Agenda Item: Decision on Application 2018-678 Newell Corners/Circle K

DATE: June 5, 2018
FROM: Jay Camp

Background/Issue:

- In May, Planning Board voted 6-1 to recommend denial of the rezoning request citing inconsistency with the Matthews Land Use Plan.

- The applicant has not settled on a final site plan and has not yet submitted a PCO Concept plan to the County for review. This is a process that can take several months for review and approval.

- Town staff remains opposed to the proposed Highway 51 median cut to provide access to the gas station when other uses do not need this access. NCDOT has not stated that the median cut would be approved if only for one or two businesses. The list of allowed uses in B-H has not been revised, meaning that car sales, car repair and other potentially undesirable uses at the property could occur.

Proposal/Solution:

- The applicant has requested a deferral of the decision to the July 9th meeting so that a revised site plan and architectural drawings can be submitted for review.

- Planning Staff remains opposed to the use at the corner and agrees with the Planning Board recommendation and conclusion. Any revision to site plans or elevations would not alter Planning Board or staff recommendation at this time.

- A mixed-use development with office and a small retail component is the most appropriate use for this highly visible location near the heart of the community and would complement the existing adjoining development. We recommend that the applicant withdraw the request and return with a development proposal that better fits the community vision for the general area. There are numerous uses other than gas stations that would be appropriate for the site.

Financial Impact:
None

Related Town Goal(s) and/or Strategies:
Quality of Life
Economic Development/Land Use Planning

Recommended Motion/Action:
Deny Rezoning Request for Application 2018-678 at 1201 Matthews Township Parkway.
Matthews Board of Commissioners adopts the checked statement below:

A) ___x__ The requested zoning action, as most currently amended, is approved, and has been found to be CONSISTENT with the Matthews Land Use Plan (or other document(s)), and to be REASONABLE, as follows:

CONSISTENT: with the Matthews Land Use Plan and allows a gas station with convenience store to be located along a heavily traveled corridor where drivers need the ability to refuel their vehicles. Non-residential uses are the predominant land use in this portion of Matthews Township Parkway.

REASONABLE: The rezoning creates new opportunities for services and retail and complements the surrounding nonresidential land use.

OR

B) _____ The requested zoning action, as most currently amended, is not approved, and has been found to be INCONSISTENT with the Matthews Land Use Plan (or other document(s)), and NOT REASONABLE, as follows:

INCONSISTENT: The rezoning would allow a zoning category and use typically only found along the US74 corridor and Monroe Road corridor. The development would allow new median cuts and allow strip commercialization, both of which are specifically discouraged in the Matthews Land Use Plan.

NOT REASONABLE: The rezoning is not reasonable and would cause additional traffic congestion and safety issues due to the high volume of traffic and proximity to a major intersection.

(In each case, the Statement must explain why the Board deems the action reasonable and in the public interest (more than one sentence). Reasons given for a zoning request being “consistent” or “not consistent” are not subject to judicial review.)

Date       June 11, 2018