

### MINUTES Lancaster County Planning Commission March 21, 2023 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Deese called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. <u><b>ROLL CALL</b></u> : Quorum is present (7 Commissioners)							
Commissioners Present:							
Tamecca Neely	Ben Levine	James Barnett	Charles Keith Deese				
Alan Patterson	Judianna Tinklenberg		Sheila Hinson (arrived 6:03)				
Staff Present:							
Allison Hardin, Interim Director			Clerk: Jennifer Bryan				
Ashlay Davis Sonior Planner							

Ashley Davis, Senior Planner Matthew Blaszyk, Planner

Councilman Billy Mosteller

The following press were notified of the meeting by email in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act: The Lancaster News, Kershaw News Era, The Rock Hill Herald, The Fort Mill Times, Cable News 2, Channel 9, and the local Government Channel. The agenda was also posted in the lobby of the County Administration Building for the required length of time, and was published on the County website.

### 2. <u>APPROVE AGENDA</u>

Chairman Deese called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Motion to Amend by deferring SD-2021-2450 until 4/18/2023 at request of applicant, by James Barnett; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ben Levine.

Approved 6:1 (Nay vote by Sheila Hinson).

Motion to Approve as amended by Ben Levine; 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Barnett. <u>Called vote</u>: 7:00. **Motion approved unanimously**.

### 3. <u>CITIZEN'S COMMENTS</u> [see Sign-In sheet attached]

Chairman Deese opened the floor to comments from the public.

• <u>Gwendolyn Brown</u> (Lancaster): speaking for the family of Wyatt Brown/Wyatt Brown estate property off Wyatt Brown Road. Asks that the Planning Commission considers the impact of UDO and amendments on families who own land in rural areas.

### 4. <u>APPROVE MINUTES</u>

### a. February 21, 2023 Regular Minutes

Correction to agenda: item 4a should read "February 21, **2023** Regular Minutes." Chairman Deese called for a motion to approve February 21, 2023 Regular Minutes as written. Motion to Approve by Ben Levine; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan Patterson. <u>Called vote</u>: 7:0. **Motion approved unanimously.** 

### b. March 2, 2023 Workshop Minutes

Chairman Deese called for a motion to approve March 2, 2023 Workshop Minutes as written. Motion to Approve by James Barnett; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sheila Hinson. Commissioner Levine abstained as absent from 3/2/2023 meeting. Called vote: 6:0. Motion approved.

### 5. <u>PUBLIC ITEMS</u>

### a. <u>CU-2022-2447 Tidal Wave Auto Spa</u>

Application by Advanced Engineering Services LLC for a Conditional Use Permit for Minor Maintenance and Repair (Auto) at location 4138 Doby's Bridge Road (TM# 0013-00-015.00), for the purpose of developing an automated car wash.

<u>Staff Presentation</u>: Matthew Blaszyk, Planner, presented the application consistent with the staff report. <u>Staff Recommendations</u>: Approval.

Questions/Comments to staff:

- **Ben Levine**: Approves of closing the entrance on 521. The adjacent corner lot will need to leave sufficient space for an eventual turn lane onto Doby's Bridge Road.
- Alan Patterson: Asked if any speed controls such as speed bumps can be added to ease the cut-through traffic across the property. Ashley Davis responded that this concern could be addressed with TRC and during Civil Plan stage.

Comment from applicant(s):

• <u>Alex Perry</u> (TWAS) : Applicant thanked the Commission for their consideration, and made himself available for questions.

<u>Public Hearing</u>: (See attachments: Sign-in Sheets). None signed in. Chairman Deese closed Public hearing and called for a motion on item CU-2022-2447 Motion to approve by James Barnett; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ben Levine.

### Discussion:

- Alan Patterson expressed concern that approving this use while denying the prior applicant last month is inconsistent.
- **Ben Levine** commented that the two cases were dissimilar in a number of ways, especially the compatibility with surrounding uses.
- **Tamecca Neely**: feels comfortable voting for it because there is already a gas station there.

### <u>Called vote</u>: 7:0. Motion is approved unanimously.

Chairman Deese stated the item will go to County Council for consideration, and applicant will be notified of time and date.

### b. UDO-TA-2023-0188 LCWSD Water Tanks

Application by Lancaster County Water & Sewer District for an amendment to Section 2.4, regarding building heights, requesting an exemption for LCWSD water tanks.

<u>Staff Presentation</u> Matthew Blaszyk, Planner, presented the application consistent with the staff report. <u>Staff Recommendations</u>: Approval.

Questions/Comments to staff:

- **Ben Levine** asked if there had been any feedback from the public; staff replied that no emails or phone calls had been received regarding the case.
- Alan Patterson asked if towers could be converted to another use and keep the exception e.g. cell towers. Staff responded that that was not permitted.

### <u>Comment from applicant(s):</u>

**<u>Tim Kaiser</u>**, LCWSD: LCWSD does not permit cell equipment on its towers/tanks; also, the tanks undergo a stringent maintenance schedule.

Public Hearing: (See attachments: Sign-in Sheets) None signed in.

Chairman Deese closed Public hearing and called for a motion on item UDO-TA-2023-0188, LCWSD Water Tanks. Motion to approve by Sheila Hinson; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ben Levine.

### Discussion:

• **Ben Levine** commented that with the UDO rewrite in mind, proposals like this help overcome some challenges and take care of needs for the community.

### Called vote: 7:0. Motion is approved unanimously.

Chairman Deese stated the item will go to County Council for consideration, and applicant will be notified of time and date.

### c. SD-2021-2450 Pettus Pond

Application by Eastwood Homes, Jane Pettus and Anthony Haltom for approval of a Preliminary Plat for three parcels totaling approximately 61.24 acres located at or adjacent to #10925 and #10822 Pettus Farm Road and Old Pettus Place, respectively, (TMs 0003-00-051.00, 0003-00- 052.00, and 0003-00-052.06), for a single-family residential development of 99 lots.

APPLICANT REQUESTS DEFERRAL TO 4/18/2023. [See agenda amendment.]

### 6. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

a. <u>Discussion on Planning Commission Workshops</u> [See attached memo by Allison Hardin]

- **Ben Levine**: Allison's memo was eye opening; he understands now why care has to be taken not to allow one group preferential treatment. In the interest of transparency, he would favor either going to a full meeting, or doing away with workshops.
- Alan Patterson: favors using the workshop for long-range planning, as he is somewhat concerned that hearing staff position creates a bias before he has heard all of the information.
- James Barnett: believes workshops are necessary.
- Sheila Hinson: finds the workshops helpful, as she as little time to review the documents and this provides dedicated time for that purpose.
- Tamecca Neely: favors using the workshop time for long-range planning.
- Judianna Tinklenberg: favors continuing the workshops, as she finds them helpful, but wants to look at the most efficient use of time.
- Alan Patterson: supports option 3, eliminating Workshops unless there is a specific need, which the Chairman can call at his discretion.
- Ben Levine: proposes that the workshops be livestreamed.
- Staff noted that there is a time limit on livestreaming as the Fire Commission uses the livestream on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays.
- Discussed possibility of streaming the agenda review portion, and continuing longterm planning discussions in the latter part of the meeting, with the understanding that discussions would have to be limited to factual matters directly relevant to the agenda cases.

James Barnett called the question: Motion by James Barnett to revise Workshop format to combine agenda review discussion followed by long-term planning concerns; 2nd by Judianna Tinklenberg.

Vote: 6:1. Nay vote by Alan Patterson. Motion is approved.

- b. Overview of Next Month's Agenda:
- SD-2021-2450 Pettus Pond (deferred)
- CU-2022-2541 Valvoline
- RZ02023-0215 R. F. Duncan
- RZ-2023-0503 John T. Stevens Foundation (Kershaw)
- RN-2023-0530 MSAG Road Names

### 7. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn by Sheila Hinson; 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Barnett. Motion approved by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

## SIGN IN ONLY IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK Lancaster County



South Carolina

### PLANNING COMMISSION Public Hearing Sign In Sheet

### **Item 3: CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

General Comments or comments on matters not on tonight's agenda.

### Council Chambers 101 N. Main Street, Lancaster South Carolina *Tuesday, March 21, 2023*

Citizens are allowed 3 minutes per person to speak. Everyone speaking before Council will be required to do so in a civil manner. Council will not tolerate personal attacks on individual Council Members, County Staff or any person or group. Racial slurs will not be permitted. Council's number one priority is to conduct business for the citizens of this county.

## THIS SIGN IN IS ONLY FOR MATTERS **NOT** ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA.

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## SIGN IN ONLY IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK Lancaster County South Carolina



### **PLANNING COMMISSION Public Hearing Sign In Sheet**

### Item 5a: CU-2022-2447 Tidal Wave Auto Spa

Application by Advanced Engineering Services LLC for a Conditional Use Permit for Minor Maintenance and Repair (Auto) at location 4138 Doby's Bridge Road (TM# 0013-00-015.00), for the purpose of developing an automated car wash.

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# SIGN IN ONLY IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK Lancaster County



### **PLANNING COMMISSION Public Hearing Sign In Sheet**

### Item 5b: UDO-TA-2023-0188 LCWSD Water Tanks

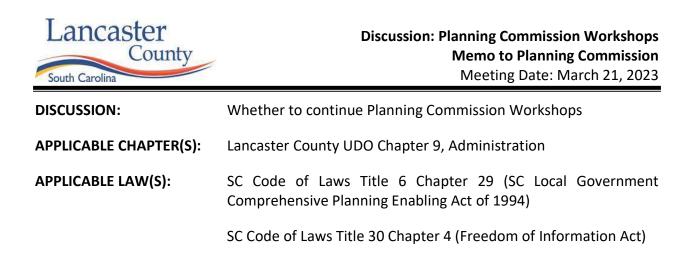
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### HISTORY

The Lancaster County Planning Commission started holding workshops in March 2013. The workshops were scheduled as a way to gather information prior to regular Commission meetings, as the large number of applications scheduled for meeting gave Commissioners and staff concerns about the length of meetings.

A review of workshop minutes shows that prior to June 2019, developers regularly attended meetings, answered questions, and/or gave full presentations to the Planning Commission during these workshops. After Rox Burhans was hired in June 2019, staff noted that the new director gave instructions about the receipt of information in a public meeting, and the minutes of workshops held afterward reflected either that the developers were present and "available to answer questions" (June – Aug, 2019, June 2021, December 2021, and August -September 2022) or were not present.

### **GUIDING LAWS AND REGULATIONS**

Decisions regarding appropriate timing and method for discussion of development applications and related actions – by the Planning Commission, developers, applicants, and the public – should be guided by three main documents that provide relevant rules: the *Lancaster County Unified Development Ordinance*, the SC *Comprehensive Enabling Act of 1994*, and the SC *Freedom of Information Act*. A summary of the impact of those documents follows.

- 1. The Lancaster County Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) is the zoning document for the county. The UDO requires the County give notice to the public of proposed development actions that require Planning Commission "consideration and/or approval," and to provide that notice prior to the Planning Commission's gathering to discuss. Chapter 9 outlines the proper types and timing to notify the public regarding the nature of the proposal(s). Notification types include email, newspaper ads, signs, and letters; the combination of notification types and timing (10 days, 15 days, 30 days, etc) vary by the proposal and level of consideration (recommendation or approval).
- 2. The **SC** *Comprehensive Enabling Act* requires that if one party in an action is to be allowed to present information at a meeting, other interested parties and the adjacent property owners must be given at least 10 days' notice of the meeting. Here, "meeting" does not differentiate between a gathering with a quorum, a workshop, or a public hearing. The



action that requires notification is the presentation of information by the subject landowner (and, by extension, the landowner's agents). This requirement is met when staff send notices to neighboring property owners at least 15 days prior to a public hearing.

3. The **SC** *Freedom of Information Act* requires that "public business be performed in an open and public manner so that citizens shall be advised of the performance of public officials and of the decisions that are reached in public activity and in the formulation of public policy." The act requires local governments to err on the side of involving the public.

Please Note: Nothing in the regulations, codes or laws cited above prevents the public from attending a meeting. Developers and property owners are regularly allowed input during Planning Commission meetings that are properly publicized and where neighbors have been notified that information may be received.

### **OPTIONS (in no particular order):**

- 1. *Maintain workshops as currently scheduled*, with discussion allowed only between staff and the Planning Commission; the public may attend and observe, as well as request minutes or other records provided during the workshop. *Impact:* no change.
- 2. Convert workshops to meetings; staff will need to notify property owners of the potential of information being provided by the applicant(s). The Commission will be required to receive information from the property owners as well. Impact: budget for public notification will double; staff will have to shorten deadlines so that 10 days' notification can be made to adjacent property owners prior to the workshop; applicants will have time to address concerns provided by the public at the workshop; neighbors will have more time to organize around a proposal.
- 3. *Discontinue the workshop schedule*, either for a period of time or indefinitely. *Impact:* Planning Commission will address items for the first time at public hearing meetings.



### **RELEVANT CODES**

### LANCASTER COUNTY UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 9, ADMINISTRATION

#### 9.1.4 PLANNING COMMISSION

A. POWERS AND DUTIES

Lancaster County Planning Commission shall have the following powers and duties to be carried out in accordance with the terms of this ordinance.

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4. **UDO Review**: The Planning Commission shall review and make recommendations regarding the following permit types:

- a. Text Amendments
- b. Map Amendments/Rezoning
- c. Conditional Uses
- d. Mixed-Use Districts/Master Development Plans
- e. Vested Rights
- f. Development Agreements

5. UDO Decisions: The Planning Commission shall render final decisions regarding the following permits types after proper referral and consideration of recommendations and requirements from appropriate Federal, State, and Local Agencies:

- a. Major Subdivision Preliminary Plats
- b. Street Name Changes

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### 9.1.7 MEETINGS AND GENERAL PROCEDURES

### A. ALL MEETINGS TO BE OPEN

All meetings of bodies under this ordinance shall be open to the public in accordance with SC Freedom of Information Act and shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures set forth in the South Carolina Code of Laws, Title 30, Public Records, Chapter 4, as amended.

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### 9.2.4 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The following procedures have been established for development applications/petitions that require notification of the public prior to consideration and/or approval.

### A. LEVEL 1 – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT LIST

1. *Required Notification Type*: A notice of the pending application/meeting shall be posted in a prominent location in the County Administration Building and on the County's website, and a notice of such meeting shall be sent to each person and media provider that has filed a written request for notice with the Clerk to Council. Non-media members may join this list on an annual renewal basis beginning January 1 of each year. Members of this distribution list must renew their participation in this distribution on an annual basis.

2. *Delivery Method:* Notices shall be distributed by email unless otherwise stipulated by members of the list.

3. *Required Period of Notice*: This notice shall be posted and mailed, e-mailed, or delivered at least 24 hours before the time of the meeting.

### **B. LEVEL 2 – GENERAL NOTICE IN NEWSPAPER**

1. *Required Notification Type/Delivery Method*: The County shall publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation. The notices shall include the time, place, and date of the hearing/meeting and include a description of the property and the nature of the proposal.

2. *Required Period of Notice – Comprehensive Plan Amendments*: The County shall publish a notice prior to the hearing date. The publication shall appear at least 30 calendar days prior to the hearing date.

3. *Required Period of Notice – All Other Hearings*: The County shall publish a notice prior to the hearing date. The publication shall appear at least 15 calendar days prior to the hearing date.

### C. LEVEL 3 – NOTIFICATION TO AFFECTED AND ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS

### 1. Mailed Notice

a. *Required Notification Type*: The County shall serve notice by first class mail of the hearing/meeting to each of the following: owners of all property affected by a pending action, all abutting properties as identified by the County tax records, and all properties on all sides of the subject property (including across any adjacent streets). The notices shall include the time, place and date of the hearing/meeting and include a description of the property and the nature of the proposal.



b. *Required Period of Notice – All Other Hearings:* Such notification shall be postmarked at least 15 calendar days prior to the date of the meeting at which the matter is to be heard.

2. *Published Notice – Full Community Notification*: As an alternative, to the mailed notice requirements in the above paragraph, the County may elect to serve notice through a full community notification for pending actions that affect at least 50 properties or more with at least 50 different property owners or more.

- a. Required Notification Type: The County shall publish notice of the hearing/meeting in a newspaper of general circulation in the County. Two advertisements shall be published in separate calendar weeks. Each advertisement shall not be less than ½ of a newspaper page in size. The County may elect to provide notification via digital media, such as webpage, emails, and social media.
- b. Mailed Notice Required Outside Newspaper Circulation Area: The advertisement shall only be effective for property owners who reside in the area of general circulation of the newspaper which publishes the notice. Property owners who reside outside of the newspaper circulation area, according to the address listed on the most recent property tax listing for the affected property, shall be notified by first class mail.

3. *Posted Notice*: In addition to providing mailed notice or published notice, as required in Sections 9.2.4.A and B, the County shall place a sign in a prominent location on the subject property(ies) or on an adjacent public street or highway right-of-way with a notice of the pending action and a phone number to contact for additional information. Such posting shall occur at least 15 calendar days prior to the hearing date.

4. Additional Requirements for Third Party Re-Zonings: Except for a County -initiated zoning map amendment, when an application is filed to request a zoning map amendment and that application is not made by the owner of the parcel of land to which the amendment would apply, the applicant shall certify to the Administrator that the owner of the parcel of land as shown on the County tax listing has granted authority for a third-party rezoning request. Both the property owner and third-party will be notified of public hearings and decisions.

### 9.2.10 SUBDIVISIONS

### **B. SUBDIVISION (MAJOR) – PRELIMINARY PLAT**

1. Process Type: Administrative.



2. *Permit Required Before Any Land Disturbing Activity*: No land-disturbing activity shall take place until a Preliminary Plat has been approved.

3. *Pre-Application Procedure*: It is required that every applicant for a Major Subdivision meet with the Administrator in a conference prior to the submittal of an application. The purpose of this conference is to provide clarification and assistance in the preparation and submission of plats for approval. The applicant will be required to provide a Sketch Plan to the Administrator prior to the pre-application conference. (Ord. No. 2019-1622, 12.9.19) The provision of a sketch plan will allow the Administrator an opportunity to review the proposal before the applicant expends funds on the preparation of a detailed Subdivision Plan.

4. *Required Application Information*: Site Analysis & Preliminary Plat and a Stormwater Permit shall be required as prerequisite approvals.

5. *Determination of Compliance*: Once an application is deemed complete by the Administrator, the TRC shall review the application and approve, deny, or approve with conditions the Preliminary Plat based on compliance with the land development standards contained in this ordinance within 65 working days of its submittal. If no action is taken by the Planning Commission within this time period, the Preliminary Plat shall be deemed approved.

6. Public Notification: 1, 2, and 3.

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### SC LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ENABLING ACT OF 1994

**SECTION 6-29-310.** "Local planning commission" defined.

For purposes of this chapter, "local planning commission" means a municipal planning commission, a county planning commission, a joint city-county planning commission, or a consolidated government planning commission.

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**SECTION 6-29-760. (B)** If a landowner whose land is the subject of a proposed amendment will be allowed to present oral or written comments to the planning commission, at least ten days' notice and an opportunity to comment in the same manner must be given to other interested members of the public, including owners of adjoining property.



Other state notification rules:

**Interest groups (no specific time frame)** - **SECTION 6-29-520.** (A) In the preparation or periodic updating of any or all planning elements for the jurisdiction, the planning commission may use advisory committees with membership from both the planning commission or other public involvement mechanisms and other resource people not members of the planning commission. If the local government maintains a list of groups that have registered an interest in being informed of proceedings related to planning, notice of meetings must be mailed to these groups.

**Recommendation/adoption of comprehensive plan elements (30 days)** - **SECTION 6-29-530.** The local planning commission may recommend to the appropriate governing body and the body may adopt the plan as a whole by a single ordinance or elements of the plan by successive ordinances. The elements shall correspond with the major geographical sections or divisions of the planning area or with functional subdivisions of the subject matter of the comprehensive plan, or both. Before adoption of an element or a plan as a whole, the governing authority shall hold a public hearing on it after not less than thirty days' notice of the time and place of the hearings has been given in a newspaper having general circulation in the jurisdiction.

Action on/amending any zoning regulations or maps (15 days) - SECTION 6-29-760(A) Before enacting or amending any zoning regulations or maps, the governing authority or the planning commission, if authorized by the governing authority, shall hold a public hearing on it, which must be advertised and conducted according to lawfully prescribed procedures. If no established procedures exist, then at least fifteen days' notice of the time and place of the public hearing must be given in a newspaper of general circulation in the municipality or county. In cases involving rezoning, conspicuous notice shall be posted on or adjacent to the property affected, with at least one such notice being visible from each public thoroughfare that abuts the property. If the local government maintains a list of groups that have expressed an interest in being informed of zoning proceedings, notice of such meetings must be mailed to these groups. ...

### SC FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

SECTION 30-4-15. Findings and purpose.

The General Assembly finds that it is vital in a democratic society that *public business be performed in an open and public manner so that citizens shall be advised of the performance of public officials and of the decisions that are reached in public activity and in the formulation of public policy*. Toward this end, provisions of this chapter must be construed so as to make it possible for citizens, or their representatives, to learn and report fully the activities of their public officials at a minimum cost or delay to the persons seeking access to public documents or meetings.

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SECTION 30-4-60. Meetings of public bodies shall be open.

Every meeting of all public bodies shall be open to the public unless closed pursuant to Section 30-4-70 of this chapter.

...

**SECTION 30-4-70.** Meetings which may be closed; procedure; circumvention of chapter; disruption of meeting; executive sessions of General Assembly.

(a) A public body may hold a meeting closed to the public for one or more of the following reasons:

- (1) Discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body; however, if an adversary hearing involving the employee or client is held, the employee or client has the right to demand that the hearing be conducted publicly.
- (2) Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.
- (3) Discussion regarding the development of security personnel or devices.
- (4) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct.
- (5) Discussion of matters relating to the proposed location, expansion, or the provision of services encouraging location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

SECTION 30-4-80. Notice of meetings of public bodies.

(A) All public bodies, except [legislative committees and subcommittees], must give written public notice of their regular meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. The notice must include the dates, times, and places of such meetings. An agenda for regularly scheduled or special meetings must be posted on a bulletin board in a publicly accessible place at the office or meeting place of the public body and on a public website maintained by the body, if any, at least twenty-four hours prior to such meetings. All public bodies must post on such bulletin board or website, if any, public notice for any called, special, or rescheduled meetings. Such notice must include the agenda, date, time, and place of the meeting, and must be posted as early as is practicable but not later than twenty-four hours before the meeting. This requirement does not apply to emergency meetings of public bodies. Once an agenda for a regular, called, special, or rescheduled meeting is posted pursuant to this subsection, no items may be added to the agenda without an additional twenty-four hours' notice to the public,



which must be made in the same manner as the original posting. After the meeting begins, an item upon which action can be taken only may be added to the agenda by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting; however, if the item is one upon which final action can be taken at the meeting or if the item is one in which there has not been and will not be an opportunity for public comment with prior public notice given in accordance with this section, it only may be added to the agenda by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting and upon a finding by the body that an emergency or an exigent circumstance exists if the item is not added to the agenda. Nothing herein relieves a public body of any notice requirement with regard to any statutorily required public hearing.

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(D) Written public notice must include but need not be limited to posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the public body holding the meeting or, if no such office exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held.

(E) All public bodies shall notify persons or organizations, local news media, or such other news media as may request notification of the times, dates, places, and agenda of all public meetings, whether scheduled, rescheduled, or called, and the efforts made to comply with this requirement must be noted in the minutes of the meetings.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** Staff has no recommendation.

**STAFF CONTACT:** Allison Hardin, Interim Planning Director <u>ahardin@lancastercountysc.net</u>