

The Local Planning Agency of the City of Monticello, Florida met in special session on September 24, 2019 at 7:00 PM at City Hall. The following members were present:

Rick Anderson
Tami Lester
Martin Thigpen
Merry Ann Frisby

Others present were:

Emily Anderson, City Clerk/Treasurer
Bruce Leinback, City Attorney

Chairman Rick Anderson called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC HEARING – AGENCY RECOMMENDATION:

Request for Modification of Limited Use Zoning – Proposal for Enclosed (Indoor) Gun Range – Mike Robinson, Robinson Gunworks - 705 S. Water Street

Chairman Anderson announced the public hearing and asked Petitioner Mike Robinson to give an overview of the project. Mr. Robinson discussed the purpose of the indoor range is to conduct education and training and conditioning and will not be a noise nuisance to surrounding residences. He also noted he can modify range operating hours if events are scheduled in the area, if desired. Assistance with operation and design of the range has been offered by the National Rifle Association, the National Sport Shooting Foundation and a society which oversees concealed-carry training. He noted use of the range will be members-only, with required safety training before use of the range, and applicants will be screened.

City Attorney Leinback questioned Mr. Robinson regarding the proposed language modification of the limited use allowances and operation of the range. Mr. Robinson confirmed the range is for education, training, and testing of firearms which have been repaired. Mr. Robinson also confirmed that the Sheriff's Department is interested in working with him on development of the range project, and that the operation will conform to current National Rifle Association and National Sport Shooting standards.

Mr. Robinson noted that the range will have several layers - a metal siding outside, a four-inch foam insulation layer, and an inner sand and rubber compound fill, and interior sealed with plywood. Acoustical foam will be added inside of the building to break up resonating noise. The backdrop will have a steel plate at a 35-degree angle to direct bullets to the floor trap. The range will also be a lead-free range, which is a national trend to avoid lead contamination. The ammunition is frag-type, which breaks apart upon impact.

Chairman Anderson noted e-mails received at City Hall in support of the gun range. Gordon Dean, 8535 S. Jefferson Road, noted he has been working with Keith Cook and County Coordinator Parrish Barwick in attempting to site an outdoor gun range, primarily

for the purpose of providing a local training facility for the Sheriff's Department, which he would assume would also be used by the Police Department. Mr. Dean noted this proposed indoor range will improve the use of a historically under-utilized facility, will help grow a local business, and will not cost any money to taxpayers. He urged Local Planning Agency to approve the request.

Chairman Anderson read the language for the proposed modification of the Limited Use Zoning District. Mike Clayton, a surrounding residential property owner, noted his questions about noise and direction of shooting had been answered by Mr. Robinson, and he has no concerns.

On motion of Tami Lester, seconded by Merry Ann Frisby, the Local Planning Agency members unanimously voted to recommend approval of the request for modification of the Limited Use Zoning District to include the proposed language.

On motion of Merry Ann Frisby, seconded by Tami Lester, the Local Planning Agency members voted unanimously to accept the proposal for the enclosed gun range at 705 S. Water Street with approved language and send the recommendation to the City Council.

Other Business

Clerk Anderson noted she is anticipating another meeting to be scheduled shortly for several residential building permit reviews.

There being no public comment or other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Anderson
City Clerk/Treasurer