New UDO ClearCode Becomes Effective January 1st

In 2017, the Planning Board recognized that the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Unified Development Ordinances (UDO) had become cumbersome and difficult to use. The UDO was adopted in 1994 and had been subject to nearly 300 amendments since that time. To develop a plan for making the ordinance easier to use, a code assessment was prepared by CodeWright Planners, a firm that specializes in drafting and assessing development ordinances. The code assessment process included multiple stakeholder involvement opportunities to ensure that its recommendations addressed local concerns, and the Planning Board accepted this report in November 2018.

Planning staff and CodeWright spent the past year working on the code assessment recommendation for re-shaping the UDO into a more user-friendly document. This task resulted in the new UDO ClearCode adopted by the Winston-Salem City Council and Forsyth County Commissioners in December 2019, with an effective date of January 1, 2020. No changes to any actual ordinance provisions are included in the UDO ClearCode. Instead, the ClearCode reorganizes existing UDO text to make it more user-friendly and intuitive. The document incorporates a simpler organizational structure and a more visually-attractive layout style.

Significant changes have also been made to the online user experience of the code. The UDO is no longer hosted at municode.com, and is now hosted on a new staff-maintained website, www.udoclearcode.com. The use of this new website allows staff to incorporate several enhanced features in the ClearCode PDF document, including over 1000 hyperlinked internal cross-references; a built-in table of contents; an index of topics and keywords; and the ability to search the document for any term. The new website and UDO are also optimized for use across multiple platforms, including PCs, tablets, and smartphones.

Staff will continue making improvements to the UDO ClearCode over the coming months. Approximately 100 new illustrative graphics are currently being developed to better explain ordinance provisions. These visuals are anticipated to be added to the code in summer 2020. In future years, staff will also address other issues noted in the UDO code assessment (for example, removing unnecessary ordinance provisions or addressing conflicts with recent amendments to the NC General Statutes) through a series of text amendments. These items will be covered in more detail in future Planning newsletters.

Smith Reynolds Airport/Whitaker Park Strategic Area Plan - 3rd Meeting

Refined Economic Development Recommendations and Design Concepts

Mayor Pro Tem Vivian H. Burke, and Council Members D.D. Adams and Annette Scippio invite you to a meeting to discuss refined economic development recommendations for attracting aviation, technology, and other businesses to Smith Reynolds Airport, Whitaker Park, and surrounding areas. Participants will also be able to review design concepts for streetscapes and selected sites on Akron Drive and Liberty Street.

Thursday, January 16, 2020
6:00 p.m.
Smith Reynolds Airport Terminal
3801 N. Liberty Street, Winston-Salem

For more Information visit www.cityofws.org/planning
Phi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Marker Unveiled

On Friday, November 15, 2019, the sisters of the Phi Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, unveiled a historic marker celebrating their 95th anniversary. Members of the Chapter were joined by Mayor Allen Joines, Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, Council Members John Larson and Annette Scippio, and County Commissioner Tonya McDaniel. The marker is located on the south side of Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive between Highland and Carl Russell Avenues, near the home of charter member Maude Young Ray.

Phi Omega Chapter was founded in 1924 as the first alumnae chapter of AKA in North Carolina. With a mission of “Service to All Mankind”, fourteen of the fifteen early members worked in education and set a goal to institute a Chapter scholarship, which was achieved in 1934 with a $100 scholarship for high school students. Support for education continued with the establishment of scholarships for students at Winston-Salem Teacher’s College and the Kate Bitting School of Nursing.

Additionally, members addressed the need for quality, affordable housing by developing the Ivy Arms Apartments (located on E. 2nd Street) in 1986. Members of Phi Omega have also played key roles in local government, serving on the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County School Board, City Council and in the NC House of Representatives.

Calendar of Significant Dates Revised for 2020

The Calendar of Significant Dates has been revised for 2020 to allow additional time for applicants and staff to navigate the submittal and review process for monthly Planning Board meetings. While much of the calendar remains unchanged from previous years, changes have been made to a few key items. The 2020 calendar moves the deadline for pre-submittal applications back one week and includes an extra day for applicants to submit their complete proposal prior to the filing deadline. An additional day has also been included for applicants to respond to comments received at the Interdepartmental Site Plan Review Meeting. Starting in 2020, staff field checks for zoning notification signs and Planning Board site visits will also take place on separate dates each month.

The 2020 Calendar of Significant Dates can be found online at https://www.cityofws.org/DocumentCenter/View/11537/2020-Calendar-of-Significant-Dates-PDF. These changes should help create a more accommodating timeline for all parties involved in preparing and reviewing Planning Board petitions. If you have any questions or feedback about the new calendar, contact Desmond Corley at (336) 747-7065 or desmondc@cityofws.org.