

DRAFT
MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF OPA-LOCKA
PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD
MAY 7, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Member Audrey Dominguez called the Planning and Zoning Board meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. on May 7, 2024.

An opportunity was given to the public to email the Planning and Zoning Clerk prior to the Board meeting with any questions, comments, or concerns on items to be heard on the Agenda.

1. ROLL CALL

The following members of the Planning and Zoning Board were present: Board Member Germane Barnes, Board Member Audrey Dominguez, Board Member Aldo Mata, and Board Member Claudienne Hibbert Smith.

Absent Board Members: Chair Elio Guerrero and Board Member Dawn Mangham.

Also in attendance were Planning and Community Development Director Gregory Gay, Zoning Official Gerald Lee, Planning and Zoning Board Clerk Diana Cheng, Board Attorney Pam Pettis, and City Manager Darvin Williams.

2. INVOCATION

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **PZAB Minutes – March 19, 2024**

Motion made by Board Member Mata, seconded by Board Member Barnes, to approve the meeting from March 19, 2024. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (4-0).

5. PUBLIC HEARING:

- 1. AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, TO ADOPT AN AMENDMENT TO THE LAND**

DEVELOPMENT REGULATION ORDINANCE 15-31, ARTICLE V, SECTION 22-142, TO CREATE A NEW DEFINITION FOR INDOOR SHOOTING RANGES AND PERMIT INDOOR SHOOTING RANGES IN THE I-3 ZONING DISTRICT AS A CONDITIONAL USE AND PROVIDE GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ZONING, LOCATION AND DISTANCE, SITE PLAN, LICENSURE AND NUISANCE; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

At this time the public hearing was opened.

Kenneth Ottley, Chief of Police for Opa-locka, introduced Lieutenant Commander Kaj Larsen, who serves the southern region of the Florida State Guard. This unit was commissioned in 2024 as a stand-alone component of the National Guard, and its special operations company supports law enforcement missions in Florida using combat experience. He is one of the founders of the proposed project, which is known as the Armory.

Lt. Comm. Larsen advised that there are currently no nearby training facilities to help veterans and law enforcement with some types of training. A facility such as the Armory would help the Guard more effectively assist law enforcement. It also helps the Florida State Guard amplify some of their philanthropic efforts in the local community.

The Armory would serve as the headquarters of the Southern Division of the Special Missions Unit of the Guard, as well as providing a home for the Guard's other community causes. He concluded that tonight's Application is the first step toward changing policy language and allowing the Armory project to move forward.

Wes Hevia, representing the Armory, showed slides of what the project will entail, which includes an advanced shooting range, advanced simulators, locker rooms, virtual trainers, and tactical rooms which allow for a range of training scenarios. The purpose of today's Application is to create a use within Code. The Armory will come back at a later time with a site-specific application including a floor plan and providing more details on the controls within the proposed facility.

It was asked whether the facility would be open to the public or restricted to law enforcement. Chief Ottley replied that the project will be a members-only multi-use law enforcement facility.

Planning and Community Development Director Gregory Gay advised that this Item specifically addresses legislation that would allow the requested use. The use is not currently allowed within City Code.

Zoning Official Gerald Lee stated that the City's current land development regulations currently do not allow this type of operation within Opa-locka. If Code is amended to

permit shooting ranges and armories, the best location for that use would be within the I-3 zoning district. The proposed legislation is consistent with Florida Senate Bill (SB) 45, as well as certain other areas of Florida Statutes which address gun regulations and safety.

The proposed amendment would be included in City Zoning Code Section 22-142. Zoning Official Lee noted that an entire section of the Ordinance, which is included in the Board members' backup materials, would be added to Zoning Code. It would provide for distance requirements from other uses, as well as requirements for sound absorption, protections, parking, environmental considerations, and land use.

Once the Ordinance is passed, any entity wishing to establish the proposed use would have to go through conditional use review. This means they would have to come back before the Planning and Zoning Board (PZB) to request approval, based on the standards provided at today's meeting. Staff recommends approval of the Application.

A question was asked regarding current zoning. Zoning Official Lee replied that Staff has recommended allowing the proposed use in the I-3 zoning district. Director Gay further clarified that the I-3 zoning district is located in the western portion of the City, near the airport.

Board Attorney Pam Pettis noted corrections which will need to be made to the proposed Ordinance before it advances to the City Commission, and any motions of approval should be made with the corrections as stated:

- Typographical errors in the title
- Portion of Section 12 referring to the effective date for the Resolution should be deleted, as it is not a Resolution but an Ordinance
- Section directing the City Clerk to provide a copy to all relevant departments, agencies, and interested parties should be deleted, as it is not applicable

Motion made by Board Member Barnes, seconded by Board Member Mata, to adopt the amendment in Item 1 to create a new definition for indoor shooting ranges, dependent upon the alteration as described by the City Attorney within the document. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (4-0).

2. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE TENTATIVE PLAT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A SELF STORAGE FACILITY ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 14301 NW 27TH AVENUE AND IDENTIFIED BY FOLIO 08-2122-000-0050 IN THE B-3 ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

At this time the public hearing was opened.

Jane Storms, representing the Applicant, advised that the plat has been submitted following Site Plan approval, which occurred in 2023.

Zoning Official Lee stated that this Item is the last step in the approval process for a project that previously received Site Plan and Development Agreement approval. It is for self-storage use on 27th Avenue, bordering State Road (SR) 9. Demolition on the site is expected soon.

Part of the development process is a tentative plat, as required by Miami-Dade County. The Applicant requests approval from the PZB, to be followed by approval from the City Commission. The tentative plat will be brought back following County review and a final plat will be prepared.

It was noted that the Board voted on the Item in 2023 and it was subsequently passed by the City Commission. Zoning Official Lee explained that in 2023, the Applicant received Site Plan and Development Agreement approval; however, Miami-Dade County's development standards include a platting process. This is related to review of the surveyor's final determination of points of ingress/egress, the allocation of property edges, and what will be part of the actual site. Following the County's platting process, all improvements that are planned for the subject property are recorded.

Director Gay further clarified that what the Board previously approved was the project that will be built on the site as well as its Development Agreement. Miami-Dade County has additional requirements for modifications, including pre-platting. The Applicant is already going through the permitting process for the site. He reiterated that the County, not the City, requires the site to go through the tentative platting process to ensure the site is properly sound and can be developed.

It was also asked why the Application information in the Board members' backup materials include a different address. Zoning Official Lee replied that this was an error, and the correct property address is 14301 NW 27th Avenue. It was noted that a motion will be required to address this mistake before the Board votes on the Item.

Attorney Pettis advised that the Board's motion should change the address listed in the first "Whereas" clause to the correct address, 14301 NW 27th Avenue. She confirmed that this change will be made before the Application advances to the Commission.

Motion made by Board Member Barnes, seconded by Board Member Hibbert Smith, to approve Item 2, provided that the address be updated per the document to the correct address of 14301 NW 27th Avenue. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (4-0).

3. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE FINAL SITE PLAN FOR THE

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE BUILDING FOR THE OPERATION OF A PAVING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT NW 148TH STREET AND NW 24TH COURT AND IDENTIFIED BY FOLIO 08-2122-025-0501 IN THE I-2 ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

At this time the public hearing was opened.

Lucy Batista, property owner, requested approval for the project's Site Plan and Development Agreement. The proposal is for construction of an office/warehouse for a paving company.

Zoning Official Lee advised that the request is for final Site Plan approval for an office and warehouse. The Applicant owns the subject property, which has never been developed. The Site Plan follows the City's land development regulations and provides parking, landscaping, and lot coverage. Staff recommends approval of the request.

Zoning Official Lee continued that the property is currently being used by its owner, but the owner did not have the appropriate approvals from the City for Site Plan review. They are now complying with the City's requirements.

Motion made by Board Member Barnes, seconded by Board Member Hibbert Smith, to approve Item 3. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (4-0).

4. A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION FOR THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA, APPROVING THE DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF AN OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE BUILDING FOR THE OPERATION OF A PAVING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ON THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT NW 148TH STREET AND NW 24TH COURT AND IDENTIFIED BY FOLIO 08-2122-025-0501 IN THE I-2 ZONING DISTRICT; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Director Gay advised that this Application also applies to the property discussed in Item 3. It is the Development Agreement for the subject site. Because the project is new construction, certain aspects of that agreement are required, including construction timelines and opportunities for hiring local residents. The Applicant has followed the required processes for the Development Agreement. Staff recommends approval of the Application.

Board Member Barnes asked if Development Agreements are ever updated by Staff to reflect components such as adequate shading and tree coverage. Zoning Official Lee explained that Development Agreements are based on the City's land development regulations.

Motion made by Board Member Barnes, seconded by Board Member Mata, to approve Item 4. In a roll call vote, the **motion** passed unanimously (4-0).

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.