

City of Jonesboro Metropolitan Area Planning Commission
Staff Report – RZ 23-06, 4603 Southwest Drive
300 S. Church Street/Municipal Center
For Consideration by Planning Commission on May, 23 2023

REQUEST: To consider a rezoning of one tract of land containing 0.36 +/- acres

PURPOSE: A request to consider recommendation to Council for a rezoning from “R-1” Single-Family Low Density to “C-3” General Commercial District.

APPLICANT: Amy Lovins, 296 Prospect Farm Lane, Jonesboro AR 72405

OWNER: Same

LOCATION: 4603 Southwest Drive

SITE

DESCRIPTION: **Tract Size:** Approx. 0.36 Acres

Street Frontage: Approx. 214 ft. on Southwest Dr.

Existing Development: Vacant

SURROUNDING CONDITIONS:

ZONE	LAND USE
North	R-1 – Vacant
South	C-3 - Commercial
East	R-1 – Church
West	R-1 – Residential

HISTORY: Property has never been developed.

ZONING ANALYSIS:

City Planning Staff has reviewed the proposed Zone Change and offers the following findings:

Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map:

The Current/Future Land Use Map recommends this location as a **High Intensity Growth Sector**. A wide range of land uses is appropriate in the high intensity zone, from multi-family to fast food to Class A office space to outdoor display/highway oriented businesses like automotive dealerships, because they will be located in areas where sewer service is readily available and transportation facilities are equipped to handle the traffic.

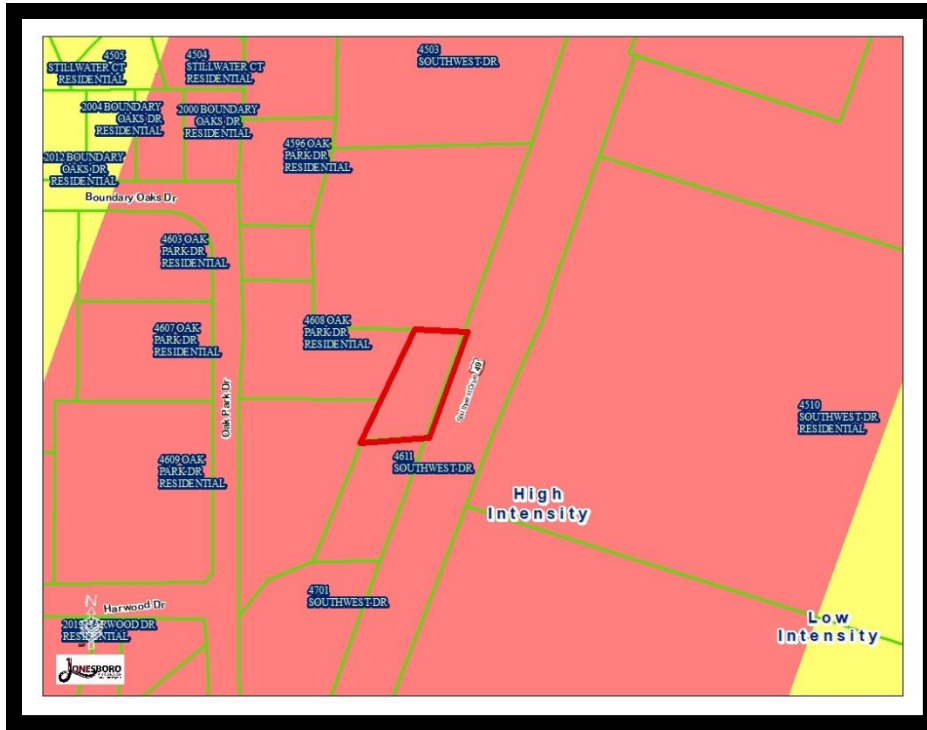
Typical Land Uses:

- Regional Shopping Centers
- Automotive Dealerships
- Outdoor Display Retail
- Fast Food Restaurants
- Multi-family
- Service Stations
- Commercial and Office
- Call Centers
- Research and Development
- Medical
- Banks
- Big Box Commercial
- Hotel

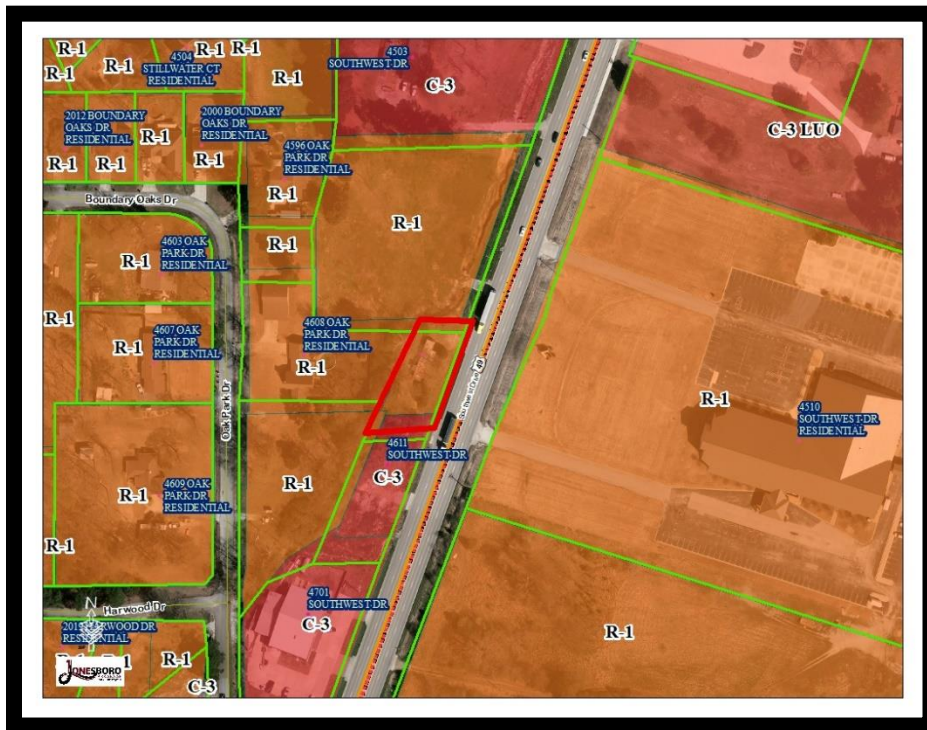
Density: Multi-family 8-14 Dwelling Units per acre

Height: 150 feet

Traffic: This will be located along arterial streets with high traffic volume.



Land Use Map



Zoning Map

Master Street Plan/Transportation

The subject property is served by Southwest Drive, the Master Street Plan classifies this road as a **Principal Arterial**.

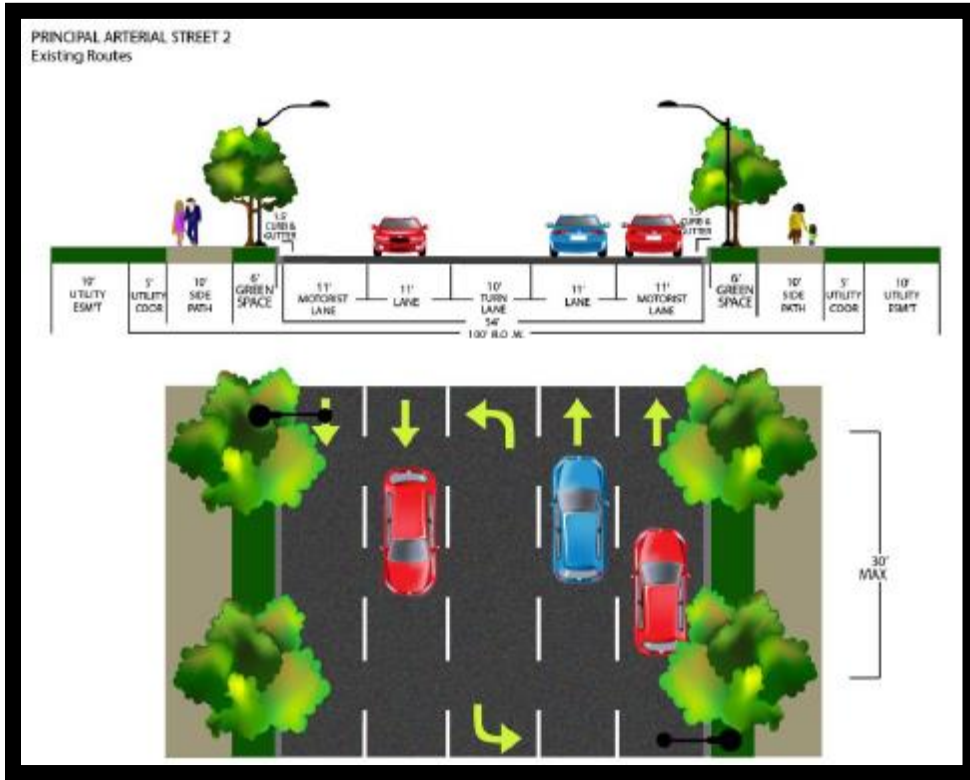
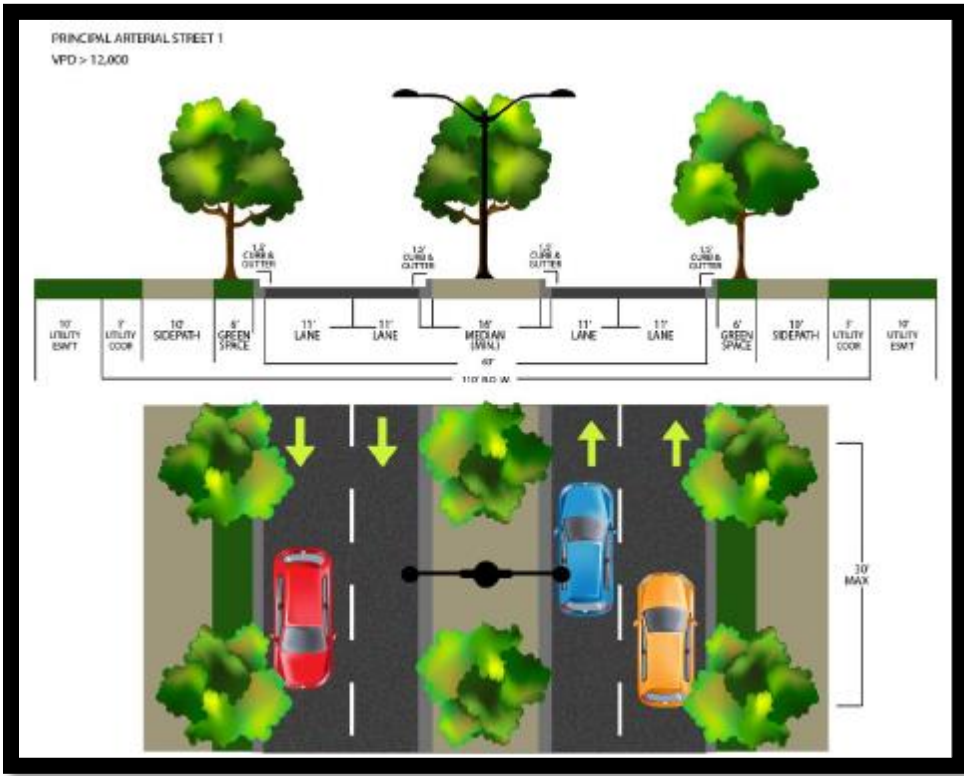
Principal Arterials provide both long distance connections through the urban area and to major traffic generators within the community. Roadways are designated principal arterials to imply the need to focus more on moving traffic rather than providing direct access to adjacent land. Traffic management techniques used to maintain a high level of traffic capacity on these roadways include the use of medians, restricting curb cuts per some spacing policy, and limiting the use of traffic signals to the intersection with other significant roadways.

FUNCTION: The primary function of a Principal Arterial is to serve through traffic and to connect major traffic generators or activity centers within an urbanized area. Since these roads are designed for through traffic and are generally located three or more miles apart, dedication of additional right-of-way is required to allow for future expansion to four through lanes plus left and right turn lanes. At intersections with Collector Streets or other Arterials (principal or minor), additional right-of-way may be required if the anticipated turning movements warrant extra lanes.

DESIGN: The standard Principal Arterial is to be used in all cases except where City Staff and the MAPC find that an unusual condition occurs. In such cases, the Other Principal Arterial Design Option provided in this section may be used. Cross-section selection shall be based on traffic impact analysis. Design in accordance with AASHTO policy on Geometric design of highways and streets (current edition).



Principal Arterial











Rezoning Sign

Approval Criteria- Chapter 117 - Amendments:

The criteria for approval of a rezoning are set out below. Not all of the criteria must be given equal consideration by the MAPC or City Council in reaching a decision. The criteria to be considered shall include, but not be limited to the following list on the next page.

Criteria	Explanations and Findings	Comply Y/N
(a) Consistency of the proposal with the Comprehensive Plan/Land Use Map	The proposed district rezoning is consistent with the Adopted Land Use Plan, which is categorized as a High Intensity Growth Sector.	
(b) Consistency of the proposal with the purpose of Chapter 117-Zoning.	The proposal will achieve consistency with the purpose of Chapter 117, with compliance of all District standards.	
(c) Compatibility of the proposal with the zoning, uses and character of the surrounding area.	Compatibility is not achieved with this rezoning considering the surrounding area is predominantly residential.	
(d) Suitability of the subject property for the uses to which it has been restricted without the proposed zoning map amendment;	Without the proposed zoning map amendment, this property cannot develop as commercial use.	
(e) Extent to which approval of the proposed rezoning will detrimentally affect nearby property including, but not limited to, any impact on property value, traffic, drainage, visual, odor, noise, light, vibration, hours of use/operation and any restriction to the normal and customary use of the affected property;	With proper planning there should not be any adverse effects caused by the property if rezoned to commercial.	
(f) Impact of the proposed development on community facilities and services, including those related to utilities, streets, drainage, parks, open space, fire, police, and emergency medical services	Minimal impact if rezoned due to the fact that commercial and industrial uses currently exist near this area.	

Staff Findings:

Applicant’s Purpose

The proposed area is currently classified as R-1, Single-Family Low Density. The applicant is applying for a Rezoning to allow for commercial use.

Rezoning this property is consistent with the *Jonesboro Comprehensive Plan* and the *Future Land Use Plan*.

Chapter 117 of the City Code of Ordinances/Zoning defines C-3 as follows:

C-3, general commercial district. The purpose of this district is to provide appropriate locations for commercial and retail uses which are convenient and serve the needs of the traveling public. The district also provides locations for limited amounts of merchandise, equipment and material being offered for retail sale that are more suitable for storage and display outside the confines of an enclosed structure. Appropriate locations for this district are along heavily traveled arterial street. Development of groupings of facilities shall be encouraged, as opposed to less desirable strip commercial.

Departmental/Agency Reviews:

The following departments and agencies were contacted for review and comments. Note that this table will be updated at the hearing due to reporting information that will be updated in the coming days:

Department/Agency	Reports/ Comments	Status
Engineering	No issues were reported	
Streets/Sanitation	No issues were reported	
Police	No issues were reported	
Fire Department	No issues were reported	
MPO	No issues were reported	
Jets	No issues were reported	
Utility Companies	No issues were reported	CWL
Code Enforcement	No issues were reported	

Conclusion:

The Planning Department Staff finds that the requested Zone Change submitted for subject parcel, should be evaluated based on the above observations and criteria of Case RZ 23-06 a request to rezone property from “R-1” Single-Family Low Density to “C-3” General Commercial; the following conditions are recommend:

1. The proposed site shall satisfy all requirements of the City Engineer, all requirements of the current Stormwater Drainage Design Manual and Flood Plain Regulations regarding any new construction.
2. A final site plan subject to all ordinance requirements shall be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Planning Department, prior to any redevelopment of the property.
3. Any change of use shall be subject to Planning Department approval in the future.
4. The site shall follow all Overlay District guidelines.

Respectfully Submitted for Planning Commission Consideration,
The Planning and Zoning Department

Sample Motion:

I move that we place Case: RZ 23-06 on the floor for consideration of recommendation by MAPC to the City Council with the noted conditions, and we, the MAPC find that to rezone property from “R-1” Single-Family Low Density to “C-3” General Commercial will be compatible and suitable with the zoning, uses, and character of the surrounding area.

MAPC RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS: PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON MAY 23, 2023

Amy Newberry Lovins is requesting a rezoning from R-1, Single-Family Medium Density District to C-3, General Commercial District. This request is for 0.36 acres located at 4603 Southwest Drive.

Damian Sylve – Big EZ Catering: I’m looking to get this property commercialized so I can put either my food truck or shipping container there. That’s the layout of the property. I made it a little different because I know there is a 25ft from the road.

Lonnie Roberts – Commission: You have a setback in the front and the rear.

Sylve: Yes, the front and the sides. The actual food trailer, if I use that over shipping containers that’s 20ft. It’ll put us in there with a few feet left. I spoke to John from Associated Engineering for a few seconds, and he said it’s a possibility.

Derrel Smith (Staff): Yes, sir, we do. We’ve reviewed it and would recommend approval with the following stipulations

1. The proposed site shall satisfy all requirements of the City Engineer, all requirements of the current Stormwater Drainage Design Manual and Flood Plain Regulations regarding any new construction.
2. A final site plan subject to all ordinance requirements shall be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Planning Department, prior to any redevelopment of the property.
3. Any change of use shall be subject to Planning Department approval in the future.
4. The site shall follow all Overlay District guidelines.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Mr. Jimmy Cooper made a motion to approve Case RZ: 23-06, as submitted, to the City Council with the stipulations that were read by the Planning Department:

1. The proposed site shall satisfy all requirements of the City Engineer, all requirements of the current Stormwater Drainage Design Manual and Flood Plain Regulations regarding any new construction.
2. A final site plan subject to all ordinance requirements shall be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Planning Department, prior to any redevelopment of the property.
3. Any change of use shall be subject to Planning Department approval in the future.
4. The site shall follow all Overlay District guidelines.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Dennis Zolper.

Roll Call Vote:

Aye: 6 – Paul Ford, Jimmy Cooper, Jim Little, Dennis Zolper, Kevin Bailey, & Monroe Pointer

Nay: 0
