

OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

415 South Pine Street - Walhalla, SC



TEL (864) 638-4218 FAX (864) 638-4168

AGENDA

6:00 PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 28th, 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

- ITEM 1- Call to Order**
- ITEM 2- Approval of Minutes from 11/08/2018**
- ITEM 3- Election of Board Officers**
- ITEM 4- Approval of Board Calendar for 2019**
- ITEM 5- Public Comment (Non-Agenda)**
- ITEM 6- Staff Update**
- 1. Code Issues and Changes**
- ITEM 7- Special Exception Request for Application SE18-000007- Request for the construction of a new 78' x 100' building as addition to an existing warehouse at Yoder's Building Supply at 500 E Fairplay Boulevard, Fairplay, SC
Tax Parcel ID# 341-00-01-003**
- ITEM 8- Old Business** *[to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required]*
- ITEM 9- New Business** *[to include Vote and/or Action on matters brought up for discussion, if required]*
- ITEM 10- Adjourn**

OCONEE COUNTY BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

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MINUTES BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS 6:00 PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2018 COUNTY COUNCIL CHAMBERS OCONEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX

The Oconee County Board of Zoning Appeals held a meeting on November 8, 2018 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at the Oconee County Administrative Building, 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla, SC 29691.

Members Present: Mrs. Fowler
Mr. Gilster
Mr. Medford
Mr. McKee
Mr. Codner
Mr. Honea

Staff Present: Bill Huggins, Planner

Media present: None

ITEM 1- Call to Order

Mr. Gilster, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ITEM 4- Public Comment (Non-Agenda)

No one from the public signed up to address the Board or make comments.

ITEM 5- Staff Update

General Items

Mr. Huggins stated that initial work on the Comprehensive Plan project is underway and that the consultants will be here again in January for a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and Council as well as other information gathering activities.

ITEM 6- Special Exception Request for Application SE18-000004 – Request for the construction of a new addition in the form of a storage building to a building supply business at 500 East Fair Play Blvd., Fairplay, SC (Tax parcel ID# 341-00-01-005)

Staff Presentation

Mr. Gilster presented the request to the Board.

Statement of Matter Before the Board

Mr. Huggins explained that the request is to permit the construction of a pre-fabricated building on the site of the existing Yoder's Building Supply site to house building materials. He went on to state that the section of the Zoning ordinance which addresses the criteria for development in the Fairplay Village Center sub-district of the Village overlay requires that any industrial use request in that subdistrict be reviewed as a Special Exception by the Board of Zoning Appeals. He noted that the building under consideration will be used for storage, not for actual fabrication or production. However, he indicated that a Zoning Administration ruling was that the use is included under the industrial category since it is an extension of the existing use.

Mr. Gilster asked about the existing business. Mr. Huggins pointed out that Yoder's had been active for many years in the building supply business. The new building is located on the same site. In response to a question about the use type for the new building, Mr. Huggins replied that it would not involve fabrication or industrial activity.

Mr Honea stated that when he was on the Planning Commission and they were developing the Fairplay overlay, the Yoder's business was used as a template for the type of uses that might come under review. He indicated that it was felt at that time that the Yoder's complex was a good model for the quality and type of use that would be welcome. He further added that this proposed use is no different than what they are already doing.

Applicant Comments

Mr. Harley Yoder addressed the Board on behalf of the request. In response to a question, he explained that the use would not involve fabricating trusses or other products.

Clarification of Preceding Statement

Upon additional review by staff of this request and process following the November 8 meeting, Mr. Huggins has determined that his analysis of the request was incorrect for the following reason:

The Zoning Ordinance was amended prior to the November 8 Board meeting to eliminate the reference to industrial uses in Section . The amendment also clarified that any non-residential use would need to be reviewed as a Special Exception, not just uses identified as industrial in kind. However, in order to provide more flexibility in the approval process, the amendment stated that the Board would now have case by case discretion in the application of the design criteria set out in Appendix A to a proposed new non-residential use. Previously, such uses were required to meet all of the stringent standards set forth in the Appendix. These include parking standards, landscaping, buffers, signage and lighting standards, and building design elements.

Statement of Criteria for a Special Exception

Section 38-7.2

The board of zoning appeals may grant a special exception only if it finds adequate evidence that any proposed development will meet all of the following general requirements as well as any specific requirements and standards listed for the proposed use. The board of zoning appeals shall among other things require that any proposed use and location be:

- (1) In accordance with the comprehensive plan and is consistent with the spirit, purposes, and the intent and specific requirements of this chapter, to include the definition and intent of the district in which the special exception is being requested;
- (2) In the best interests of the county, the convenience of the community and the public welfare;
- (3) Suitable for the property in question, and designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so as to be in harmony with and appropriate in appearance to the existing or intended character of the general vicinity;
- (4) Suitable in terms of effects on highway traffic, parking and safety with adequate access arrangements to protect streets from undue congestion and hazards.

The developer shall have the burden of providing evidence to the county of compliance with the general requirements of this chapter and the specific requirements of the applicable section. The board of zoning appeals may impose whatever reasonable conditions it deems necessary to ensure that any proposed development will comply substantially with the objectives in this chapter.

Board Action

A motion was made by Mr. Honea to allow the proposed use as a Special Exception subject to the criteria contained in the Zoning Ordinance for use uses. The motion was seconded by Mr. McKee. The Board voted 6-0 to approve the request.

ITEM 7- Old Business

None

ITEM 8- New Business

None

ITEM 9- Adjourn

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously. The Board adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals Calendar 2019

January-

BZA Monday 28

December-

BZA Monday 23– *Christmas Holiday (no meeting)*

February-

BZA Monday 25

March-

BZA Monday 25

April-

BZA Monday 22

May-

BZA Monday 27

June-

BZA Monday 24

July-

BZA Monday 22

August-

BZA Monday 26

September-

BZA Monday 23

October-

BZA Monday 28

November-

BZA Monday 25

*All dates are subject to change. A date/meeting may be cancelled by the Board Chairman if no cases are submitted for review prior to the deadline for application.



Date: January 28, 2019

To: Members of the Board of Zoning Appeals

From: Bill Huggins, AICP
Senior Planner

Re: Staff Report for SE18-000007, Special Exception Request by Fair Play Investment Group

The applicant is seeking to build a metal building on the site of Yoder's Building Supply in Fair Play to store building elements. The building will attach to the end of an existing building that parallels East Fair Play Boulevard. The property is located inside the Fair Play Village Center sub-district of the I-85 Corridor Overlay, which was established to promote high quality building design and low density residential use in an area where significant development is expected resulting from proximity to an I-85 exchange near the Georgia border. This area functions as a gateway region into South Carolina from the west and provides opportunities for future industrial, commercial and residential growth. The overlays established in the region area intended to protect the Fair Play community from the potential negative impacts of growth. The building is a second expansion in recent months of a large building supplier.

Background

You may recall that back in November, the Board approved a Special exception request for another storage building addition at the Yoder's site. In presenting the staff report I misspoke in stating that the use had been ruled an "industrial" activity and that the Zoning Ordinance required industrial uses in the Village Center sub-district overlay to be reviewed as a Special Exception by the Board.

In fact, the Fair Play Village Sub-District section of the Zoning Ordinance had already been amended in October. Planning staff had concluded, and the Planning Commission and Council agreed, that Appendix A" of the Oconee County Code of Ordinance that provides for stringent design and plan elements for new development in certain areas, was never intended to apply as a blanket requirement for all non-agricultural and non-residential uses in Sub-district. The appendix sets standards for parking, landscape elements, buffers, and signage and lighting.

(Appendix A attached)

It was concluded that the intent was to allow the BZA to utilize the protocols of "Appendix A" only if the BZA saw fit, thereby reducing the regulatory standards for development within the overlay areas.

In addition, although the amended ordinance requires Special Exception review of non-residential uses in the Village sub-district, the industrial use reference is removed entirely. Therefore, the term “industrial” is no longer significant in determining whether or not a use requires special review.

(Attachment B below shows amendments to the I-85 Overlay District language)

Criteria for Special Exception Approval

In addition to possible imposition of Appendix A standards, non-residential uses within the Overlay District must meet the four criteria listed below. According to Section 38-7.2 of the Zoning Ordinance, such uses must be:

- 1) In accordance with the comprehensive plan and is consistent with the spirit, purposes, and the intent and specific requirements of this chapter, to include the definition and intent of the district in which the special exception is being requested;
- (2) In the best interests of the county, the convenience of the community and the public welfare;
- (3) Suitable for the property in question, and designed, constructed, operated, and maintained so as to be in harmony with and appropriate in appearance to the existing or intended character of the general vicinity;
- (4) Suitable in terms of effects on highway traffic, parking and safety with adequate access arrangements to protect streets from undue congestion and hazards.

In addition, the Board has the flexibility to require any other conditions on approval that it feels are appropriate to insure that the residential character of the area is maintained, including the application of some or all elements of Appendix A. The area is zoned Control Free District, so uses are not generally restricted, except where an Overlay imposes a review process and possible conditions on approval beyond the strict requirements of the underlying zoning district or related codes.

YODERS BUILDING SUPPLY STORAGE BUILDING

CODE COMPLIANCE REVIEW

**500 EAST FAIRPLAY BOULEVARD
FAIRPLAY S.C.**

PARCEL # 341-00-01-003

DESIGN PROFESSIONAL

LONNIE WATT
LONNIE WATT & ASSOC. ARCHITECTS
4927 OLD MILL ROAD
ANDERSON, S.C.
864-2258225

GENERAL

IT SHALL BE THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR'S AND OWNER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO COMPLY WITH APPLICABLE PROVISIONS OF THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE AND THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED BELOW.

PROJECT DESIGNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH:

- A. INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE - 2015 EDITION
- B. INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE - 2015 EDITION
- C. AMERICAN DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)
- D. ICC 1171.09 EDITION PROVIDING ACCESSIBILITY AND VISIBILITY FOR PHYSICAL DISABLED PERSONS
- E. NFPA 101 LIFE SAFETY CODE - 2012
- F. NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE - 2011 EDITION
- G. 2009 ENERGY CODE

BASIC REVIEW INFORMATION

1. OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION:

NEW BUILDING #1
NON SEPARATED GROUP S-1 STORAGE (3063)

BUILDING #2
NON SEPARATED GROUP S-1 STORAGE (3063)

2. CONSTRUCTION TYPE:

TYPE II-D ONE LEVEL UNFRINKERED

3. AREA ALLOWANCES: TABLE 506.2

NEW BUILDING #1
BASE ALLOWABLE AREA PER FLOOR - 15500 SQ. FT. PER FLOOR
ACTUAL AREA PER FLOOR - 7800 SQ. FT. PER FLOOR
ONE FIRE AREA

BUILDING #2
BASE ALLOWABLE AREA PER FLOOR - 15500 SQ. FT. PER FLOOR
EXISTING AREA - 6000 SQ. FT. PER FLOOR
NEW AREA - 9344 SQ. FT. PER FLOOR
ACTUAL AREA PER FLOOR - 9344 SQ. FT. PER FLOOR
ONE FIRE AREA

4. MINIMUM OCCUPANT LOAD (TABLE 1009.2.1.1)

NEW BUILDING #1	OCCUPANCY	AREA	MIN. OCCUP. LOAD	OCCUPANTS
S-1 STORAGE (WAREHOUSE)		7800	500 SF. PER PERSON	16

BUILDING #2	OCCUPANCY	AREA	MIN. OCCUP. LOAD	OCCUPANTS
NEW S-1 STORAGE (WAREHOUSE)		9344	500 SF. PER PERSON	19
EXISTING S-1 STORAGE (WAREHOUSE)		6000	500 SF. PER PERSON	12
TOTAL				20

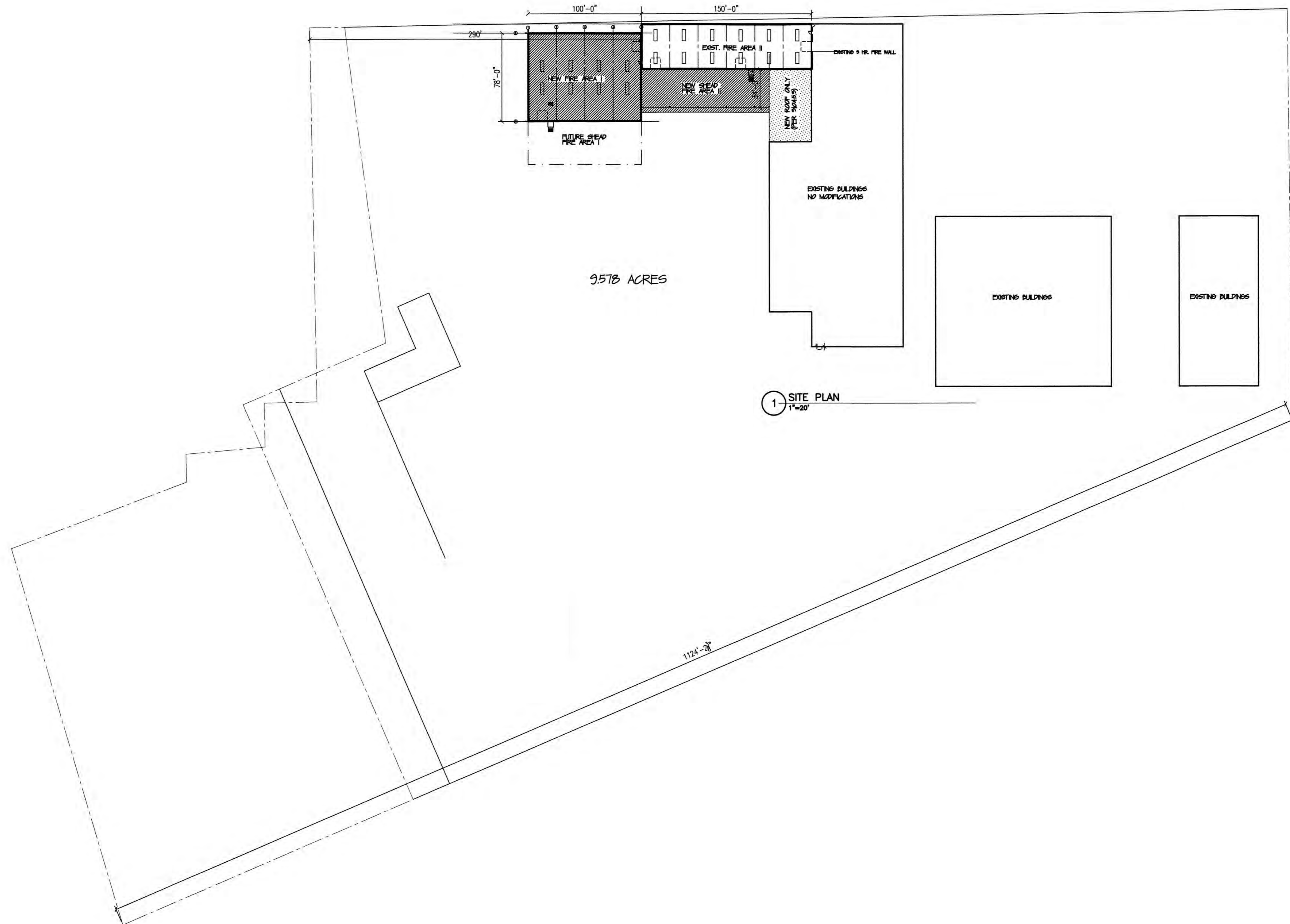
TOTAL
MAXIMUM TRAVEL 200 LF (110042.4)
MAXIMUM TRAVEL 150' ACTUAL
EGRESS WIDTH = 12" X 2 = 24" INCHES (110042.4)
EGRESS ACTUAL = 1/2" X 2 = 72" INCHES
MIN NO. OF EXITS = 2 (1 TO 500 OCCUPANTS)

5. FIRE PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

	REQUIRED	PROVIDED
EXTERIOR LOAD BEARING WALL:	0	0
INTERIOR NON-LOADBEARING WALL:	0	0
COLUMNS, ORDERS, FRAMING (ROOF ONLY):	0	0
STRUCTURAL MEMBERS SUPPORTING WALL:	0	0
FLOOR CONSTRUCTION:	0	0
ROOF CONSTRUCTION:	0	0

6. PLUMBING FIXTURE ARE PROVIDED IN EXISTING BUILDING

7. ENTRY LOCKS TO BE LEVER HANDLE W/ NO DOUBLE CYLINDER DEAD BOLTS



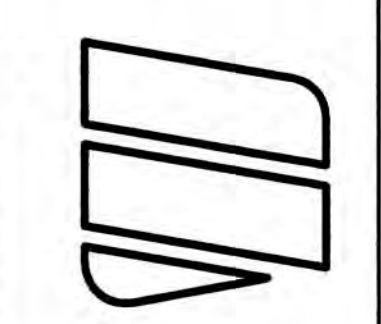
1- SITE PLAN
1"=20'

NO.	REVISION	DATE

DATE
11 / 16 / 2018



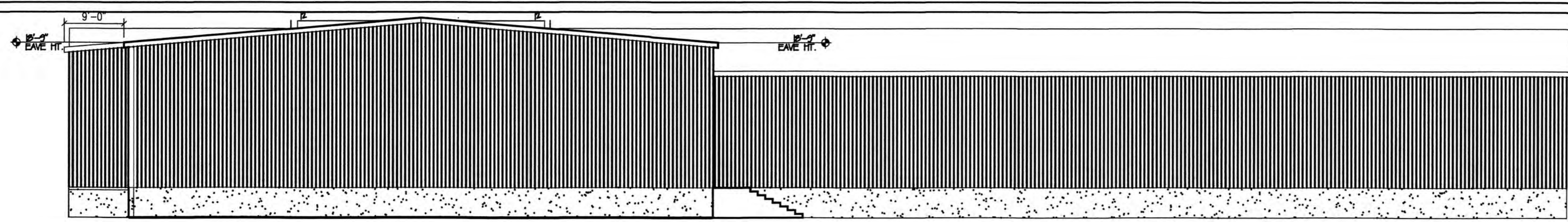
Lonnie Watt & Associates
Architects A.I.A. Planners
anderson, south carolina 864.225.8225



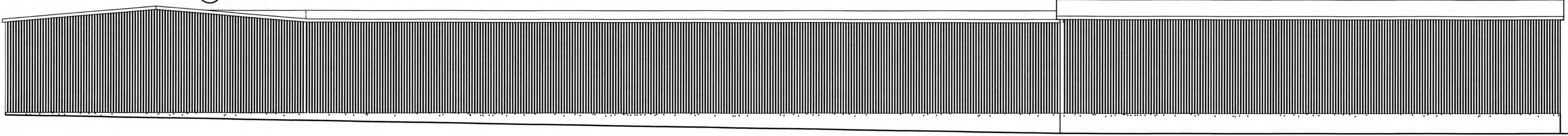
PROJECT: 3092 YODERS STORAGE EXPANSION
500 EAST FAIRPLAY BOULEVARD
FAIRPLAY, S. C.
SHEET NAME SITE PLAN

SHEET NO.
C-1

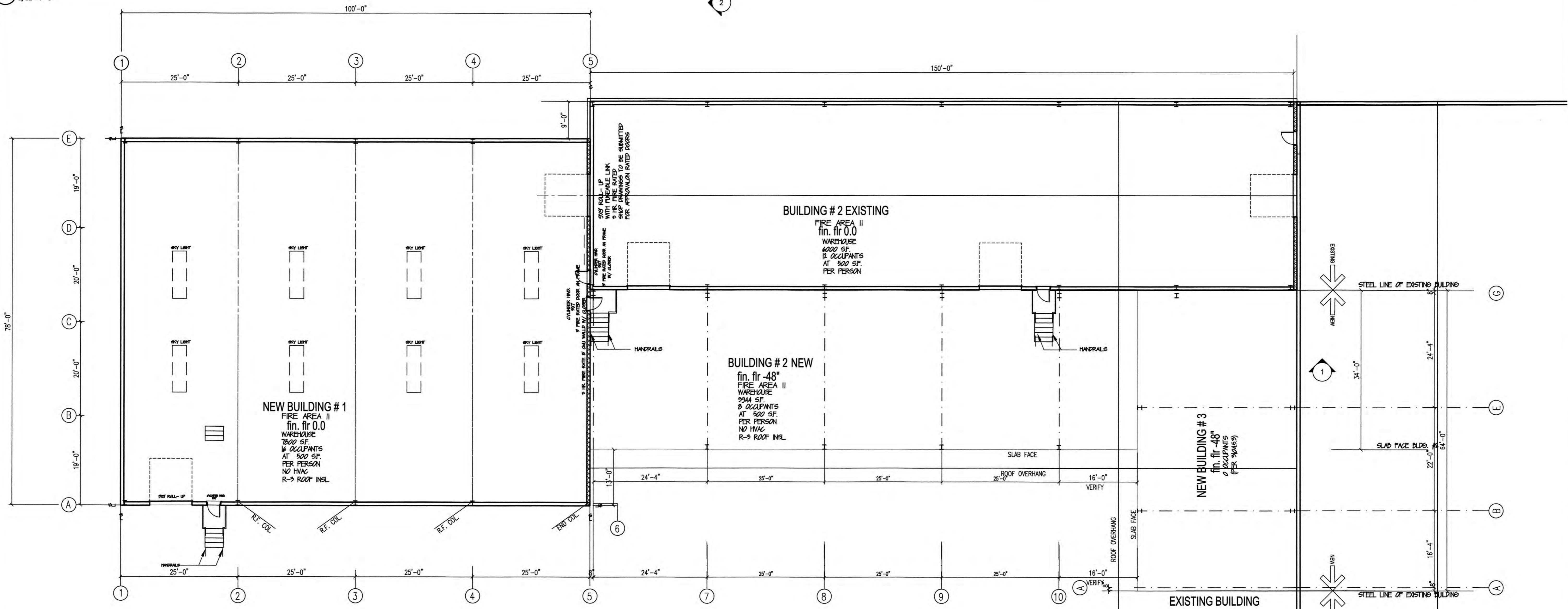
PROJECT NO.
3092



2 ELEVATION 2
3/32" = 1'-0"



1 ELEVATION 1
3/32" = 1'-0"



1 FLOOR PLAN
1/8" = 1'-0"

NO.	REVISION	DATE

DATE
11 / 16 / 2018

Lonnie Watt & Associates
Architects A.I.A.
Planners
anderson, south carolina 864.225.8225

PROJECT. 3092 YODERS STORAGE EXPANSION
500 EAST FAIRPLAY BOULEVARD
FAIRPLAY, S. C.

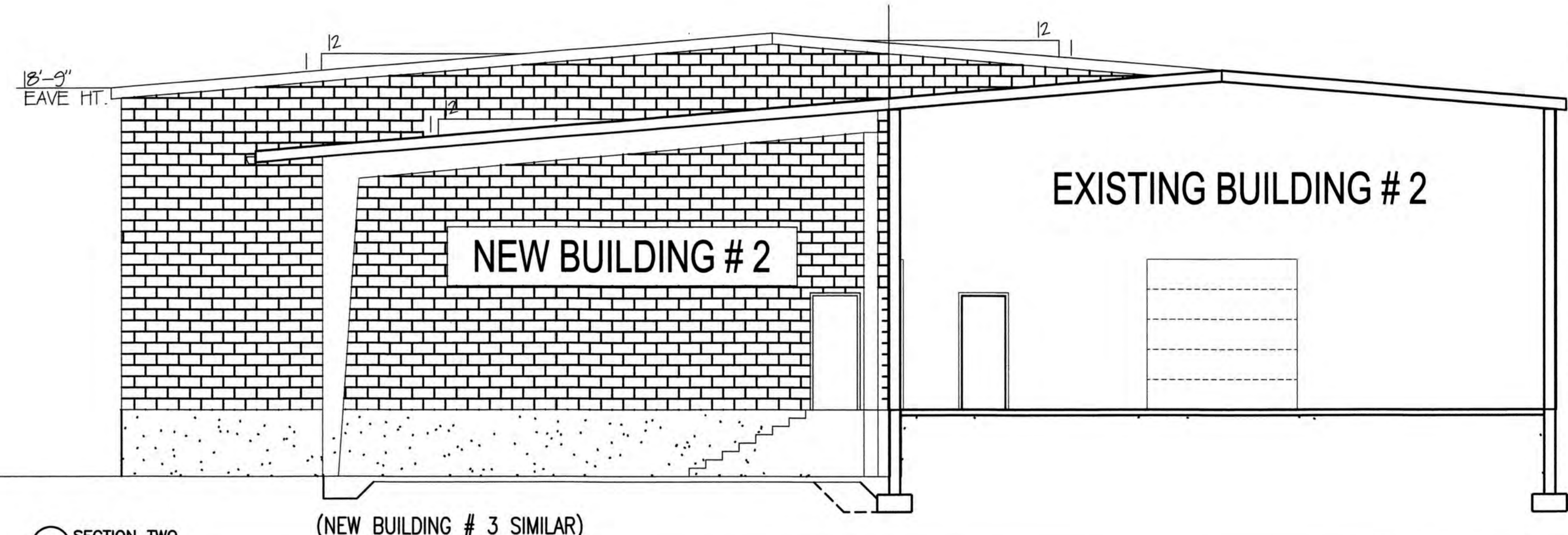
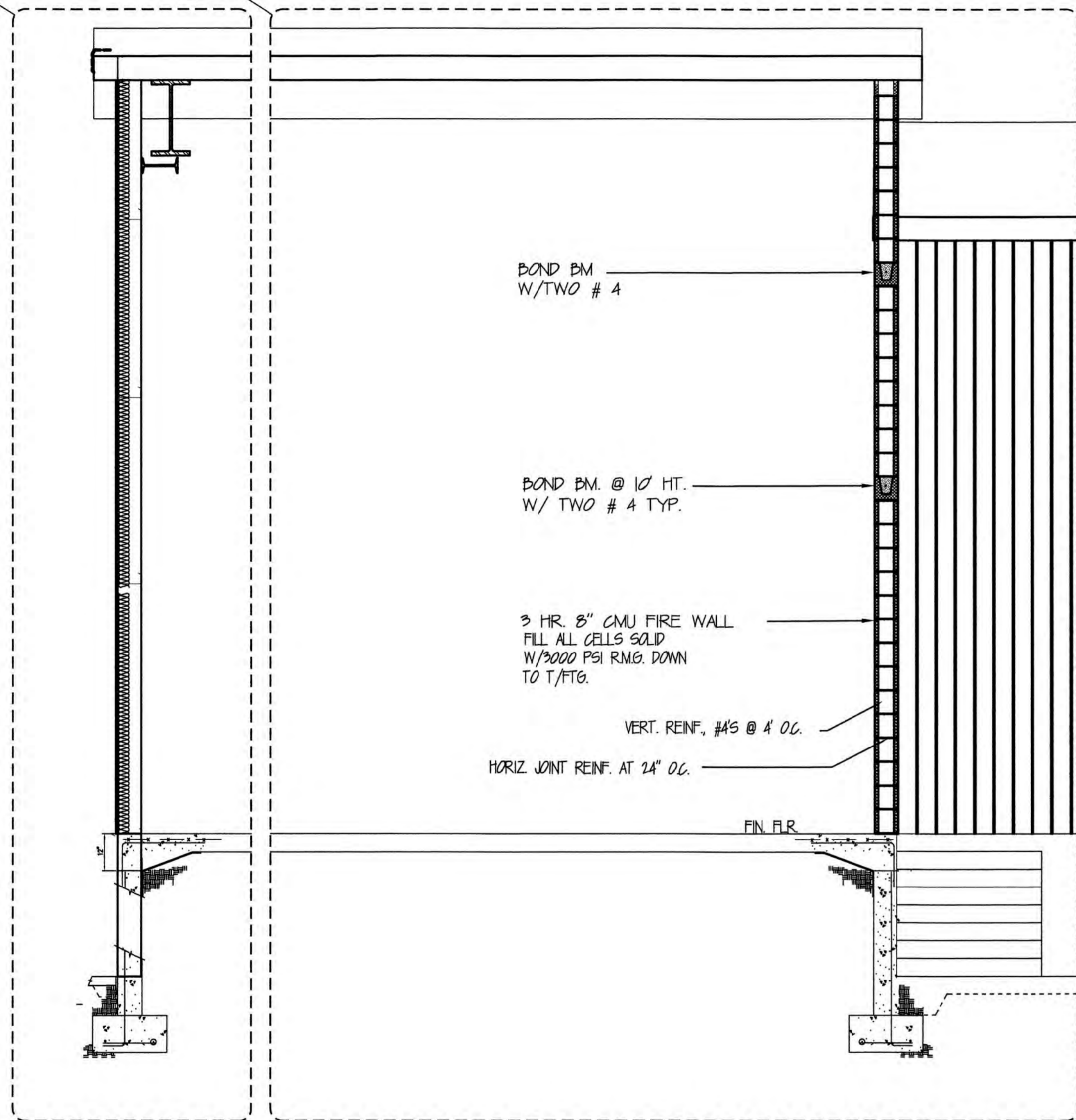
SHEET NAME FLOOR PLAN

SHEET NO.
A-1

PROJECT NO.
3092

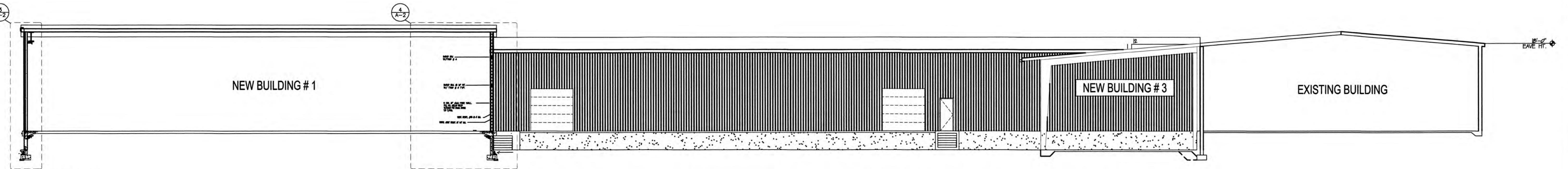
3
A-2

4
A-2



2 SECTION TWO
3/16\"/>

(NEW BUILDING # 3 SIMILAR)



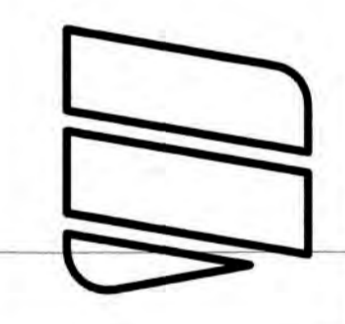
1 SECTION ONE
3/32\"/>

NO.	REVISION	DATE

DATE
11 / 16 / 2018



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anderson, south carolina 864.225.8255

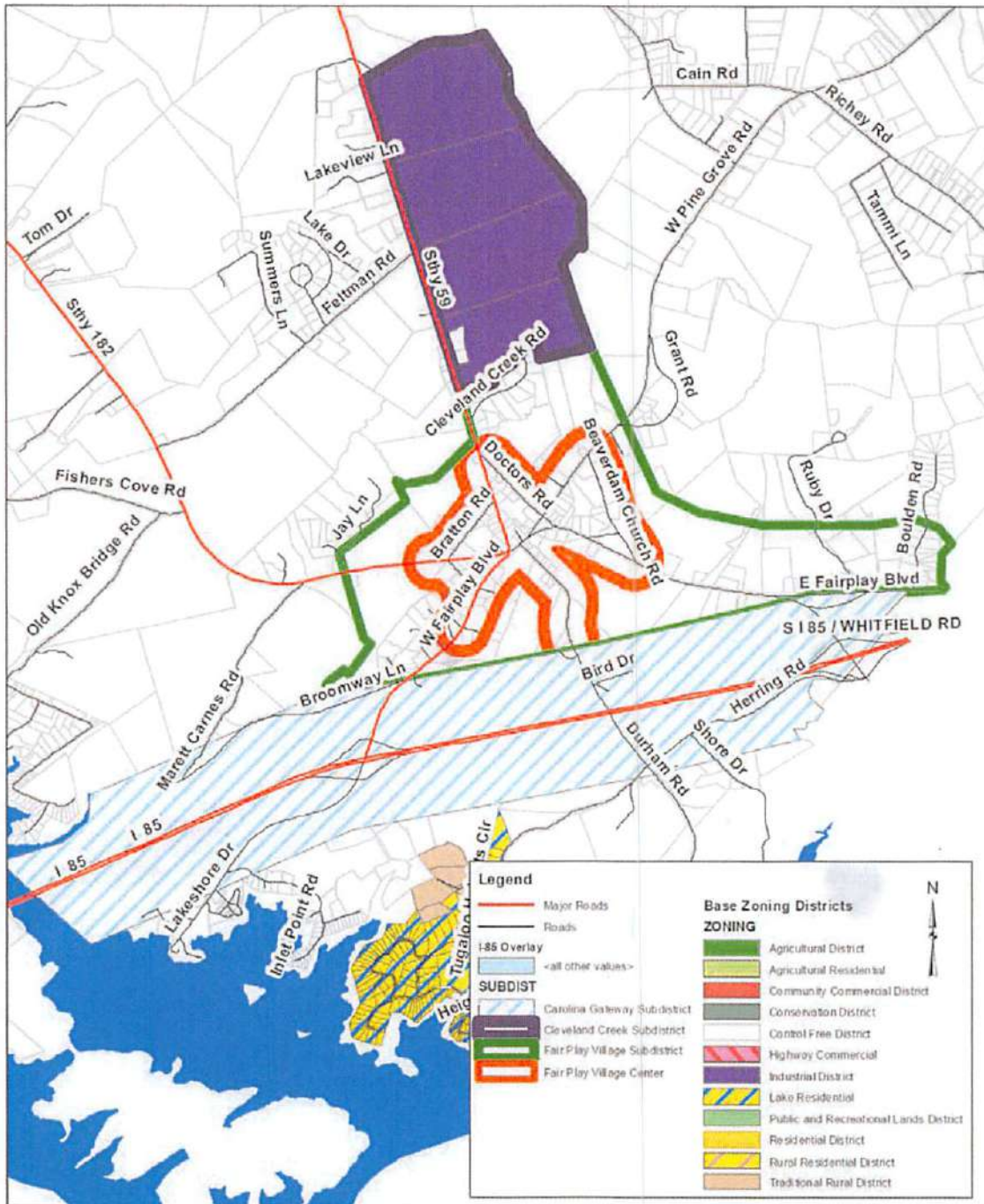


PROJECT. 3092 YODERS STORAGE EXPANSION
500 EAST FAIRPLAY BOULEVARD
FAIRPLAY, S. C.

SHEET NAME
ELEVATIONS

SHEET NO.
A-2

PROJECT NO.
3092



Case SE 18-000007
Special Exception Request



Date of Orthoimagery: Feb. 2015

ATTACHMENT B

Sec. 38-11.2. - I-85 overlay district.

Title: I-85 overlay district.

Definition: The I-85 overlay district is not intended to be a separate zoning district, but shall be assigned to those areas county council has determined to be essential to the future economic prosperity and general well-being of all Oconee County citizens.

Intent: The overlay is intended to promote development that reflects the best building and site design practices in a manner that will maintain the greatest marketability of the area over time, while limiting any negative effects that may impact the existing lifestyle of the area's citizens.

Boundary: The boundaries of the I-85 overlay district shall be shown on the Official Oconee County Zoning Map:

The I-85 overlay district shall be divided into the following sub-districts:

- (a) Carolina Gateway (Interstate 85).
- (b) Fair Play Village.
- (c) Cleveland Creek.

Standards:

- (1) No new residential subdivision development consisting of more than ten residential housing units proposed for any sub-district of the I-85 overlay shall have a gross density greater than one dwelling unit per acre, unless otherwise specified by this chapter.
- (2) Sexually oriented businesses, as defined by the Unified Performance Standards chapter of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances, shall not be located in the I-85 overlay district.

The following standards shall apply within one or more of the sub-districts of the I-85 overlay, as specified:

- (1) Carolina Gateway sub-district:
 - A. The regulations contained within Appendix A of this chapter shall apply in their entirety to all non-residential uses within the Carolina Gateway (Interstate 85) overlay, excluding agriculture uses.
- (2) Fair Play Village sub-district:
 - A. All new primary and accessory residential buildings proposed to be located within the boundaries of the Fair Play Village sub-district shall be subject to the following standards:
 - 1. Maximum density: Two dwelling units per acre.
 - 2. Setbacks: Front - 25 feet; Side - Five feet; Rear - Ten feet.
 - B. All new lots/parcels shall have a minimum lot width on road frontage of 100 feet.
 - C. All structures and properties located in the Fair Play Village overlay constructed, installed or maintained in such a manner as to permit the harborage of rodents, mosquitoes, or any other pest or vermin, shall within 30 days of notification (by certified mail) by the zoning administrator repair, upgrade, clean or otherwise improve the structure or property so as to mitigate the situation. In the event the owner of a structure deemed to be in violation of this standard can demonstrate the need for additional time beyond 30 days from the date of notification to complete necessary work, provided all imminent hazards to residents and the public have been mitigated, the zoning administrator may grant up to an additional 60 days for completion.

- D. Proposed structures to be located in the Fair Play Village sub-district subsequent to the adoption of this standard shall be subject to the following:
- ~~4. All non-residential and non-agricultural structures and uses shall conform to the standards established in Appendix A of this chapter, and excepting those required by this or any other chapter of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances to be approved as a special exception by the Oconee County Board of Zoning Appeals, shall be subject to review and approval by the Oconee County Planning Commission.~~
 1. All non-residential and non-agricultural structures and uses shall be approved as a special exception by the board of zoning appeals and may be required to conform to the standards established in Appendix A.
 2. Single-family residential developments proposed to consist of greater than two units, and all multi-family residential developments, shall be subject to review and approval by the Oconee County Planning Commission.
 3. Proposed structures, of any type, intended for occupancy shall meet the following standards:
 - i. Foundations and/or underpinning shall be constructed of concrete, masonry (brick or block), or similar material, and designed so as to provide a continuous, permanent, and attractive impediment to the harborage of rodents and vermin.
 - ii. A lawn or landscaped area cleared of weeds, excess undergrowth, and any other materials or debris that may attract rodents, mosquitoes, and other potential threats to occupants and/or the public shall be established for each residential unit prior to final approval for occupation.
 - iii. Access to residences shall be from an all-weather driveway and/or parking area.
 4. New development proposed to be located in the area delineated on the Official Oconee County Zoning Map as the "Village Center" of the Fair Play Village sub-district shall, in addition to all other standards applicable to the Fair Play Village sub-district, be subject to the following:
 - i. Orientation: All new primary residential structures located in the Village Center shall be oriented to the public thoroughfare.
 - ii. All non-residential and non-agricultural uses shall be approved as a special exception by the board of zoning appeals and may be required to conform to the standards established in Appendix A.
 - iii. The height of all proposed structures shall be no greater than 30 feet, to be determined by measures approved in adopted building codes.
 5. Free-standing signage of any type subject to permit by this chapter of the Code of Ordinances, to include monument or other signage not attached to or otherwise supported by a primary structure, shall not exceed seven feet in height above grade. No signage shall be situated or installed on a berm or other elevated surface or device intended to increase the height of a sign subject to this standard.

APPENDIX A

- (a) *Building standards.* Diversity in design consistent with the local natural and architectural surroundings is encouraged.
- (1) To the extent feasible, primary facades and entrances shall face the street.
 - (2) All buildings less than or equal to 20 feet in height shall have a setback of at least 30 feet from the property line along the primary road. Setback from remaining property lines shall be 15 feet.
 - (3) Buildings more than 20 feet in height shall have a setback of 30 feet plus an additional distance equal to one foot in horizontal distance for each one foot in additional vertical distance (building height over 20 feet) along the primary road. Setbacks from remaining property lines shall be 25 feet.
 - (4) Exterior building materials visible from the traffic lanes shall not consist of unadorned concrete masonry units (concrete blocks), corrugated metal, and/or sheet metal. Pre-cast panels and pre-engineered metal wall units, and 'split-faced' and other rusticated masonry wall are permitted.
 - (5) Suitable materials for treating building facades may include, but are not limited to: stone, brick, glass, wood siding, split block, or stucco. Alternative materials may be approved by the planning director.
 - (6) Blank, uninterrupted building facades shall not face residential areas or public or private street right-of-ways. Design techniques using architectural elements or repetitive features should be utilized to visually break up the facade. Examples include, but are not limited to: windows, doors, columns, canopies, lighting fixtures, building offsets/projections, decorative tile work, artwork, or other elements approved by the planning director. The following standards apply:
 - a. Industrial uses shall not have blank walls greater than 50 feet in length.
 - b. All other uses shall not have blank walls greater than 30 feet in length.
 - (7) The appearance of strip development resulting from flat, unvaried roof lines is discouraged. Roofline variation may be achieved using one or more of the following methods: vertical or horizontal offsets in ridge lines, variation in roof pitch, gables, or dormers.
 - (8) Roof mounted mechanical equipment shall be enclosed or screened to ensure such features are not visible to the extent possible. Enclosures and screens shall be compatible with the architectural style of the building.
 - (9) Shipping and receiving areas/docks shall be located in the rear of the structure and should not be visible from primary adjacent parking areas or street rights-of way.
- (b) *Signage standards.* The sign standards are created to maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment of transportation and economic gateways into Oconee County. The location and design of all signs shall be consistent with the objective of high-quality development and safe and efficient vehicular and pedestrian circulation.
- (1) *General standards.* All signs, including their supports, braces, guys, anchors, electrical parts and lighting fixtures, and all painted and display areas shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the building and electrical codes adopted by Oconee County.
 - a. It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, construct, enlarge, move, or replace any sign (with the exception of signage requiring no permit) without first obtaining a sign permit from the planning department, except as relates to routine maintenance and repair or the changing of tenant name panels.
 - b. A preliminary sign permit application along with applicable fees and sign plan shall be submitted to Oconee County. The detailed sign plan shall include the following information, stamped by a South Carolina licensed surveyor, landscape architect, or engineer:

1. Parcel number.
 2. Scale of site plan and north arrow.
 3. Drawing of entire property with all existing and proposed structures shown.
 4. Length of street frontage.
 5. Dimensioned setbacks from street and side property line.
 6. Plan drawing with actual dimensions of sign (as seen from above).
 7. Location of all existing signs.
 8. Location of all proposed signs.
 9. Elevation drawing of the proposed sign or sign revision including size, height, copy, colors, illumination, materials.
 10. Verification that the proposed sign(s) meet all requirements set forth in this chapter.
- c. All on-premises nonconforming signs shall come into compliance with these standards when abandoned or the cost of repairs or replacement of such signs is beyond 50 percent of their replacement costs. Nonconforming signs are subject to all requirements of this code regarding safety, maintenance, and repair.
 - d. Signage shall be set back a minimum of ten feet from right-of-way, side, or rear property lines.
 - e. No sign shall produce a traffic hazard, such as visual obstruction at intersections or glare from lighting. Signs shall not obstruct the view of or resemble traffic directional/safety signs.
 - f. Rooftop signs are prohibited.
 - g. Flashing or animated signs are prohibited.
 - h. No sign shall be attached to a utility pole or street sign, or attached to or painted on tree trunks, rocks, or other natural objects.
 - i. No sign shall be placed within the public rights-of-way.
 - j. Signs shall not rotate or revolve.
- (2) *Signs allowed without a permit.* The following signs require no permit. These signs are subject to all requirements of this code regarding safety, maintenance, and repair.
- a. *Temporary/portable signs:*
 1. Shall be displayed only for the duration of time that they remain relevant to a specific event.
 2. Temporary signs shall be removed within seven days following the conclusion of the specific event being promoted.
 3. No temporary sign exceeding six square feet may be erected on a residential parcel.
 4. The maximum allowable size of any non-residential temporary sign is 32 square feet.
 - b. Traffic, directional, warning, official notice or informational signs authorized by any public agency.
 - c. Building nameplates with related inscriptions.
 - d. Window signs.
 - e. Flags and flagpoles.

- f. On-site directional signs, where each sign does not exceed nine square feet in area or four feet in height.
 - g. Signs that display name, trademark, logo, brand, or prices, provided the display is an integral part of a vending machine, automatic teller machine, or gas pump. Such signage shall not exceed 32 square feet in area per side.
- (3) *Signs allowed that require a permit.*
- a. Allowable signs shall be the following:
 - 1. Monument.
 - 2. Wall.
 - 3. Hanging/projecting.
 - 4. Canopy/awning.
 - b. Monument signs:
 - 1. Shall be architecturally designed to reflect the character of the structure/development for which they are advertising.
 - 2. No monument sign shall exceed ten feet in height.
 - 3. One double faced or single faced sign shall be allowed per parcel.
 - 4. Developments with 400 feet of road frontage serving more than one building shall be permitted one additional sign, which shall not exceed 100 square feet in area. Minimum separation for all monument signs shall be at least 200 linear feet. However, if a building is located on a corner lot with two street facing sides, one sign may be located on each side served by an entryway.
 - c. Wall signs:
 - 1. Wall signage shall not exceed 15 percent of the wall area, per wall face.
 - 2. Wall signs shall display only one surface and shall not be mounted more than six inches from any wall.
 - d. Hanging/projecting signs:
 - 1. Only one projecting/hanging sign is allowed per building frontage, except for shopping centers, which may have one projecting/hanging sign for each business use.
 - 2. Signs shall project at a right (90 degree) angle to the building frontage.
 - 3. Signs shall not extend more than four feet beyond the line of the building or structure to which it is attached.
 - 4. Signs shall maintain a vertical clearance of eight feet above the sidewalk or ground level accessible to pedestrians.
 - e. Canopy/awning signs:
 - 1. Shall not exceed 15 percent of the surface area of the face or the canopy or awning to which the sign is attached.
 - 2. Sign shall not extend more than three inches horizontally from the surface of the awning or canopy.
 - 3. Sign shall not project vertically outside the area of the canopy or awning.
 - f. Illumination:
 - 1. No internal lighting shall include exposed incandescent or fluorescent bulbs.

2. Externally illuminated signs must have indirect light sources shielded from the view of persons viewing the sign and be further shielded and directed so that the light shines only on the sign and that illumination beyond the copy area is minimized.
 3. Signs shall not have light reflecting backgrounds but may use light reflecting lettering.
 4. No sign shall have lights or illuminations that flash, move, rotate, scintillate, blink, flicker, or vary in intensity or color.
- g. Maintenance: All signs shall be maintained in good condition and working order, and be free of graffiti, peeling paint or paper, faded colors, weeds, vines, and/or broken and damaged materials. No internally or externally illuminated sign shall have only partial illumination for a period of more than 30 days.
- (c) *Lighting standards.* The purpose of these standards is to assure that adequate exterior lighting is provided to facilitate crime prevention, security, and safe passage, and that exterior lights be shielded to reduce the impact of lighting on neighboring uses, potential safety hazards to the traveling public, and the effect on viewsheds and nightscapes.
- (1) Lighting plans shall be submitted with the zoning permit application on projects that include the installation of outdoor lighting fixtures. Prior to obtaining a zoning permit, an applicant must receive approval of a lighting plan. The lighting plan shall be prepared by an appropriately licensed design professional in the State of South Carolina. The plan shall include the following information:
 - a. The location, type, and height of luminaries including both building and ground-mounted fixtures.
 - b. A description of the luminaries, including lamps, poles or other supports and shielding devices, which may be provided as catalogue illustrations from the manufacturer.
 - c. Photometric data, such as that furnished by the manufacturer, showing the angle of light emission.
 - d. Additional information as may be required to determine compliance with this chapter.
 - (2) Exterior lighting shall be shielded and directed to avoid illuminating the night sky.
 - (3) Lighting shall not illuminate neighboring properties or distract/harm the traveling public on road rights-of-way. Any necessary screening of lighting shall be shown on site plans. Lighting will be inspected before a certificate of occupancy is granted.
 - (4) On-site lighting may be used to accent architectural elements and provide safety and security on pedestrian walkways, at building entrances, and public areas between buildings, but shall not be used to illuminate entire portions of buildings.
 - (5) In order to promote safety and security in developments, lighting should be used at intersections, entrances, and in parking areas.
 - (6) The overall height of lighting fixtures shall not exceed 20 feet.
 - (7) Blinking or flashing lights shall be prohibited unless the lights are required as a safety feature (e.g. beacons on towers). Searchlight and laser light operation for advertising/commercial purposes is prohibited.
- (d) *Parking standards.* Parking areas should be designed in a manner to provide safe and efficient circulation of traffic and safe access for pedestrians. Appropriate parking design and layout should be used to reduce impacts associated with impervious surfaces.
- (1) *Parking layout.* Avoid parking layouts that dominate a development. The layout of parking areas, pedestrian connections, and open space should reduce the visual impact of parking. Parking is strongly encouraged to be located to the side or rear of the building unless prevented by a physical limitation of the site.

- (2) *Perimeter parking buffer.* A perimeter parking area buffer of 15 feet shall be required on sides parallel to abutting properties or street rights-of-way. Buffers shall be planted as specified in the landscape standards.

If parking is located in the front of the building, buffer requirements will be increased to 25 feet.

- (3) *Parking striping.* Parking areas shall have parking spaces marked by surface paint lines or approved alternative traffic marking material.
- (4) *Wheel stops.* Wheel stops or curbs are required where a parked vehicle encroaches on adjacent property, pedestrian access/circulation areas, right-of-way or landscaped areas.
- (5) *Planting islands.* Parking areas shall be designed so that a planting island is provided for every ten parking spaces in a continuous row. Planting islands are also required at the beginning and end of all parking bays. Planting islands shall be surrounded by curbing to prevent vehicular damage to plantings.

Minimum size for required planting islands is nine feet by 15 feet (inside of curb). Islands shall be planted as specified in the Landscape Standards.

- (6) *Stormwater.* Parking areas shall be designed to convey and/or preferably infiltrate stormwater on-site. Stormwater shall not contribute to the subsidence, erosion, or sedimentation of the development site or off-site areas.
- (7) *Paving.* Parking areas shall be paved unless otherwise approved by the planning commission. Alternative paving materials that increase permeability such as pervious concrete, pervious asphalt, pavers, grid pavers, or any other approved pervious paving materials are encouraged.

- (e) *Landscape standards.* Trees and landscaping contribute to the public health, safety, and welfare. Among the benefits of landscaping are: screening of undesirable views; aesthetic enjoyment; climate modification; reduction of glare, noise, odors and dust; reduction of storm water runoff and flooding; buffers between land use; shelter and food for wildlife; and improved air quality. All of these benefits contribute to a higher quality of life and enhance property values within the county.

- (1) *Landscape plan.* The landscape plan shall be submitted with the zoning permit application. Prior to obtaining a zoning permit, an applicant must receive approval of a landscape plan. The landscape plan shall be prepared by a landscape architect licensed by the State of South Carolina. The landscape plan must contain all information necessary to show that the planned use, structure, or development complies with the standards set forth. This shall include utility information, irrigation plans, existing trees used for credit, and tree protection plans, if applicable.
- (2) *Installation.* No certificate of occupancy shall be issued until the landscaping is completed as certified by an on-site inspection. If the season or weather conditions prohibit planting of trees, the developer may provide a bond, an irrevocable letter of credit, or other financial surety in an amount equal to 125 percent of the cost of installing the required plantings to guarantee the completion of the required planting within 270 days. The financial surety shall be canceled and/or returned upon completion of the required landscaping. If the required landscaping is not completed within the time allowed, the owner shall forfeit the guarantee and the county shall use such funding to complete the required landscaping.
- (3) *Maintenance.* The plantings that constitute a landscape area must be properly maintained in order for the landscape area to fulfill the purposes for which it is established. The owner of the property shall be responsible for the maintenance of all plant material within the landscaped areas. This includes keeping landscaped areas free of litter and debris and keeping plantings healthy and orderly in appearance. Tree staking shall be removed within eight months after installation to prevent permanent damage. All dead or diseased vegetation shall be removed. Additionally, any required vegetation that dies or becomes diseased shall be replaced.
- (4) *Minimum material size.* All required trees shall be a minimum size of 2½-inch caliper measured six inches above ground at the time of installation. All required shrubs shall be a minimum size

of three gallons at the time of installation. Reference the American Landscape and Nursery Association (ANLA) publication American Standard for Nursery Stock (ANSI Z60, 1-2004) for plant material quality specifications. All plant material shall be mulched with an organic mulch or other approved material.

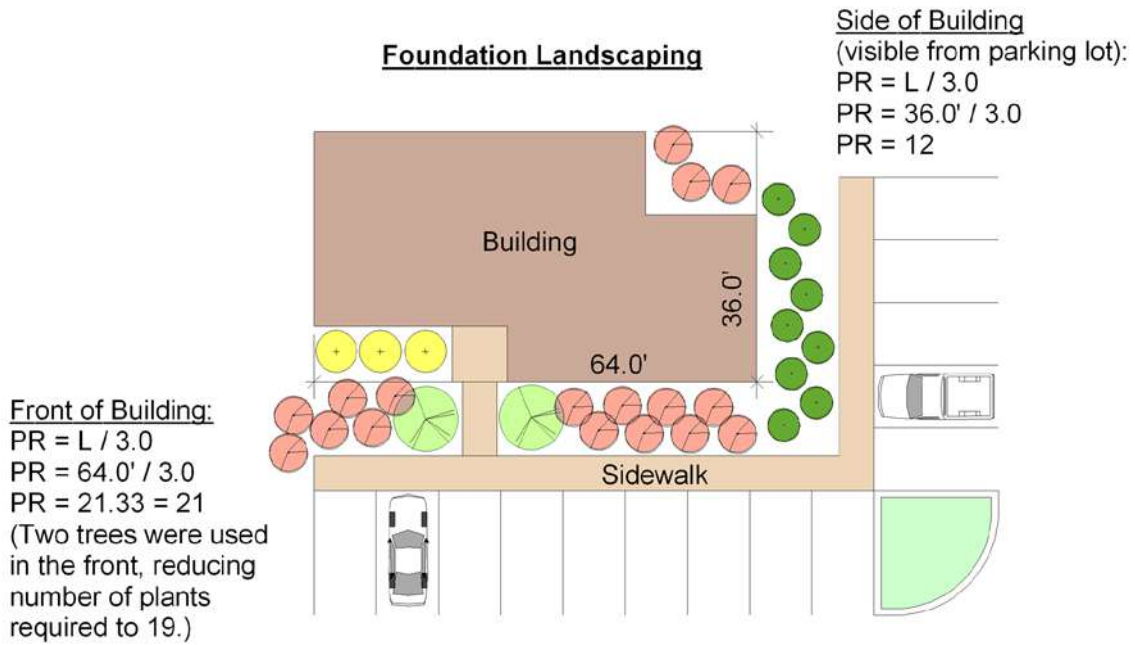
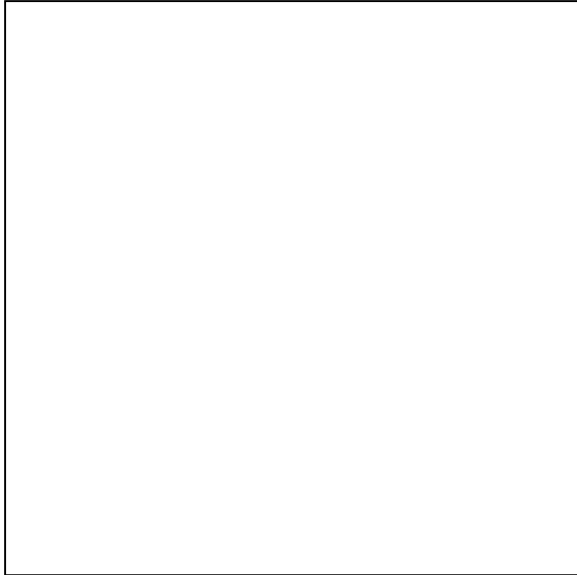
- (5) *Water source.* A permanent water source (hose bib, etc.) shall be provided not more than 100 feet from any required landscaping.
- (6) *Foundation landscaping.* Landscaping shall be provided around the foundation of structures visible from any parking area. Plant material, as defined in this chapter, shall be located in a planting area adjacent to the building in the following quantities:

PR = $L/3.0$ where:

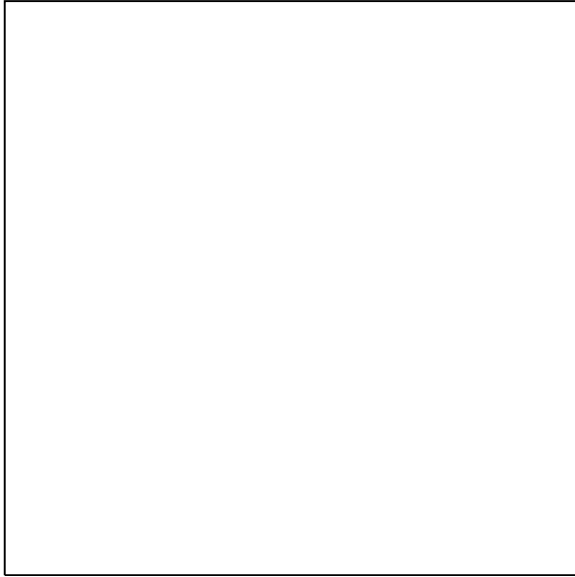
PR = number of plants required

L = building length, in feet, visible from any parking area

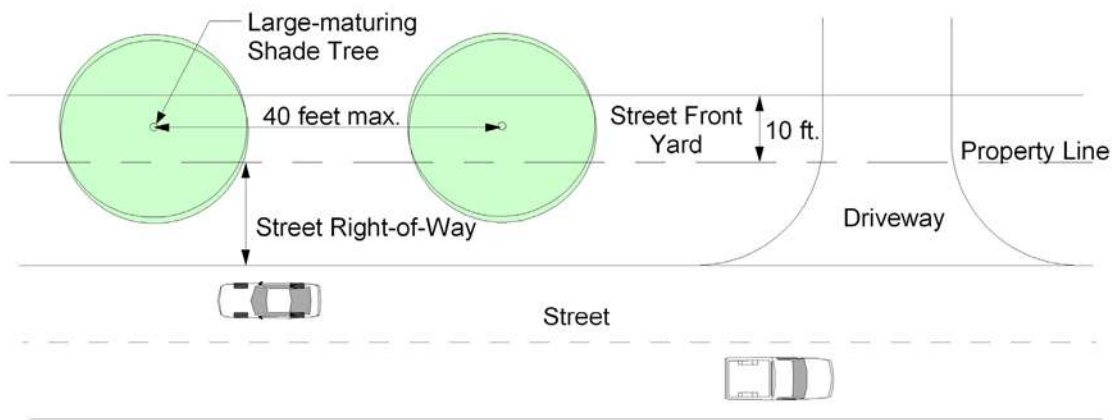
Each tree provided counts as a total of two required plants.



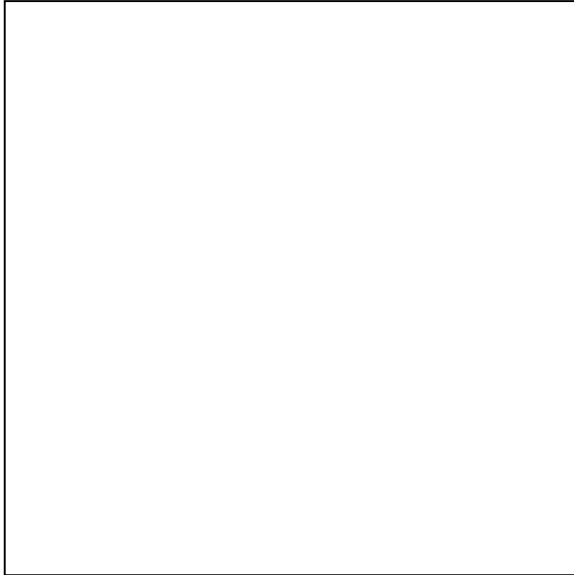
- (7) *Street front yard.* Street front yards shall be located along property adjacent to all street rights-of-way. Street front yards must be located on private property and not within the street right-of-way. Portions of the property needed for driveways are exempted from these requirements. Street front yards shall be a minimum of ten feet in width, measured from the street(s) right-of-way abutting the property. Each street front yard shall contain at least one large maturing shade tree every 40 linear feet or fraction thereof. No street front yard shall contain less than one shade tree. Shrubs, groundcover, understory, and/or turf shall cover the remaining area within the street front yard.



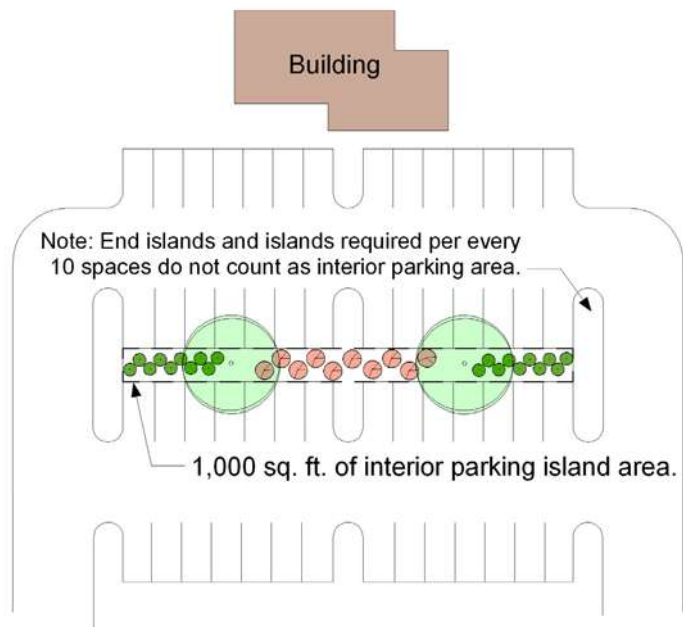
Street Front Yard



- (8) *Interior parking.* Whenever the impervious parking cover equals or exceeds 10,000 square feet, a planting area equal to ten percent of the total impervious surface must be provided as islands within the interior of the parking area. One large maturing shade tree and 15 shrubs must be planted for each 500 square feet of required interior landscape area. Plantings in landscape islands referenced under the parking islands section may not be used to satisfy this requirement. However, existing trees preserved in appropriately sized islands may be counted as outlined in the existing trees section.



Interior Parking

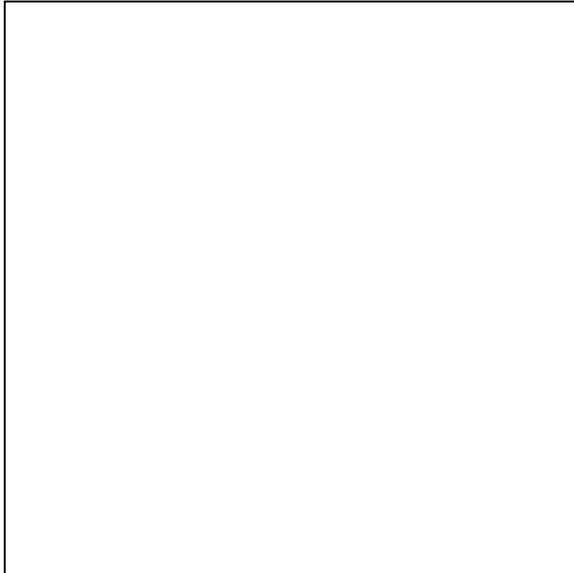


If Parking Lot area equals or exceeds 10,000 sq. ft.:
 $10,000 \text{ sq. ft.} \times 10\% = 1,000 \text{ sq. ft. of interior islands}$
To calculate required plantings within the interior islands:
 $1,000 \text{ sq. ft.} / 500 \text{ sq. ft.} = 2.0$
(1) large-maturing shade tree per 500 sq. ft. = 2 trees
(15) shrubs per 500 sq. ft. = 30 shrubs

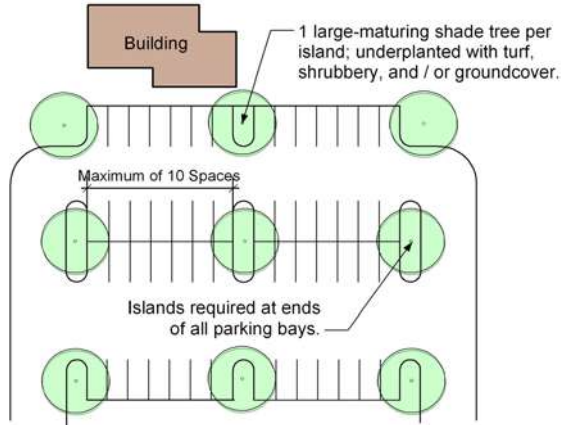
- (9) *Existing trees.* Existing trees that have a minimum caliper size of four inches may be counted towards satisfying interior landscaping and street front yard requirements if such trees are preserved and adequately protected through all phases of construction. Credited trees shall be uniformly encircled by a fenced protection area of sufficient size (a circle whose center is the trunk and outer edge is the dripline) to insure tree health. Each four caliper inches of an existing tree shall be deemed the equivalent of one required two-inch caliper tree. If any preserved tree

used for credit dies or fails to thrive, the owner shall plant new trees equal to the number of credited trees.

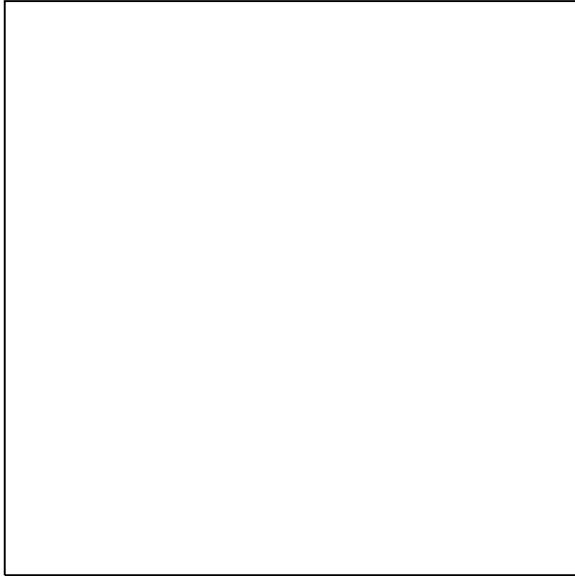
- (10) *Parking islands.* A planted parking island shall be provided for every ten parking spaces in a continuous row. Planting islands are also required at the beginning and end of all parking bays. Refer to the parking standards section for parking island design standards. Planter islands shall contain at least one large maturing shade tree, having a minimum clean trunk of six feet. Shrubbery, groundcover, and/or turf shall be used in the remainder of the island.



Parking Islands



- (11) *Perimeter parking buffer.* All parking lots and vehicular use areas shall be screened from all abutting properties or rights-of-way. The landscaped area shall be directly adjacent to the parking lot edge, and shall be a minimum width of 15 feet. The perimeter shall contain at a minimum, one large maturing tree for every 50 linear feet, and evergreen shrubs in sufficient quantity to provide screening with a minimum mature height of four feet. If parking is located in the front of the building, buffer requirements will be increased by 30 percent in terms of width and planting quantities.



Parking Perimeter Buffer



- * Buffer must be 15' in width.
- * 1 large-maturing tree required for every 50 linear feet of buffer.
- * Evergreen shrubs as required to create a screen with a min. mature height of 4'.
 - 150' buffer / 50' = 3 large-maturing trees
 - 250' buffer / 50' = 5 large-maturing trees
 - 75' buffer / 50' = 1.5 = 2 large-maturing trees

(12) *Buffering adjacent uses.* In the event that non-residential development borders residential areas or industrial development bordering non-industrial development, a 25 feet wide landscape buffer shall be required along the common property boundary. The following mixture of plants per 100 feet of property boundary shall be required:

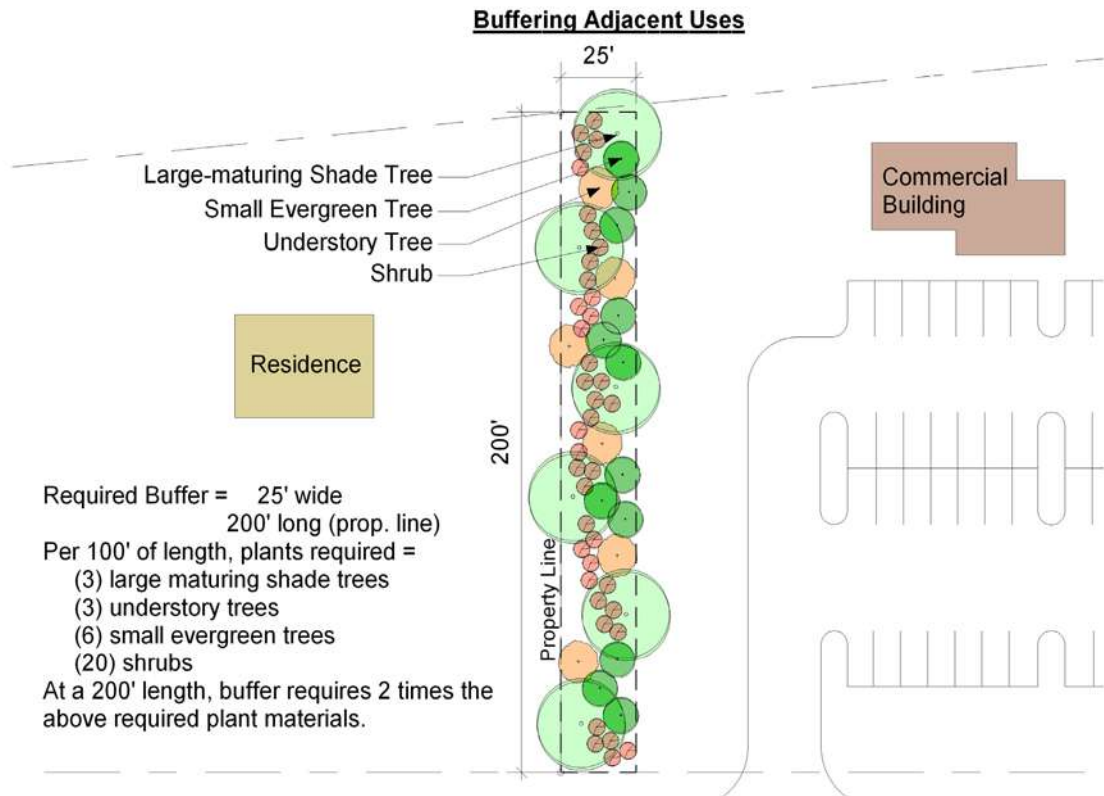
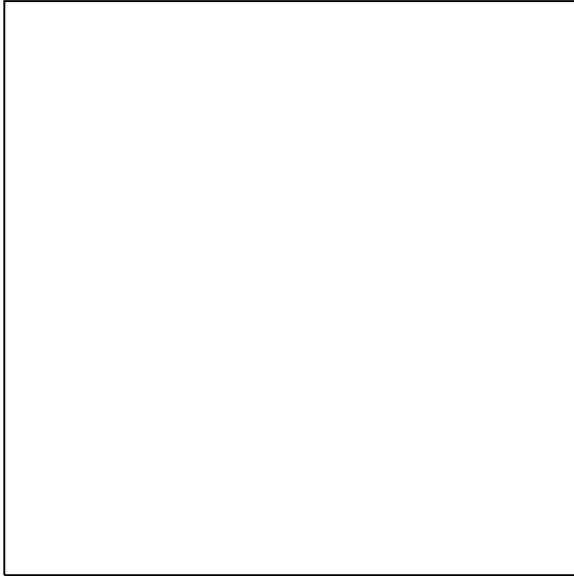
Three large maturing shade trees, equally spaced

Three understory trees, equally spaced

Six small evergreen trees

Twenty shrubs

If an abutting parcel contains a required buffer or screen, it shall count towards the buffer requirements.



- (13) *Existing natural buffers.* When a natural, undisturbed buffer is retained along a property boundary where a buffer is required, a waiver (in whole or part) of the required landscaping may be granted. The existing buffer must achieve the same screening effects as the required buffer materials and adhere to the requirements for protection and size outlined in the buffering adjacent uses section.
- (14) *Screening of collection areas.* Screening of loading and trash collection areas must be accomplished with an opaque wall of masonry, rot-resistant wood, or evergreen shrubs that are

one foot taller than the object to be screened. If evergreen shrubs are used, they must achieve the required screening at the time of planting.

- (15) *Sight triangles.* The placement of any material shall not obstruct the view between access drives and streets, or the intersecting streets of a corner lot. No fence, building, wall or other structure, (excepting single

trunk trees less than 12 inches in diameter, pruned to a height of eight feet, and poles and support structures less than 12 inches in diameter), shall exist between a height of 2½ feet and eight feet above the upper face of the nearest curb (or street centerline if no curb exists) and the sight triangle. For a corner lot, the sight triangle area is the area bounded on two sides by the street right-of-way lines, each having a length of 25 feet, and a third side connecting the two right-of-way sides. For an intersecting street and driveway, the sight triangle is formed by measuring from the point of intersection of the right-of-way and the edge of drive the distance of 25 feet and connecting the points so established to form a triangle on the area of the lot adjacent to the street. Note that road design criteria concerning sight distances is governed by the standards in Chapter 32, Unified Performance Standards of the Oconee County Code of Ordinances.

(Ord. No. 2012-14, § 1, 5-15-2012)