

At a meeting of the Accomack County Planning Commission held on the 8th day of July, 2020, in Accomack County at the Metompkin Elementary School Cafetorium at 7:00 p.m.

1. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO HONOR PLANNING COMMISSIONER JAMES ARNOLD

Chairwoman Wingfield gave a brief background of Commissioner Arnold's time on the Planning Commission before holding a moment of silence to honor him.

**2. CALL TO ORDER
MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT**

Planning Commission Members Present:

Mrs. Angela Wingfield, Chairwoman
Mr. C. Robert Hickman
Mr. Lynn Gayle
Mr. Brantley Onley
Mr. Kelvin Pettit

Planning Commission Members Absent:

Mr. Roy Custis, Vice Chairman
Mr. David Lumgair
Mr. Leander Roberts

Others Present:

Mr. Rich Morrison, Deputy County Administrator of Building, Planning, and Economic Development
Mrs. Katie Nunez, Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning
Mr. Ted Belote, Property Owner for RZONE-000038-2020
Mr. Steve Romine, Attorney for Verizon Wireless
Mr. Tyler Rosa, Attorney for Verizon Wireless
Mr. Stuart Squire, Zoning Officer for Verizon Wireless

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum, Chairwoman Wingfield called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

On a motion made by Mr. Gayle and seconded by Mr. Hickman, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to adopt the agenda.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairwoman Wingfield opened the public comment period.

There being no public comments; Chairwoman Wingfield closed the public comment period.

5. MINUTES

May 13, 2020: *On a motion made by Mr. Hickman and seconded by Mr. Gayle, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to approve the May 13, 2020 meeting minutes as presented.*

6. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business discussed.

7. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Tom Belote Rezoning – RZONE-000038-2020

Mrs. Nunez presented the staff report and the recommendations of the staff concerning the rezoning application from Tom Belote. Mrs. Nunez stated that Verizon Wireless has been working to find a parcel to build a new tower to fix coverage issues in the Pungoteague area. Verizon Wireless has been working with the property owner Mr. Tom Belote to accomplish this.

Mr. Gayle inquired about history of towers and if a rezoning has always been needed. Mrs. Nunez stated no, that towers used to be allowed by a Special Use Permit in the Agricultural District. Mr. Morrison stated that the staff issue is not with the cell tower but with the way the land has been mapped out for the rezoning. Mrs. Nunez stated that the reason the rezoning has been mapped the way it is currently is so that the cell tower can be built without having to rezone the whole property since that is unnecessary for the cell tower.

Mr. Steven Romine, an attorney with Verizon Wireless was invited up to speak on the matter. Mr. Romine gave a brief history of the project. Mr. Romine stated that they are proposing a 169 foot monopole on a 10,000 square foot leased area on the parcel, and have received a favorable review from FAA. Mr. Romine stated that they of course would like a favorable recommendation from the Planning Commission on the application as submitted, but understand the staff's position on the mapping.

The property owner, Mr. Belote, was invited to speak concerning the application. Mr. Belote stated that he inherited the property from his dad and was hoping to leave the land to his children and grandchildren for them to be able to build on in the future. Mr. Belote stated that he hoped to set his family up for success by having the lease for the Tower.

On a motion made by Mr. Hickman and seconded by Mr. Onley, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to table RZONE-000038-2020 application to allow staff the time to work with the applicants to resolve the mapping issues and to bring back the application at the next available meeting.

8. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

9. SUBDIVISION AGENT REPORT

There was no new information reported.

10. REPORT ON BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS UPCOMING HEARINGS

Mrs. Nunez informed the Planning Commission that there are two applications for public hearing for the August 5, 2020 BZA meeting. A Variance application from the height requirements for an accessory structure in the Residential District, and a Special Use Permit to convert a portion of a residence into a craft/retail store also in the Residential District.

11. OTHER MATTERS

A. Report on legislative matters passed by the General Assembly for 2020 that concern or relate to land use/zoning/planning matters.

Mrs. Nunez updated the Planning Commission on bills that passed the General Assembly.

B. Discuss changing the August meeting date from Wednesday the 12th to Thursday the 20th at Metompkin Cafetorium.

Mr. Morrison informed the Planning Commission that staff was requesting to change the date of the August meeting from the 12th to the 20th due to logistics in prepping for the meeting to be held at Metompkin Elementary. Mr. Gayle and Mr. Onley informed staff that they have a conflict that day with a Farm Bureau Meeting.

Mr. Morrison stated that he checked to see if the Planning Commission could meet on the 18th instead of the 20th but that the School Board has already reserved the space. Mr. Morrison stated that the August meeting will stand as scheduled on the 12th at this time with the location to be determined.

C. Staff Report on Other Matters

Mr. Morrison updated the Planning Commission on the Watermen and Small Business Grant information. Mr. Morrison informed the Planning Commission that the Watermen Grant was open during the month of June and received 83 applications, and awarded 20 grants to eligible Watermen. Mr. Morrison stated that the Small Business grant went live for applications on July 6th, and that at this time the application responses had been coming in slowly but consistently.

Mr. Morrison opened a discussion with the Planning Commission concerning looking at the Zoning Ordinance relative to cell towers and expanding it to the Agricultural District by Special Use Permit. The Planning Commission was in agreement with staff on this issue.

Mr. Morrison informed the Planning Commission that in March on short notice all County departments moved to a full home based working environment. Mr. Morrison stated that for the Building and Planning Department is has been almost business as usual and that the permits have been coming in consistently, and that a focus had been put on Code Cases during this time. Mr. Morrison informed the Planning Commission that starting July 13th it would be back to business as usual in the Administration Building.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in a location to be determined.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Hickman and seconded by Mr. Gayle the Planning Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Angela Wingfield, Chairwoman

Katie H. Nunez, Deputy Director of Planning & Zoning