

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: TXT-2024-01 ULDC Amendments

DATE OF MEETING: April 9, 2024

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: TXT-2024-01 ULDC Amendments

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: ULDC Text Amendment TXT-2024-01 includes general amendments to the Code regarding signage, submittal requirements, procedures, updates required by changes in state law (OCGA), and administrative and/or clerical changes. To help organize these amendments, they have been grouped together and organized by number. Short versions of the proposed amendments are included as a part of this case in strike-through and underline format. For reference, a timeline of previous and planned actions and additional background on the groups is also attached. The TRC considered the proposed amendments, and found no technical objections. Based on updates and direction from the County Attorney and County Leadership, Planning Staff and the GLPC recommend approval of Amendments 1 through 6.

Amendment 1 Sign Regulations (5.01.00 & 5.04.00) – Approximately 33% of the variances in 2023 have been to the sign ordinance. A broader update to the ordinance is planned in the next cycle of amendments; the focus currently is on the number of wall signs, size of menu boards, height of directional signs, compliance with federal sign regulations, and a greater compatibility with standard sign packages for incoming development.

Amendment 2 Conservation Subdivisions (4.05.01) – Clarifies water and sewer system usage and locations.

Amendment 3 Vehicle Repair Shops (4.03.11) – Specifies the number of vehicles able to be stored on the property in addition to those for sale.

Amendment 4 Procedures for Conducting Public Hearings (10.00.07) – Clarifies the procedures' applicability to the Board of Commissioners only and outlines the time and order of the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Amendment 5 Submittal & Platting Requirements (10.00.00) – The digitization of local governmental processes should be reflected in the processes outlined in the local ordinance, including submission of materials, signatory responsibilities and notifications to applicants.

Amendment 6 Notice for Variance Advertisements (10.03.00) – Changes in State Law require extended advertisement periods that should be reflected in local ordinances.