City of Sugar Hill Planning Staff Report TCO Design Review 17-01277

DATE:

July 18, 2017; August 3, 2017

TO:

Mayor and Council

FROM:

Planning Director

SUBJECT:

Sugar Hill Auto Collision Gravel Parking

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Denial.

ISSUE

The City of Sugar Hill received an application Sugar Hill Auto Collision requesting design review board approval for a gravel lot for employee parking within the Town Center Overlay District.

DISCUSSION

- The applicant has recently acquired the property at 5255 Nelson Brogdon Boulevard (Lanphear Motorsports) and initiated a request for a commercial driveway on Old Cumming Road to facilitate inter-parcel access from the Sugar Hill Auto Collision facility to Highway 20.
- The applicant has stated they only need the gravel on a temporary basis because they intend to develop the remaining property at 1090 Old Cumming Road (Sugar Hill Auto Collision) within the next one to two years.
- Should the Council wish to consider a conditional approval of the variance which would allow the gravel parking area to remain until the remaining property is developed, staff recommends the following conditions:
 - 1. The gravel parking area shall be allowed to remain for a period of time not to exceed 12 months or such time as the applicant secures a land disturbance permit for future development, whichever occurs earlier.
 - 2. The gravel surface shall be less than 10,000 square feet in area, maintained to a uniform depth of at least two (2) inches of crusher run or stone aggregate not larger than #57 stone; and kept free of debris, weeds and uneven holes or depressions; and be contained with concrete vertical curbing or minimum twelve inch height earthen berm; and graded to ensure storm water runoff does not violate storm water management requirements.
 - 3. Said gravel parking area shall be incorporated as a revision to the approved site development plans and storm water management report in accordance with standard development review policies.
 - 4. The gravel parking is intended to accommodate employee vehicles and is to be clearly posted "Employees Only".
 - 5. Landscaping or a 6' opaque privacy fence shall be provided to effectively screen the parking lot as viewed from Highway 20.
- Town Center Overlay District requires design review approval by City Council.
- The applicant is requesting that a gravel lot that was used as the construction exit remain a gravel employee parking lot.
- The gravel parking lot will be screened with a privacy fence.

- This property is adjacent to Highway 20 and sits much lower than the grade of the road. Therefore, even with a privacy fence the parking lot will be visible from the street.
- Within HM-1, graveled surface lots are allowed as storage yards for off-road construction equipment, with certain provisions, but not allowed solely for employee parking.
- The Zoning Ordinance Article 11, Section 1101 requires all off-street parking lots whether public or private, for five (5) or more passenger or commercial vehicles to be concrete, asphalt, or other approved paving method.

BACKGROUND

APPLICANT: Kevin Moreland and Doug Duffee

PROPERTY OWNER: Doug Duffee

EXISTING ZONING: Heavy Manufacturing District (HM-1).

REQUEST: Gravel lot for employee parking – Design Review

Approval

PROPERTY SIZE: ± 3.05 Acres, Tax Parcel #7-306-091, 045, & 046

LOCATION: 1090 Old Cumming Road.

Section 1001.F. requires Mayor and City Council approval of all new construction or land improvements within the TCO and CBD. The TCO and CBD requirements are designed to promote attractive and integrated urban design features, small town urban character, and pedestrian-oriented public and commercial spaces.

These parcels are located at 1090 Old Cumming Road. It is an automotive auto body repair and painting facility.

DESIGN REVIEW CRITERIA

This request does not comply with Zoning Ordinance Article 11, Off-street Parking requirements for Off-Street Parking Lots, and the request does not meet the criteria for storage yard; this request is for an employee parking lot.

Zoning Ordinance, Article 11, Section 1101. Plan and Design Standards

- 4. Improvement of Off-Street Parking Lots. All off-street parking lots, whether public or private, for five (5) or more passenger or commercial vehicles required to be licensed for over-the-road use, including trailers, shall meet the following standards:
 - a. They shall be graded to insure proper drainage, , installed on an approved four (4) inch graded aggregate base with a two (2) inch top course of concrete, asphalt, or other approved paving method. The parking lot shall be maintained in good condition free of weeds, dust, trash and debris. Alternative paving methods such as porous concrete/asphalt shall be constructed to minimum standards per American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) and shall provide a maintenance schedule for approval and recording.

Exception: Within HM-1 and HM-2 Zoning Districts, Storage Yards for off-road construction equipment (no vehicle licensing required) may have a graveled surface and shall provide the following:

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- i. maintained to a uniform depth of at least two (2) inches of crusher run or stone aggregate not larger than #57 stone; and
- ii. kept free of debris, weeds and uneven holes or depressions; and
- iii. be contained with concrete vertical curbing or minimum twelve inch height earthen berm; and
- iv. iv. graded to ensure rain water runoff flows into a detention facility as designed.
- 1. Is the proposed project consistent with the adopted design guidelines for the type of development, and/or the proposed use?

From Section 1001, TCO Overlay, E. Design Criteria and Standards, 1. Design Criteria – Architectural Design: "Each individual building or project must contribute to a consistent architectural identity for the TCO by using traditional forms, authentic materials, and quality craftsmanship."

The gravel parking lot would detract from the "attractive and integrated architectural and urban design features" required in the Town Center Overlay District.

2. Are the site design, landscaping, general design, character, arrangement and scale of buildings, texture, materials and colors of the project similar to or compatible with features or structures in the area?

A few existing, older properties in the Town Center Overlay District have gravel storage areas, but it is not anticipated that new developments in the TCO will have gravel parking lots for employees.

3. Will the interior arrangement or use have any effect on exterior architectural features and otherwise complies with the standards of this ordinance?

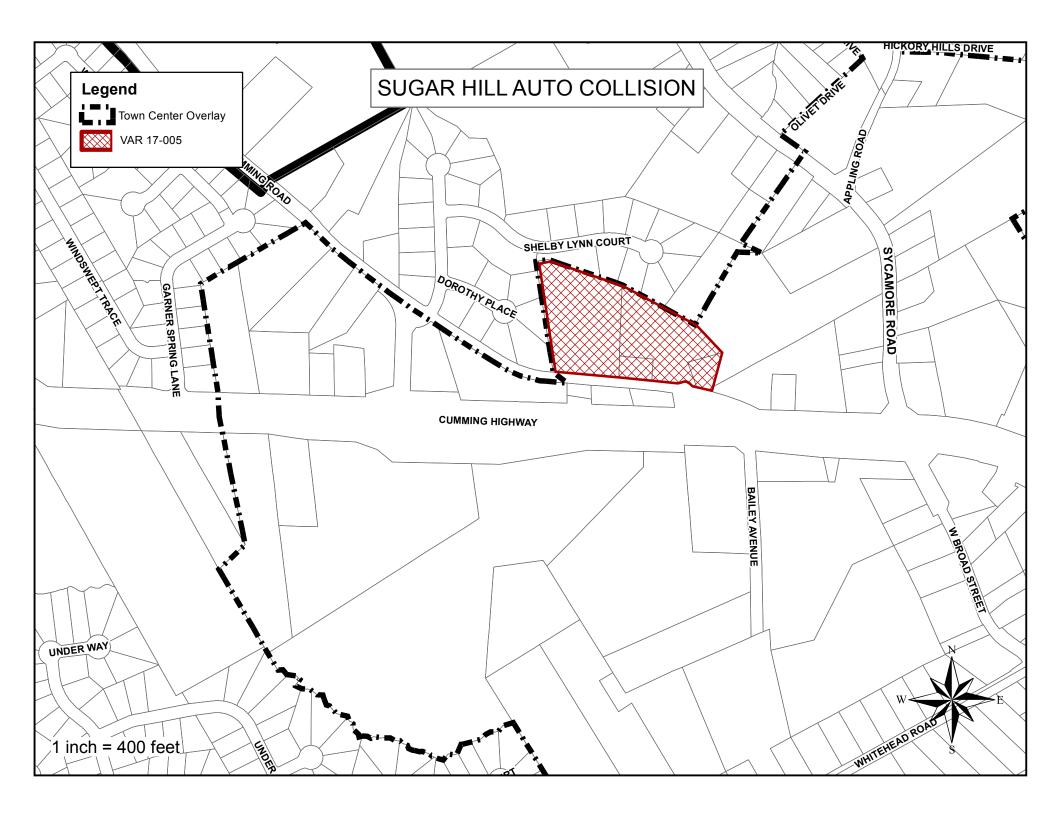
No.

4. Does the project contribute or resemble the following criteria for considering a design inappropriate?

Character foreign to the area / Arresting and spectacular effects / Violent contrasts of material or color, or intense or lurid colors / A multiplicity or incongruity of details resulting in a restless and disturbing appearance / The absence of unity and coherence in composition not in consonance with the density and character of the present structure or surrounding area.

The gravel parking lot is atypical of the emerging character of the town center overlay.

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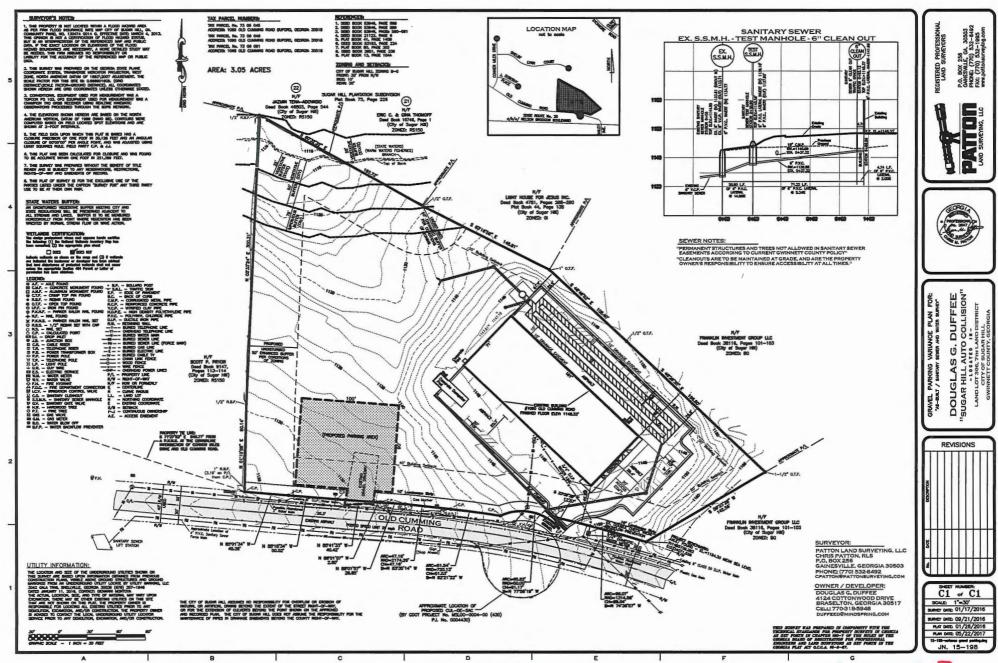
Letter of Intent

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to justify the application for a variance for 1090 N. Old Cumming Rd. Sugar Hill GA, 30518. There is a current gravel lot located on the property that was used for the shipping and staging of construction materials for the building located at this address. The variance request is to convert that lot into a area for employee parking during the day. The proposed lot would be fenced with privacy screen so that is does not impede the appearance to the community and surrounding neighbors. I feel this request if justified because the zoning of this property allows for this type of use along with the fact that gravel lots are already being used by surrounding properties. In addition, this will allow me to continue to better serve my customers and members of this community.

Sincerely,

Kevin Moreland President Sugar Hill Auto Collision



Dec. 5/24/17

VAR-17-005

17-01270