

Comprehensive Plan Issues

Character Area: Community Activity Center

Description: A focal point for several neighborhoods that has a concentration of activities such as general retail, service commercial, office professional, higher-density housing, and appropriate public and open space uses easily accessible by pedestrians..

Development Strategy: Each Community Activity Center should include a relatively high-density mix of retail, office, services, and employment to serve a regional market area. Residential development should reinforce the town center through locating higher density housing options adjacent to the town center, targeted to a broad range of income levels, including multi-family town homes, apartments and condominiums. Design for each Community Activity Center should be very pedestrian-oriented, with strong, walkable connections between different uses. Road edges should be clearly defined by locating buildings at roadside with parking in the rear. Direct connections to greenspace and trail networks should be provided. The pedestrian-friendly environment should be enhanced by adding sidewalks and other pedestrian-friendly trails/bike routes linked to other neighborhood amenities such as libraries, neighborhood centers, health facilities, parks, and schools.

Goals and Policies:

GOAL 7: LAND USE – To ensure the community’s anticipated growth occurs in a well-integrated yet organized fashion, which protects our community resources, promotes efficient use of infrastructure and transportation facilities, and supports quality economic development.

POLICY 7.5 – Available land shall be utilized in the most efficient manner while focusing on redevelopment of land where feasible.

GOAL 8: INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION – To encourage coordination of planning efforts with other local service providers and authorities, neighboring communities and state and regional planning agencies..

Standards for the Exercise of Zoning Power (Review Criteria)

In reviewing and making a decision on a rezoning request, the City staff, Planning Commission and City Council shall consider the following standards. The proposed responses to these standards by the applicant and staff are listed below.

(1) Whether a proposed rezoning will permit a use that is suitable, in view of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property.	
<i>Applicant:</i>	The proposed zoning is consistent with zoning adjacent to and all along the Hwy-31 corridor.
<i>Staff:</i>	Yes. The proposed use is compatible with the adjacent land use pattern along the corridor..
(2) Whether a proposed rezoning will adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property.	
<i>Applicant:</i>	The proposed zoning should have no adverse effect on any adjacent or nearby properties along the Hwy-31 corridor due to the proposed zoning being consistent with existing zonings.
<i>Staff:</i>	No significant adverse impacts.
(3) Whether the property to be affected by a proposed rezoning has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned.	
<i>Applicant:</i>	Yes, but it is currently in the County area and we wish to annex into the City for the added advantage of having access to City services and fire protection.
<i>Staff:</i>	Yes, but with lack of public water/sewer services and the default requirement of a septic tank, this makes development of the property less economically feasible.
(4) Whether the proposed rezoning will result in a use that will or could cause an excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, transportation facilities, utilities or schools.	
<i>Applicant:</i>	No.