



BRYAN COUNTY ADOPTS NEW UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE TO UPDATE ZONING CODES

BRYAN COUNTY, GA – DECEMBER 15, 2020 – Bryan County recently completed its new Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), which was passed and adopted by the County Commission at last week’s regular monthly meeting.

The UDO updates zoning and subdivision codes, and implements a vision outlined in the County Comprehensive Plan to establish standards for things like enhanced building safety requirements, aesthetic considerations, infrastructure improvement requirements, design guidelines, and maintaining open spaces as well as the community’s rural character. It goes into effect on Jan. 12, 2021.

The Community Development Department, led by director Audra Miller, began work on the UDO in January 2019. The county hired Michael Lauer Planning, LLC to help with the effort and prepare the ordinance. A steering committee also was appointed by the county commission to provide input and represent the entire county and all the interests of its residents, including rural and urban areas, businesses, and developments.

Before making any decisions, the county held various input sessions, public hearings and stakeholder group meetings to allow the county’s population to help shape the ordinance and have a say in its creation. Additionally, the Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed plans as they progressed and provided extra input during workshops.

Before the UDO was passed, the county’s existing codes had last been updated in the 1990s. The last major rewrite of zoning and subdivision code was 1998. Because the county had experienced significant growth since then, the commission decided it was time to update the development ordinance, which now reflects all the changes that have taken place over the past few decades.

In 2018, the county adopted an interim development ordinance (IDO) to temporarily address some of the codes’ most significant shortcomings. It will now be replaced by the UDO.

“I’d like to thank the volunteers on our steering committee as well as the Planning and Zoning Commission and the residents who attended our input sessions, hearings and workshops,” Miller said.

“Their help, input and guidance were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition. We hope this new Unified Development Ordinance will serve Bryan County well for many years to come.”

Bryan County Commission Chairman Carter Infinger and the commissioners are pleased with the new ordinance and were glad to adopt it.

“The UDO is part of our county’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan, which was developed using a great deal of input from local citizens who weighed in on the process. We’re proud that local people helped us make decisions that affect our local communities,” Infinger said. “This process was not easy and required tremendous effort from the Community Development Department, Planning & Zoning, and our steering committee volunteers. We appreciate their hard work and dedication.”

A copy of the new Unified Development Ordinance will soon be posted on the Community Development Department’s webpage: <https://www.bryancountyga.org/government/departments-h-z/planning-zoning>. For more information about Bryan County, please visit www.bryancountyga.org or follow the county on their social media accounts, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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