hardship variance by the Planning Commission

Non-residential zones. In all other zoning districts except planned development districts, only one principal structure and its customary accessory buildings for each 15,000 square feet of land area may be erected on any parcel. A minimum of 20 percent of the site must be retained as open space. That open-space area must be maintained as either a natural or landscaped area.

Nonconforming uses. Any building containing a nonconforming use is considered a principal structure.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 16(I); Res. of 2-14-83; Res. of 5-11-87; Res. of 7-10-89; Res. of 4-26-91; Res. of 4-15-93; Code 1991, § 17.240.080; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.340.010. Criteria for continuation of nonconforming use.

- A. Any structure or use of land existing at the time of enactment or subsequent amendment of the resolution codified in this title, but not in conformity with its use regulations and provisions, may be continued with the following limitations. It shall not be:
 - 1. Changed to another nonconforming use;
 - 2. Re-established after discontinuance of that use for one year;
 - 3. Enlarged beyond its size at the time the use or structure became nonconforming. This includes, but is not limited to, the size of the building, the number of employees, operation during other hours of the day or night, the use of additional land, and additional or more powerful equipment;
 - Rebuilt, altered, repaired or replaced after damage exceeding 75 percent of the fair sale value of the structure immediately prior to damage. A nonconforming mobile home may not be replaced after it is removed from the property.

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- B. Any building containing a nonconforming use is considered a principal structure. (See section 17.240.110.)
- C. Any replacement of a preexisting manufactured home or mobile home with a new manufactured or mobile home shall be permitted in accordance with O.C.G.A § 36-66-7 et seq.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 24(A), (B); Res. of 5-28-91; Code 1991, § 17.330.010; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.350.010. Authority of planning commission

The planning commission may authorize, under conditions prescribed herein, conditional uses and permitted uses expressly identified in a particular zoning district. However, the planning commission reserves full authority to deny any request for such a use or to impose conditions authorized on the use as it deems appropriate to protect the general health, safety, and welfare of the county and its citizens.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 25(A); Res. of 7-10-89; Res. of 9-28-92; Code 1991, § 17.340.010; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.350.020. Review procedure.

- A. The planning commission shall hold a public hearing on all applications for conditional uses and permitted uses and consider the merits of the applications.
- B. After hearing testimony from all interested parties, the planning commission shall have 30 days to render its decision.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 25(B); Res. of 7-10-89; Res. of 9-28-92; Code 1991, § 17.340.020; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.350.050. Review criteria.

A conditional use or permitted use may be granted when the planning commission finds from a	 Deleted: or zoning board of adjustment
preponderance of the evidence produced at the public hearing that the proposed use is suitable for the subject	
property considering the general lines of inquiry established under section 17.380.060.C.	

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 25(E); Res. of 7-10-89; Res. of 9-28-92; Code 1991, § 17.340.050; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

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17.350.060. Burden of proof.

The applicant for a conditional use or a permitted use shall have the burden of proof, which shall include the presentation of evidence and the burden of persuasion of all questions of fact which are to be determined by the planning commission as authorized herein.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 25(F); Res. of 7-10-89; Res. of 9-28-92; Code 1991, § 17.340.060; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.350.070. Conditions of approval.

The planning commission may place any reasonable conditions or stipulations upon any approved use as deemed necessary (such as hours of operation, parking, maximum building size, lot size, outside displays, signs, landscape and buffer improvements, screens, etc.) to further insure the orderly operation of the proposed use and its compatibility with the surrounding properties.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 25(G); Res. of 7-10-89; Res. of 9-28-92; Code 1991, § 17.340.070; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.350.080. Reserved

17.350.090. Appeals to board of commissioners.

Any decision of the planning commission may be appealed to the board of commissioners of the county in accordance with chapter 17.370 hereof.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 25(I); Res. of 7-10-89; Res. of 9-28-92; Code 1991, § 17.340.090; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.360.020. Appeals.

Any person or persons aggrieved by any decision of the building official or planning director may appeal said decision to the county's planning commissioner in accordance with chapter 17.370 hereof.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 26(B); Res. of 7-10-89; Code 1991, § 17.350.020; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

CHAPTER 17.370., APPEALS OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICIALS AND DECISION-MAKING BODIES

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Deleted: A. No application approved by the planning commission shall be effective for a period of longer than 12 months unless action is taken by the applicant to implement the use proposed in the application by obtaining the proper permit and/or license, and development plat approval, and proceeding with the building, occupancy or establishment of business within 12 months from the date of approval by the planning commission. For applications approved by the zoning board of adjustment, if no action is taken by the applicant to implement the purpose of the application by obtaining the proper permit and/or license and proceeding with the building occupancy or establishment of a business within six months from the date of approval by the zoning board of adjustment, said approval shall become null and void. \P B. . Extensions may be considered by the planning commission not exceeding 180 days each upon written application without notice or hearing. (Res. of 8-28-78, § 25(H); Res. of 7-10-89; Res. of 9-28-92; Code 1991, § 17.340.080; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)¶

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17.370.010. Right to appeal.

- A. <u>Any person aggrieved by the final decision rendered on any proposed amendment, any conditional use or use subject to the approval of the planning commission or any other zoning or quasi-judicial decision by any county official, department, board, or agency affected by any final order, requirement, or decision authorized in this ordinance shall have the right to have an appeal of the decision. Appeals of administrative officials shall be heard by the planning commission, and appeals of any decision-making body shall be heard by the board of commissioners.</u>
- B. A person is considered aggrieved for purposes of this section only if the person or their property was the subject of the action appealed from, or the person has a substantial interest in the action being appealed that is in danger of suffering special damage or injury not common to all property owners similarly situated.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 29(A)(1); Res. of 2-22-88; Res. of 7-10-89; Code 1991, § 17.360.010; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.370.020. <u>File</u> of appeal.

In order to <u>file</u> an appeal, the appellant must submit a written notice of appeal within <u>30 calendar</u> days of the decision to the planning commission office. The appellant must submit justification and reasons for the appeal. Such justification should make specific reference to such relevant <u>analysis</u> as listed in <u>17.370.030(C)</u>. The appeal fee <u>must</u> be paid at the time of filing said written notice of appeal. The planning director, upon receipt of the written notice of appeal and fee, shall notify the county administrator of the appeal and submit the notice and record of the application to the county administrator.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 29(A)(2); Res. of 2-22-88; Res. of 7-10-89; Res. of 12-19-90; Code 1991, § 17.360.020; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.370.030. Hearing and decision,

A. The appropriate hearing body (either the planning commission or the board of commissioners) shall hold a public hearing to consider all appeals of decisions by administrative officials and decision-making bodies. The only active participants are the appellant, the original applicant (if other than the appellant), and the zoning official or other administrative official whose decision is being appealed. Participants in the

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meeting may present testimony, produce documentary evidence, and may cross-examine witnesses provided by another participant. The board of commissioners may ask guestions or seek clarification from any participant in the hearing, and may limit the time for the hearing as it deems necessary and appropriate provided that all participants are afforded equal time to present evidence.

- B. Following the close of the hearing and following its consideration of all testimony, documentary evidence, and matters of record presented, the board of commissioners shall render its decision. The decision shall be made within a reasonable period of time, but in no event more than 30 days from the date of the close of the hearing.
- C. In exercising its powers, the board of commissioners may reverse or affirm the decision in whole or in part, or may modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed from. To that end, the hearing body has all of the powers of the administrative official or decision-making body from whom or from which the appeal was taken, and it may issue or direct the issuance of a permit or other approval, provided that all requirements imposed by all other applicable laws and ordinances are met. In no case shall the powers of the hearing body be construed to include authority to reclassify use zones. An appeal shall be reversed or the decision modified only upon an expressed finding by the hearing body that the action was based on an erroneous finding of a material fact, or that said action was arbitrary".

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 29(A)(3); Res. of 2-22-88; Res. of 7-10-89; Code 1991, § 17.360.030; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.370.040. Required public notice.

Notice to members of the public shall be provided in accordance with the provisions of this Title and O.C.G.A. 36-66-1 et seq." (Res. of 8-28-78, § 29(A)(5); Res. of 2-22-88; Res. of 7-10-89; Code 1991, § 17.360.040; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

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17.370.050. Date of public hearing before board of commissioners.

The county administrator or other appropriate county official shall place an appeal on the agenda of the first public meeting of the appropriate hearing body of the county arising after the relevant notice provisions of sections 17.380.070 through 17.380.110 have been complied with.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 29(A)(5); Res. of 2-22-88; Res. of 7-10-89; Code 1991, § 17.360.050; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.370.060. Payment of costs of appeal.

The appellant shall bear the costs of preparing the necessary documents as required by the county to properly appeal the matter before the hearing body, in addition to the appeal fee.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 29(A)(6); Res. of 2-22-88; Res. of 7-10-89; Code 1991, § 17.360.060; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.370.070. Decision of appeal.

- An appeal may be sustained (i.e.: where the decision is reversed) only upon a finding by
 the hearing body that the action subject to the appeal was based on an erroneous finding
 of a material fact or that the administrative official or decision-making body acted in an
 arbitrary manner.
- B. Appeals of administrative officials shall be heard by the planning commission.
- C. Appeals of any decision-making body shall be heard by the board of commissioners.
- D. Appeals of board of commissioners shall be appealed in accordance with section 17.380.160."

17.380.030. Initiation of proposed amendments.

These zoning regulations of the county, including the official zoning map, may be amended from time to time by the board of commissioners of the county. <u>Official zoning map amendments</u> may be proposed by the board of commissioners of the county, or the county planning commission, <u>or an administrative official</u>, or by any individual, **Deleted:** If an appeal of a conditional use, a use permitted subject to approval of the planning commission or an application requiring approval by the zoning board of adjustment is denied by the board of commissioners, then the same property may not again be considered for any zoning application and no application shall be filed until the expiration of at least six months immediately following the denial of the appeal and may not be considered for an application of the same type and no application shall be filed (conditional use, etc.) until the expiration of at least 12 months immediately following the denial of the appeal.

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firm or organization or their duly appointed agent or attorney; provided, however, no amendment shall become effective unless it shall have been proposed by or have first been submitted to the county planning commission for review and recommendation. Application for uses subject to the approval of the county commission shall have first been submitted to the county planning commission for review and recommendation before consideration by the county commission. <u>Text amendments to the zoning ordinances shall be proposed only by the board of commissioners of the county, or the county planning commission, or the appropriate administrative official.</u>

(Res. of 2-22-88; Res. of 7-10-89; Code 1991, § 17.370.030; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.380.050. Submission requirements.

- B. All applications for a change of zoning classification or use subject to approval of the county commission shall include:
 - A narrative statement identifying the existing and proposed use of the property and addressing each of the criteria set forth in section 17.380.060.C of this chapter.

17.380.060. Planning commission and Hall County Commission consideration and decision.

B. A. 1. The planning commission shall hold a public <u>meeting on all zoning applications or applications for a</u> use subject to approval of the county commission. The planning commission shall hold the required public <u>meeting not less than 30 days</u>, nor more than 60 days from the date of the filing of <u>a complete and</u> <u>compliant</u> zoning application. After hearing testimony from all interested parties, the planning commission shall have 30 days within which to make its decision to grant or deny the application. If the planning commission fails to make a decision within the specified period, it shall be deemed to have <u>carried a recommendation of approval of</u> the application.

17.380.070. Public hearing required; notice required.

A. The county planning commission, the county board of adjustment, and the county board of commissioners, when taking <u>final</u> action on all applications, shall provide for public hearings on the proposed actions. <u>Public meetings related to recommendations made by the planning commission to the board of commissioners</u> do not require notice provided herein. A notice of <u>public hearings shall be published at least 30 days but not more than 45 days prior to said public hearings in a newspaper of general circulation within the territorial boundaries of the county.</u>

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- B. The county will follow the additional notice and hearing requirements found in O.C.G.A.
 § 36-66-1 whenever so required by State law, including any of the following instances when required by State law:
 - County-initiated rezoning and/or text amendments to revise a zoning classification related to single-family residential uses of property so as to authorize multi-family uses of property pursuant to such classification or definitions, or to grant blanket permission, under certain or all circumstances, for property owners to deviate from the existing zoning requirements of a single-family residential zoning district;
 - Halfway houses, drug rehabilitation centers, or other facilities for the treatment of drug dependency; or
 - 3. Annexations."

17.380.080. Public notice of hearing; contents.

- C. If an application is being considered for <u>a change</u> of zoning <u>for</u> a specifically described tract or parcel of land (amendment to the zoning map), then the public notice shall, in addition to the requirements of sections 17.380.070 and 17.380.080.A, include the following information:
 - 1. The location of the property; and
 - 2. The present zoning classification; and
 - 3. The proposed zoning classification of the property.

17.380.090. Public notice of hearing; posting/mailing.

- <u>A.</u> Posted notice. All zoning map amendments initiated by a party other than the county planning commission or the county board of commissioners² and applications for uses subject to approval of the county commission² shall require a sign placed in a conspicuous location on the property which is the subject matter of the zoning application.
- B. Mailed notice. Mailed notice shall be made via USPS at least 30 days but not more than 45 days before the date of the public hearing to the following parties:
 - a. Property owner notice. Mailed notice shall be made to the owner(s) of record. Mailing address for owner(s) shall be provided by the applicant with the filing of the zoning petition.

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b. Applicant.

c. Appellant. If not one of the parties already identified as requiring notice, the appellant for any filed appeal shall receive mailed notice.

17.380.100. Public notice of hearing; sign information.

The public notice sign shall contain the same information described in section 17.380.080,

17.380.110. Public notice of hearing; sign posting date.

The required public notice sign shall be posted not less than <u>30,but not more than 45 days prior to the date</u> of the hearing.

(Res. of 8-28-78, § 30(B)(9); Res. of 2-22-88; Res. of 7-10-89; Code 1991, § 17.370.110; Res. of 2-27-03(1), § 1)

17.380.120. Public notice of hearing; applications initiated by county.

When an application is brought by or initiated by the board of commissioners of <u>the</u>county<u>or an</u> <u>administrative official of the county</u>, the only public notice required by these zoning regulations is newspaper advertisement as set forth in <u>O.C.G.A.</u> <u>36-66-1 et. Seq.</u> and sections 17.380.070 and 17.380.080.

17.380.130. Action by Board of Commissioners

- A. The board of commissioners shall consider applications for uses subject to approval of the county commission and all zoning decisions of the planning commission or zoning board of adjustment including conditions of approval and any additional evidence that applicant wishes to present at a public hearing on the date advertised, at which time all interested parties and citizens shall have an opportunity to be heard and present evidence regarding the proposed amendment or use subject to approval of the county commission, or the appeal of the conditional use or use subject to approval of the planning commission or zoning board of adjustment or other zoning decisions.
- B. The board of commissioners may place any reasonable conditions or stipulations upon any application for a use subject to approval of the county commission, a proposed amendment or the appeal of a conditional use or use subject to approval of the planning commission or zoning board of adjustment or other zoning decisions as deemed necessary (such as hours of operation, parking, maximum building size, lot size, outside displays, signs, screens, buffers, etc.) to further insure the orderly operation of proposed uses and their compatibility with the surrounding properties.

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- C. The board of commissioners, in making its decision on the proposed amendment, the use subject to approval of the county commission, or the appeal of a conditional use, or the use subject to approval of the planning commission or zoning board of adjustment or other zoning decisions, shall consider the general lines of inquiry established under section 17.380.060 and any other relevant factor submitted by the applicant.
- D. The applicant/appellant shall have the burden of proof, which shall include the presentation of evidence and the burden of persuasion of each factor necessary to receive approval of the board of commissioners. Failure of the applicant/appellant to meet this burden shall result in a denial of the proposed amendment, the use subject to the approval of the county commission, or the appeal of a conditional use or the use subject to approval of the planning commission or zoning board of adjustment or other zoning decisions.
- E. The board of commissioners' public hearing is to be held as follows:
 - 1. The public hearing is to be held in conjunction with regular meetings of the board of commissioners, with published notice of time and place.
 - 2. The hearing is conducted by the county attorney or other hearing officer designated by the board of commissioners.
 - 3. The hearing officer introduces the proposed zoning amendments before the board of commissioners. Proposals are considered in order as listed in the published notice. The hearing officer describes each proposed zoning amendment and the party initiating the proposal. Staff is then called upon to report on the planning commission's recommendation and summarize its written report.
 - 4. Persons both favoring and opposing the proposed amendment are provided an opportunity to address the board of commissioners. During this period:
 - a. Each speaker must first state his name and address.
 - b. Comments are accepted first from the party proposing the action and any other proponents of the action, followed by opponents of the action. The party proposing the action may then offer rebuttal.
 - c. The hearing officer may place reasonable limits on the number of persons who may speak for or against the proposal, on the time allowed for each speaker, and on the total time allowed for comment. No less than ten minutes shall be permitted for all of those speaking in support of an amendment and no less than ten minutes shall be permitted for all those speaking against, unless such proponents or opponents take less time than the minimum allowed.
 - d. Comments must pertain only to the merits of the proposed action, and must be directed to the board of commissioners. Comments are not allowed that may be construed as personal attacks

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on any other speaker, or are irrelevant to the proposed action. Violators will be first cautioned and then prevented from making further comment.

- e. Petitions, studies, letters, and other material should be submitted prior to the hearing, allowing ample time for study by the board of commissioners. Materials submitted at the hearing may or may not be accepted by the board, and if presented orally are subject to time limitations.
- 5. The board of commissioners may, if necessary, call on previous speakers for clarification, or may call for additional views, studies or information from any source considered necessary to making a sound decision. The board of commissioners may continue the hearing to a later date.
- 6. The decision rendered by the board of commissioners regarding the proposed amendment, the use subject to approval of the county commission, or the appeal of a conditional use or the use subject to approval of the planning commission or zoning board of adjustment or other zoning decisions shall be deemed to be the final action on the application.
- 7. No approval or denial of an amendment, use subject to approval of the county commission, <u>an appeal</u> of <u>an administrative official or decision-making bod</u>, the <u>approval or denial of a use subject to approval</u> of the planning commission or zoning board of adjustment, or other zoning <u>or quasi-judicial</u> decisions by the board of commissioners shall become effective unless said approval or denial is conducted at a public hearing.

17.380.150. Successive applications.

If a use subject to approval of the county commission/planning commission or a rezoning is denied, or if an appeal from the decision of an administrative official, or the planning commission is denied by the board of commissioners, then the same property may not again be considered for any zoning application (rezoning, conditional use, variance, etc.) and no application shall be filed until the expiration of at least six months immediately following the date of the denial of the use/rezoning or the denial of the appeal and may not be considered for an application of the same type and no application of the same type shall be filed until the expiration of at least six months immediately following the date of the denial of the use/rezoning or the denial of the use /rezoning or use /rezoning ore use /rezoning or use /rezoning or use /rezoning or use /re

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subject to approval of the county commission shall be effective for a period of no longer than 12 months from the date of approval unless action is taken by the applicant to implement the use proposed in the application by obtaining the proper permit and/or license, and development plat approval, and proceeding with the building, occupancy or establishment of business.

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17.380.160. Appeals of board of commission actions.

- A. Any person with adequate standing to do so under Georgia law may seek review in the Superior Court of Hall County in accordance with the applicable procedures established by Georgia law.
- B. The Director of Community Development and Infrastructure shall be authorized, without additional board or agency action, to approve or issue any form or certificate necessary to perfect any appeal petition for review of lower judicatory bodies, and shall be authorized, without additional board or agency action, to accept service or be served in behalf of any lower judicatory board or agency, during normal business hours, at the regular offices of the county.
- C. Service of an appeal of any quasi-judicial decision rendered pursuant to this Title may be effected or accepted on behalf of the local governing authority, during normal business hours, at the regular offices of the county, by the County Attorney when so allowed by the County's Service of Process Resolution, otherwise said service may be effected or accepted on behalf of the local governing authority according to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 9-11-4 (e).

17.380.170 Georgia Zoning Procedures Law.

The review and approval procedures of this Zoning Ordinance are intended to comply with the provisions of the Georgia Zoning Procedures Law, O.C.G.A. § 36-66-1 et seq., which is incorporated by reference in its entirety. If any provision of this Zoning Ordinance is in conflict with any provision of the Zoning Procedures Law or if this Zoning Ordinance fails to incorporate a provision required for the implementation of the Zoning Procedures Law, the Zoning Procedures Law controls. This does not apply to procedures that are more restrictive than those established by the Georgia Zoning Procedures Law.

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