

The Planning Commission recommended approval with the two conditions. No one spoke for or against this request. Vice Chairman Wisenbaker made a motion to approve the item with the two conditions as presented, seconded by Commissioner Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed.

TWR-2026-02 Bermuda Run, New 159' Telecommunications Tower near North Valdosta Road and Hyta Mederer Drive

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated the applicant is requesting a new tower 155 feet for the apparatus with a 4-foot lightning rod attached to the top of it. The property is located off of Hyta Mederer Drive, inside of Langdale Park, which is zoned Conservation (CON) and is allowed to be used for the construction of a new telecommunications tower, subject to compliance with the standards. Mr. Dillard stated the proposed tower is within a Floodway and Floodplain zone. Mr. Dillard stated this is not a legislative zoning decision it is a quasi-judicial decision whether the standards for a telecommunications tower have been met in accordance with Section 5.05.05 of the ULDC. This is a 10,000 square foot leased area off of Hyta Mederer Drive proposing approximately 600 square feet for actual equipment to go with the proposed tower. Mr. Dillard stated the applicant provided eight potential view sites. The TRC recommended approval with the standards set forth in Section 5.05.05 of the ULDC. The Planning Commission recommended approval for this new tower.

John Quarterman, 6565 Quarterman Road, spoke in opposition to this request. Mr. Quarterman stated it does not meet several provisions of section 5.05.05 of the ULDC. Mr. Quarterman mentioned the sites and specifications are supposed to be in VALOR-GIS and it is the responsibility of the applicant, but they are not. He further mentioned telecommunication towers should not be in a historic district or scenic view corridor.

Kaitlynn Isley, 577 Mulberry Street, Macon, Georgia, spoke in favor of this request, representing Vertical Bridge. Ms. Isley stated she believes they have complied with local, state and federal laws regarding this telecommunications tower. Ms. Isley stated that they have received approval from the FAA, FCC and FEMA. A full environmental study was conducted and provided to the county as part of the application with no adverse impacts noted to the area. Additionally, she stated this is not a historic district and all requirements have been met to be approved.

Opposition - Rebuttal:

John Quarterman, 6565 Quarterman Road, mentioned Ms. Isley stated it is not in a historic district or a scenic view corridor without any reasoning.

In Favor - Rebuttal: No one spoke.

Commissioner Marshall asked to verify the height of the tower at 159 feet. Chairman Slaughter responded yes. Commissioner Marshall asked if this was designated a historic district or not. Mr. Dillard responded that it is not, that historic designations are required by the Department of Interior. There are no historic designations outside of downtown Valdosta that are registered on the historic places. Commissioner Marshall made a motion to approve the item as presented, seconded by Commissioner Orenstein. All voted in favor, no one opposed. Motion carried.