

FCBCC PUBLIC HEARING – FEBRUARY 17, 2004

**FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC HEARING
FEBRUARY 17, 2004
5:30 P.M.**

OFFICIALS IN ATTENDANCE: Cheryl Sanders, Chairman, Bevin Putnal, Eddie Creamer, and Clarence Williams, Commissioners, Kendall Wade, Clerk, Amelia Varnes, Deputy Clerk, Thomas M. Shuler, County Attorney.

5:30 P.M. Chairman Sanders called the public hearing to order.

(Tape 1-14) Alan Pierce explained to those present why this public hearing has been called. The C-1 District is proposed to be changed to include additional uses. Mr. Pierce presented to the Board and the audience, an alternate C-1 that would include the Special Exceptions already allowed and make them principal uses. There are uses such as “tourist oriented commercial facilities” that do not have specific definitions. These uses are currently allowed as Special Exceptions, after going through a public hearing held by the Board of Adjustment. These special exceptions have in the past, included restaurants. Whaley Hughes year ago, applied for and received permission to build a restaurant. There is also as a special exception “water dependent tourist oriented facilities, and recreational support facilities. Again, these are not defined. Mr. Pierce’s proposal is to make these Special Exceptions, Principals uses in the C-1 District. Mr. Pierce went on to say that if these are moved to Principal Uses, we need to define these uses. He went on to say that prohibited uses in the C-1 District will still be prohibited in this new district. This currently includes residential uses and hotels and motels.

(Tape 1-233) Oliver Nash asked to be heard last.

(Tape 1-243) Hal Tobin spoke regarding the need for infrastructure to support growth. I want to support growth which will benefit the county, but we must provide infrastructure to handle this growth.

(Tape 1-338) Leroy Hall, president of the Seafood Workers Association. He stated he would like it to be left like it is. It has done fine for many years.

(Tape 1-360, Roger Bybee, asked for clarification. He felt the notes in the C-1 District should include Ordinance 93-9.

(Tape 1-406, Steve Davis is a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, a land owner in the C-1 District, as well a commercial fisherman. Mr. Davis read several passages from the Zoning Code. He would like to see no changes. There are 210 miles of coastline in Franklin County and only 2 miles of C-1 District in the county. We need to keep it like it is.

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(Tape 1-438) Kent McCoy spoke as a resident of St. George Island. Mr. McCoy said Mark Friedman summed up his feelings in an article written in the Tallahassee Democrat, he wrote no one wants to drive out the seafood businesses. He also said the seafood industry doesn't have to be located on the water. We have a win-win situation here. Everyone can win if they work together. Seafood businesses can be operated off of the water.

(Tape 1-552) Robert Howell spoke saying he was Clerk of the Court for 28 years and then Adjunct General in the National Guard. He has lived here most of his life; no one loves this place more than I do. He wants to do everything possible to see that seafood workers have a place to work. Let's do nothing to harm our seafood industry.

(Tape 1-607) Dave McClain read a draft resolution proposed for the Board, upholding the current C-1 District with no changes, and to petition for special state support and funding for setting aside and upgrading a working waterfront in Franklin County and promoting the continued marketing of this signature Florida crop.

(Tape 1-724) James Lycett spoke urging the Board to consider public ownership of commercial docking facilities. He feels this is the only way to preserve the seafood industry. The state has spent millions of dollars on other properties in the county. He feels the state has an obligation to help the seafood industry. He suggested millage be added to the tax base to insure that there are public facilities for the seafood industry.

(Tape 1-867) Willard Vinson moved to Eastpoint in 1946 and his father and others in the community sent representation to Washington so that the channel could be created. Later local citizens worked to have a breakwater put in to protect the Eastpoint waterfront. What you have now is a deep water channel that developers want to use for their own gain. Commissioners Ike Wade and Cecil Varnes knew what this county would be facing in the years since their service to the Board. They wanted to preserve our seafood industry. If we change the zoning now what kind of message is that sending to Washington? The seafood industry was here first and we plan to stay.

(Tape 1-1036) Joseph Parrish spoke representing Buddy Ward & Sons Seafood in the Two Mile area of Apalachicola. I feel that the C-1 District should remain as it is. This is the only way to protect the seafood industry in Franklin County. We realize there are other uses that may be compatible with this district. Let us proceed with caution while considering these uses. We do feel that residential uses within this district would not be compatible. Mr. Parrish spoke as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and stated that if the Board does move these special exceptions to principal uses, the vague terms such as "tourist oriented commercial facilities", needs to be defined. He asked that the special exceptions be left the way they are. This will give the public an opportunity to review what is being presented.

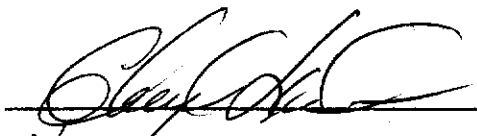
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(1-1160) Oliver Nash spoke stating there have been some good speakers tonight and they have done a good job. There are 9/10 of one mile in the Two Mile area. We want to preserve this district. He employs about 30 people. All those people buy groceries, pay taxes, they also vote. We want the district to be left alone.

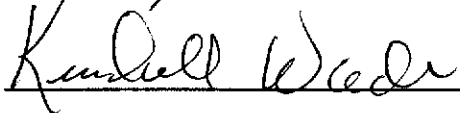
(Tape 1-1281) Commissioner Creamer made a **motion to leave the C-1 Commercial Fishing District as it is.** Commissioners Williams seconded the motion. All for. **MOTION CARRIED.**

(Tape 1-1323) Commissioner Creamer asked that the County Attorney attend the litigation court case concerning the Lanark Water & Sewer District to be held Thursday, to lend support to the City of Carrabelle and not hold up the Prison project. Michael Shuler said that he would plan to attend.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.



CHERYL SANDERS, CHAIRMAN



KENDALL WADE, CLERK