

DALTON-VARNELL-WHITFIELD COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
503 WEST WAUGH STREET
DALTON, GA 30720

MEMORANDUM

TO: Whitfield County Board of Commissioners
Robert Sivick
Robert Smalley
Jean Price-Garland
City of Dalton Mayor and Council
Andrew Parker
Jonathan Bledsoe
City of Varnell Mayor and Council
Terry Miller
Mike Brown

FROM: Jim Lidderdale
Chairman

DATE: January 21, 2026

A. To hear the request of Whitfield County Board of Commissioners and the City of Dalton Mayor and Council to make proposed amendments to the Unified Zoning Ordinance text to add the definition for “Biohazard Waste” “Biological Waste” and “Hazardous Waste” and to update the Permitted Use Table to add a new line item for “Biohazard Waste”, “Biological Waste” and “Hazardous Waste”, delete Section 4-6-13 and replace, amend the requirements for the UPUD zoning district, and for other purposes. (County & City)

The most recent meeting of the Dalton-Varnell-Whitfield County Planning Commission was held on January 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Whitfield County Courthouse meeting room. A portion of the agenda included a public hearing concerning the above matter. A quorum of six members of the Planning Commission was present. All legal requirements for advertising and posting the public hearing were met. The petition was represented by Ethan Calhoun.

Public Hearing Summary:

Ethan Calhoun summarized the staff analysis, which recommended approval of the proposed text amendments. Steve Laird asked if all UPUD designs would be required to have green space, to which Calhoun confirmed they would. There were no further questions for Calhoun.

The public hearing closed at 7:33 pm.

Recommendation:

Chairman Lidderdale sought a motion for the requested text amendments. Robert Smalley stated that the requirement for requiring a Special Use Permit for data centers should be deleted from the proposed text amendments. Chris Shiflett made a motion to approve the proposed text amendments for Biohazard Waste” “Biological Waste” and “Hazardous Waste” and to update the Permitted Use Table to add a new line item for “Data Centers, Biohazard Waste”, “Biological Waste” and “Hazardous Waste. Shiflett specified that his motion did not include the requirement for a Special Use Permit for data centers. Brad Ramsey seconded the motion which then passed unanimously (5-0). Steve Laird made a motion to approve the Unified Zoning Ordinance text amendments proposed for the UPUD zone district and Octavio Perez seconded. There was a unanimous recommendation to approve the UZO text amendments as presented for the UPUD zone district (5-0).