

# ACCOMACK COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

At a meeting of the Accomack County Planning Commission held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of September 2015, in the Accomack County Airport Conference Room, Melfa, Virginia.

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

### A. MEMBERS PRESENT AND ABSENT

#### **Planning Commission Members Present:**

Mr. David Lumgair, Jr., Chairman  
Mr. Spyridon Papadopoulos, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. C. Robert Hickman  
Mr. Lynn Gayle  
Mr. Stephen Corazza  
Mr. Brantley Onley  
Mr. Roy Custis  
Mrs. Angela Wingfield

#### **Planning Commission Members Absent:**

Mr. Leander Roberts, Jr.

#### **Others Present:**

Mr. Rich Morrison, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Mrs. Hollis Parks, Administrative Assistant  
Mr. Rick Hall, Local Farmer  
Mr. Jarrod Goodman, Tyson Foods  
Mr. Ronnie Watkins, Tyson Foods  
Mr. Bill Satterfield, Delmarva Poultry Industry

### B. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

There being a quorum, Chairman Lumgair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

## 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Lumgair requested that the Planning Commission allow for a public comment period so that the individuals staff have asked to present are able to do so; the Commission agreed.

**On a motion made by Mr. Hickman and seconded by Mr. Corazza, the Planning Commission voted to adopt the agenda as amended.**

## 3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chairman Lumgair opened the floor for the public comment period and the following persons presented at the request of staff, or signed up to speak:

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- **Rick Hall**

Mr. Morrison requested that Mr. Rick Hall, a local farmer, attend and present information to the Planning Commission regarding chicken manure.

Mr. Hall informed the Planning Commission that he uses chicken manure on all but one of his farms, which is approximately 3,500 acres of land, for nutrient management purposes. He went on to inform the Commission of the process; timing, chemicals needed, production, etc. Mr. Hall discussed the GreenSeeker program, which he participates in. The GreenSeeker is a sensor and application system which measures crop status and applies nitrogen as necessary.

- **Jarrold Goodman and Ronnie Watkins, Tyson Foods**

Mr. Morrison also requested that Mr. Jarrod Goodman, Complex Manager at Tyson Foods in Temperanceville and Mr. Ronnie Watkins, Live Production Manager at Tyson Foods in Temperanceville attend and present information to the Planning Commission

Mr. Watkins gave a presentation and discussed the new poultry house design, energy efficiency, water usage, and more. He spoke about the new houses being larger and having variable speed ventilation making them more efficient. Both Mr. Goodman and Mr. Watkins discussed the water usage issue that has been raised in the recent past. They explained that they plan for large amounts of water but in actuality, only use roughly 2 gallons per minute during the day at market-age; younger birds use a lot less. During extremely hot summer days, consumption may increase up to 4-8 gallons per minute.

They went on to discuss ideal sites, which are mostly locations where there aren't adjacent residences. In instances where there are residences adjacent to the property, Tyson is voluntarily adding setbacks and buffers.

Discussion of manure and "de-caking" commenced and Mr. Watkins explained the process and requirements for cleaning the poultry houses. Tyson requires a full cleaning every three years. After chickens have left the poultry houses, the owners remove around 1" of the manure ("de-cake"). All manure removed from the houses is taken to the manure shed.

Lastly, Mr. Goodman, Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Bill Satterfield from Delmarva Poultry Industry discussed Avian Influenza and what steps are taken if a farm has been deemed positive for the virus. Discussion on the depopulation of chickens ensued.

- **Anne Godwin, Pat Parrish, and Donald Parrish**

Ms. Anne Godwin, Ms. Pat Parrish, and Mr. Donald Parrish noted concerns of 16 poultry houses being built on 160 acres near their homes and requested that the Planning Commission hear from other agencies prior to approval.

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Mr. Morrison spoke to Ms. Godwin, Ms. Parrish, and Mr. Parrish and informed them that if the ordinance requirements have been met, the poultry houses will be allowed by-right in agricultural districts. He informed them that the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors do not approve poultry houses and that approval is done administratively in the Building and Zoning Department. He stated that the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors are currently reviewing the ordinance for items such as setbacks, density, buffers, etc.

### 4. **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **A. Poultry Ordinance Review**

Due to the time, the Planning Commission quickly noted concerns with the existing ordinance for staff to look into/change for the October 14, 2015 meeting.

1. The need for a density-per-square-mile requirement.
2. To strike language regarding adjacent property owner consent.
3. The need for stronger setbacks where Agricultural and Residential zones are adjacent to one another.
4. The need for stronger setbacks where there are “improved subdivisions.”
5. Create a definition for “improved subdivision.”
6. The need for strong language regarding buffer requirements, including types of buffers, maintenance of buffers, etc.
7. Clarify what Poultry Waste Management is.
8. Enhance/clarify existing definitions.

Mr. Morrison stated that this may need to be done in two steps due to time constraints. Staff will bring back what it can at the October 14, 2015 meeting.

### 5. **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Accomack County Board Chambers, Room 104, in Accomac.

### 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

**On a motion made by Mr. Onley and seconded by Mr. Corazza, the Planning Commission voted to adjourn the meeting.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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David Lumgair, Jr., Chairman

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Hollis Parks, Administrative Assistant