

City Council – Action Request Form

Date: November 13, 2019

To: Mayor, Mayor Pro Tempore, and Members of the City Council

From: Damon Dequenne, Assistant City Manager
Aaron King, Director of Planning and Development Services

Council Action Requested:

A Text Amendment Proposed By Planning And Development Services Staff To Re-Organize The Unified Development Ordinances As A Result Of The UDO Code Assessment Process Currently Underway (UDO-291)

Strategic Focus Area: Livable Neighborhoods

Strategic Objective: No

Strategic Plan Action Item: No

Key Work Item: No



Summary of Information:

In 2017, Planning and Development Services staff initiated a code assessment of the Unified Development Ordinances (UDO) to find ways to make the ordinance clearer and easier to use for citizens and developers. The UDO was originally adopted in 1994 and has been amended nearly 300 times since then. The code assessment was prepared by CodeWright Planners, a consulting firm that specializes in drafting and assessing development ordinances. Multiple opportunities for stakeholder involvement were incorporated in the assessment process, and the Planning Board accepted the final assessment report in November 2018. CodeWright staff also gave a presentation on the code assessment recommendations at the March 2019 CD/H/GG Committee meeting, which was favorably received by Council members.

Staff began implementing the code assessment’s recommendation for taking the UDO and re-organizing it into a more user-friendly structure last December. This task was completed in August 2019 and resulted in UDO-291, a text amendment which would replace the existing UDO with the reorganized UDO, also known as the UDO ClearCode.

Committee Action:

Committee

Action

For

Against

Remarks:

However, no changes to the actual ordinance regulations are proposed as part of this reorganization. The Planning Board held a public hearing on this proposal in October 2019 and recommended approval.

Staff will give a presentation on UDO-291 at the November 13th Community Development/Housing/General Government Committee, and this item is scheduled for a Council public hearing on December 2nd.

Staff has proposed an effective date of January 1, 2020 for the new UDO ClearCode, to allow time for adoption by Council and the Forsyth County Commissioners.