

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: REZ-2024-01 Gresham Event Venue, 8415 Old Valdosta Rd., E-A to PD-R, ~10.3 acres, Well & Septic

DATE OF MEETING: February 13, 2024

Work
Session/Regular
Session

BUDGET IMPACT: N/A

FUNDING SOURCE:

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

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: REZ-2024-01 Gresham Event Venue, 8415 Old Valdosta Rd., E-A to PD-R, ~10.3 acres, Well & Septic

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: This request represents a change in zoning on the subject property from E-A (Estate Agricultural) zoning to PD-R (Rural Planned Development) zoning. The general motivation in this case is for the applicant to utilize the property as a club, lodge, meeting or event facility, primarily for weddings, family reunions, birthday parties, corporate events, community gatherings, etc., with the ability to accommodate overnight guests. The subject property possesses road frontage on Old Valdosta Road and Salem Church Road, a collector and local road respectively, and is within the Rural Service Area and Agricultural/Forestry Character Area.

Aspects of this case worthy of consideration include: 1) The nature of the request as it pertains to a rural setting, 2) Current trends of event venues in rural areas, 3) Surrounding agricultural and clustered residential use of lands.

The TRC considered the request and is supportive of the following staff-recommended conditions:

1. Uses permitted in the Estate Agricultural (E-A) zoning district, and
 1. A club, lodge, meeting or event facility, with overnight accommodations, where the operation of the facility is limited to meetings, retreats, celebrations, and weddings for groups no larger than the fire code allows for the proposed buildings/area. Outdoor performances by bands or ensembles that are accessory to a meeting, retreat, celebration, or wedding shall be allowed.
 2. Unless otherwise noted on the Lowndes County Board of Commissioners approved site plan, the use of the property shall be subject to all standards applicable to properties in the E-A zoning district.
 3. The operation of the event facility shall adhere to the Lowndes County Noise Ordinance.
 4. Exterior lighting shall be shielded to avoid direct illumination of adjacent properties.

During the Greater Lowndes Planning Commission (GLPC) meeting, Mr. Holland noted the applicants' venue in neighboring Cook County as a comparable style and size to the proposed operation for this property, and