

STAFF REPORT

DOCKET: UDO-CC4
STAFF: [Steve Smotherman](#)

REQUEST

A request by City-County Planning and Development Services staff to amend Chapters 5 and 11 of the Unified Development Ordinances (UDO) to revise principal uses within the Limited Industrial (LI) and General Industrial (GI) zoning districts, to revise the outdoor storage area requirements of Manufacturing B, and to consolidate Winston-Salem and Forsyth County definitions of Manufacturing A and Manufacturing B into one countywide definition.

BACKGROUND

In recent years, the Planning Board and staff have noticed a trend towards heavy commercial uses wishing to locate in industrial areas. In 2017 and 2018, two business rezoning requests (W-3332 and W-3388) were approved for formerly-GI-zoned property in the Stratford Industrial Park (located at the intersection of South Stratford Road and Kimwell Drive). Both rezonings were necessary to allow for retail uses not permitted in the GI district: a furniture store and a motorcycle dealer.

The Planning Board believed such heavy retail uses were appropriate in industrial areas and suggested that staff consider an ordinance amendment allowing such retail uses in the LI and GI districts. Such an amendment could reduce further rezonings to commercial districts in industrially-zoned areas, reducing the risk of further commercial district expansion and minimizing the loss of good industrial sites in the community.

On a related point, Planning staff has also seen a need for further differentiating between Manufacturing A and Manufacturing B uses. Presently, Manufacturing A processes are to produce “little or no noise, odor, vibration, glare and/or air or water pollution” resulting in “*minimal impact* on surrounding properties,” while Manufacturing B processes are to produce “noise, odor, vibration, glare and/or air or water pollution that result in *minor impacts* on adjacent properties.” Outdoor storage is only permitted for Manufacturing C uses, which includes heavy industrial uses such as metal manufacturing, chemical manufacturing, and battery manufacturing. A review of our peer cities indicates that a broader array of manufacturing uses are allowed to have outdoor storage areas within their jurisdictions, provided they are adequately screened.

ANALYSIS

Planning staff believes that six commercial uses (Car Wash; Furniture and Home Furnishings Store; Institutional Vocational Training Facility; Motorcycle Dealer; Nursery, Lawn and Garden Supply Store, Retail; and Outdoor Display Retail) would be appropriate in the LI and GI districts. The addition of Car Wash, Motorcycle Dealer, and Outdoor Display Retail make particular sense as the repair and leasing of motor vehicles and trucks are already permitted in the LI and GI districts.

Commercial uses are typically permitted in one or more industrial districts of peer cities in North Carolina (e.g. Greensboro, High Point, Charlotte). Charlotte allows a broad array of commercial uses in industrial districts including the sale of many bulky items plus restaurants, convenience stores, gas stations, and shopping centers up to 70,000 square feet.

Revising the definitions and use conditions for Manufacturing A and Manufacturing B regarding outdoor storage would help create three distinct levels of industrial intensity:

- Manufacturing A, being the least intense manufacturing district, would only allow indoor storage of materials. This use is presently permitted in 7 different zoning districts: Corporate Park Office (CPO), General Business (GB), Entertainment (E), LI, GI, Central Industrial (CI), and Mixed-Use-Special Use (MU-S);
- Manufacturing B would allow both indoor storage and outdoor storage of materials screened from public streets, allowing for the moderate intensity manufacturing uses currently promoted for LI and GI districts; and
- Manufacturing C would allow indoor storage or outdoor storage of materials without screening requirements. Such high intensity manufacturing would only be allowed in GI districts.

This amendment recommends that Manufacturing B no longer be allowed in the CI district if screened outdoor storage areas are permitted. The CI zoning district is found only in the Innovation Quarter in Downtown Winston-Salem, where outdoor storage would not be compatible with the pedestrian-friendly mixed-use character proposed for the area.

The proposed screening requirements for outdoor storage areas for Manufacturing B uses are similar to the standards already required for outdoor storage tanks in association with Manufacturing A and B, found in Section 5.2.55 of the UDO, which are as follows:

- Outdoor storage areas shall be located to the sides or rear of a principal building that is not visible from a contiguous public right-of-way;
- Outdoor storage areas visible from contiguous public rights-of-way and highways shall be screened by opaque materials such as masonry, stone, or the same material as the principal building, a minimum of six (6) feet in height; or by a twenty (20) foot wide type III bufferyard; and

- Outdoor storage areas located 500 feet or more from contiguous public rights-of-way are exempted from these screening requirements.

The final amendment is to consolidate the Winston-Salem and Forsyth County definitions of Manufacturing A and Manufacturing B into one countywide definition for each use. The definitions became distinct when an urban agriculture UDO amendment was approved for Winston-Salem. Since these proposed amendments affect both Winston-Salem and Forsyth County, it is the appropriate time to combine definitions and simplify the UDO.

Staff believes that the proposed use changes to the LI and GI districts are reasonable and should reduce the need for business district rezonings in the future. Allowing screened outdoor storage areas for Manufacturing B provides an industrial manufacturing option already allowed in our peer cities in the state.

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVAL

**CITY-COUNTY PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES FOR UDO-CC4
AUGUST 13, 2020**

Steve Smotherman presented the staff report.

PUBLIC HEARING

FOR: None

AGAINST: None

WORK SESSION

MOTION: Clarence Lambe recommended approval of the ordinance amendment.

SECOND: Jack Steelman

VOTE:

FOR: George Bryan, Melynda Dunigan, Jason Grubbs, Tommy Hicks, Clarence Lambe,
Chris Leak, Brenda Smith, Jack Steelman

AGAINST: None

EXCUSED: None

Aaron King
Director of Planning and Development Services