



LAWRENCEVILLE

Planning & Development

REZONING

CASE NUMBER(S):	RZR2025-00028
APPLICANT(S):	THE INVISION GROUP, LLC
PROPERTY OWNER(S):	BENJAMIN BAILEY
LOCATION(S):	215 JACKSON STREET
PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER(S):	R5146A129
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE:	0.98 ACRES
CURRENT ZONING:	RS-150 (SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT)
PROPOSED ZONING:	RS-TH INF (TOWNHOUSE-FAMILY INFILL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT)
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:	12 TOWNHOUSES
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:	APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS

VICINITY MAP



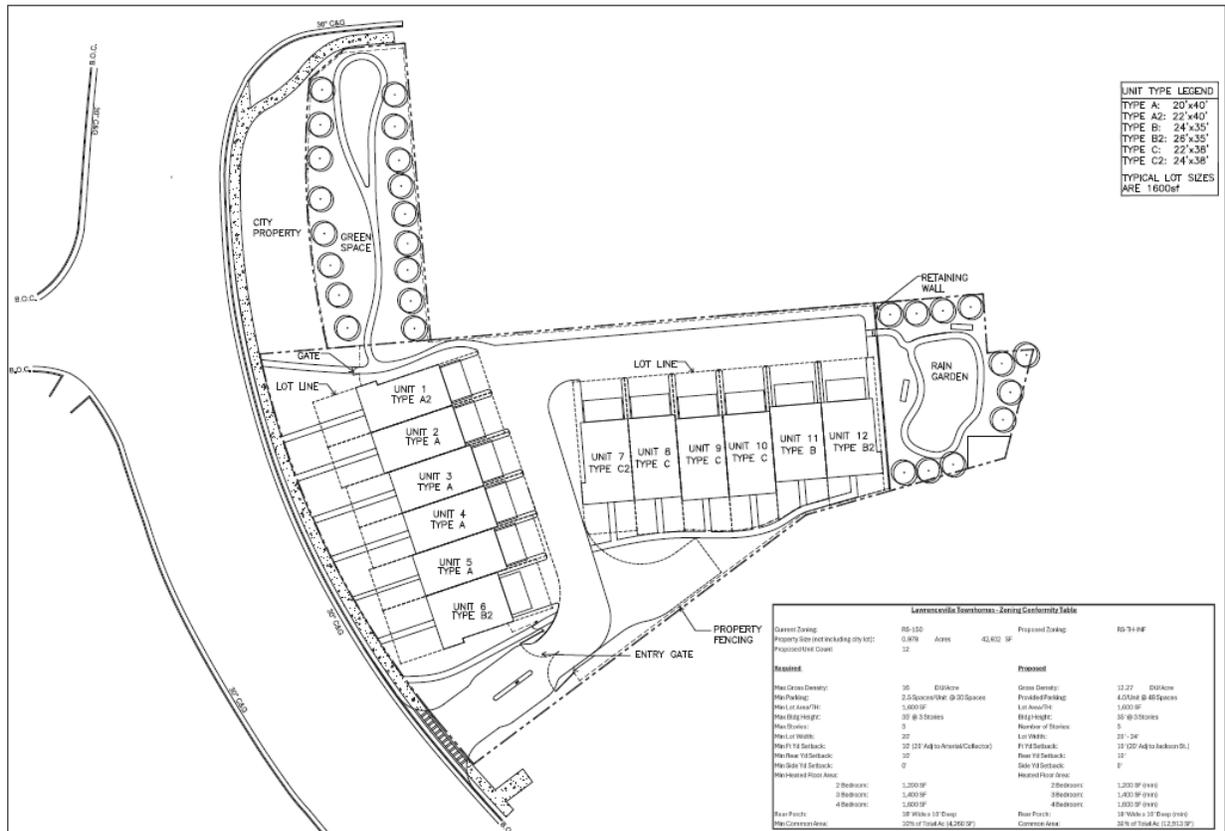
ZONING HISTORY

The subject property has been zoned RS-150 (Single-Family Residential District) since 1960, the earliest zoning record on file for the property.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The applicant requests a rezoning of an approximately 0.98-acre parcel from RS-150 (Single-Family Residential District) to RS-TH INF (Townhouse-Family Infill Residential District), which would represent a shift towards higher-density residential development in place of the established single-family residential zoning. The subject property is located on the eastern right-of-way of Jackson Street, just south of its intersection with Atha Street. It is located directly east of the Southlawn mixed-use development.

CONCEPT PLAN



ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The request represents a shift towards higher-density residential development in place of the traditional single-family residential zoning. By allowing for townhouses, the development would increase housing density on the site, possibly making the area more walkable and increasing the local population. As proposed, the development would consist of twelve (12) residential attached dwelling units as follows:

- Type: Attached Dwelling and Dwelling Units
- Building Height: Three stories (35 feet maximum)
- Building Features: Consolidated attached dwelling with shared common area, front stoops and back porches.
- Architecture: The same style of brick that maintains architectural consistency with the historic downtown area.
- Lot Area: 1,600 square feet (20-24 ft. width & 65-80 ft. depth)
- Site Features: The proposed development would be served by one gated access driveway onto Jackson Street. The development has been strategically designed to include approximately 30% common/greenspace areas, which are planned to include a picnic area, community fire pit, and landscaped rain garden.

The site plans as presented show an additional green space to the north of the subject property on land currently owned by the City; this an optional configuration should the City choose to sell the property to the developer. For the purposes of this development review, only the elements located within the boundaries of the subject property shall be included in density and green space calculations.

As presented, the proposed development otherwise meets the standards for the RS-TH INF zoning districts regarding common space, pedestrian connectivity, and architectural standards.

Article 1 Districts, Section 102.6 RS-TH INF - Townhouse-Family Infill Residential District, B. Lot Development Standards

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Minimum Lot Area	<i>1,600 sq. ft.</i>	<i>1,600 sq. ft.</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Maximum Building Height	<i>35 feet</i>	<i>35 feet</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Maximum Number of Stories	<i>3 stories</i>	<i>3 stories</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Minimum Lot/Unit Width	<i>20 feet</i>	<i>20 feet</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Maximum Units Per Row (UPR)	<i>8 units</i>	<i>6 units</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Minimum Units Per Row (UPR)	<i>3 units</i>	<i>6 units</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Min. Front Yard Setback	<i>10 feet</i>	<i>10 feet</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Min. Rear Yard Setback	<i>10 feet</i>	<i>10 feet</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Min. Side Yard Setback	<i>0 feet</i>	<i>0 feet</i>	<i>N/A</i>
External Setback (Local Street)	<i>15 feet</i>	<i>15 feet</i>	<i>N/A</i>
External Setback (Major Street)	<i>20 feet</i>	<i>20 feet</i>	<i>N/A</i>

Article 1 Districts, Section 102.6 RS-TH INF - Townhouse-Family Infill Residential District, C. Site Development Standards

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Requirement</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Gross Density	<i>16 units per acre (UPA)</i>	<i>12.27 units per acre (UPA)</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Off-Street Parking	<i>2.5 spaces per dwelling unit (30 spaces)</i>	<i>4 spaces per dwelling unit (48 spaces)</i>	<i>N/A</i>

The proposed elevations appear to satisfy the minimum intent of the Architectural and Design Standards set forth in Article 6, Section 602 Non-Residential Minimum Architectural and Design Standards, however, the submitted elevations are incomplete as the document does not include the required rear and side elevations. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the applicant to provide revised elevations prior to receiving a recommendation from the Planning Commission or the final binding decision of the City Council.

Access to the proposed development would be provided via a private utility and access easement. No buildable lot shall be created that does not have access to either a public street, a publicly approved street, publicly maintained street, or private street.

- A variance from the Subdivision Regulations, Article X Required Improvements, Design & Construction, Section 2. Required Improvements, Subsection 2.20 Private Access Drives includes specific language requiring a private access drives shall be permitted to serve no more than two residential land locked lots where, due to special problems created as a result of necessary unusual platting configuration, or as a result of special physical features, the property could not otherwise be developed. No more than one such drive shall be approved per subdivision development and must be approved as part of the original plat. Private access drives shall have the same right-of-way as is required for local streets, fifty (50) feet.

Typically, a combined utility and access easement (such as those for private roads and multiple utilities) requires a 40-foot utility easement, which may include a 20-foot roadway or drive access; an additional 10 feet on each side of the roadway or drive access to accommodate for underground utilities (e.g., electric, gas, sewer, water), and; additional space may be required if above ground structures (e.g., service cabinets, streetlights, transformers, utility poles) or stormwater facilities are required.

Additionally, the RS-TH INF zoning classification includes specific language requiring the front facades of townhouse dwellings to be parallel or radial to a public street (public right-of-way). As currently proposed, the overall layout of the development would not align with the intent of the newly adopted zoning classification. As such, the following variance would be required:

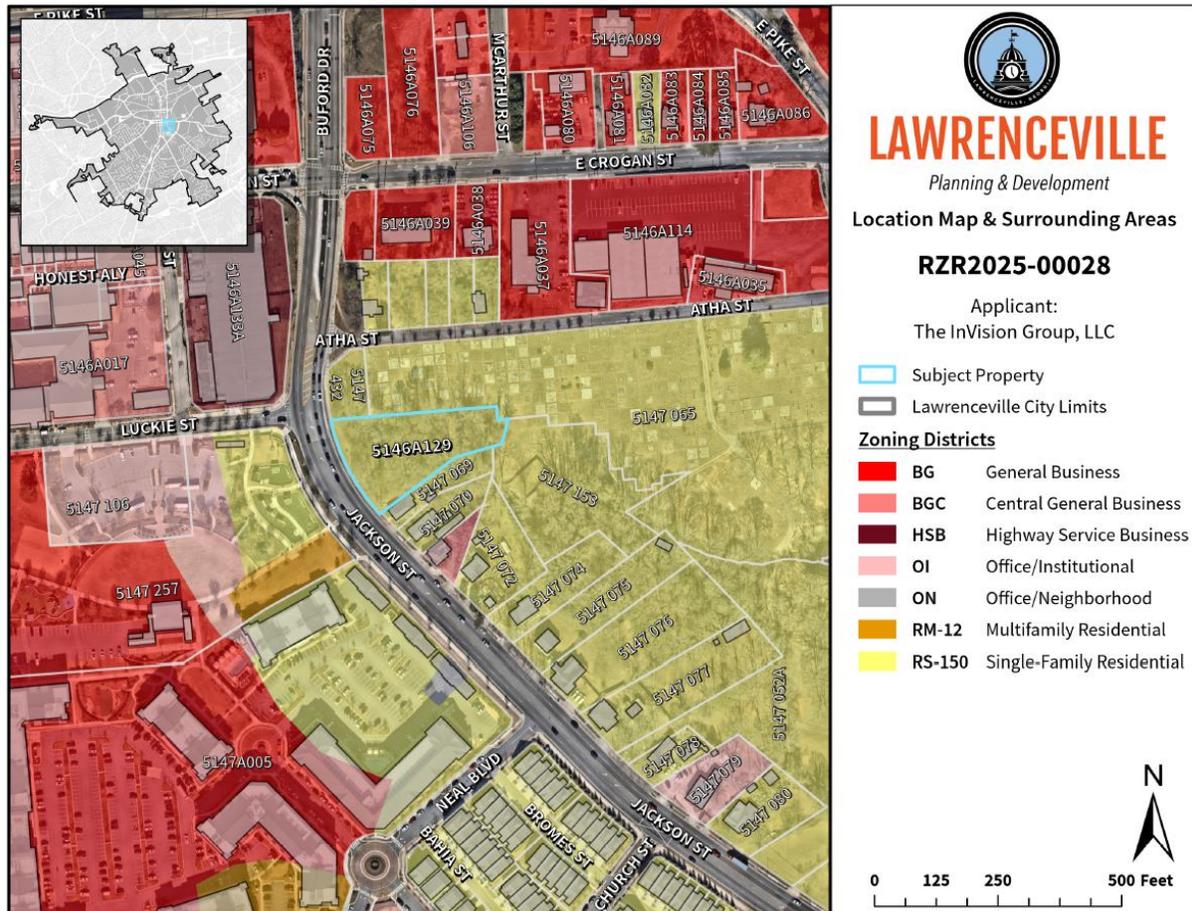
- A variance from the Zoning Ordinance, Article 1, Districts, Section 102.6 RS-TH INF – Townhouse-Family Infill Residential District, D. Lot Dimensional

Standards, Subsection 1. RS-TH Townhouse Units – General, Part a, which requires the front facades of townhouse dwelling units to be parallel or radial to the public street (Public Right-of-Way). The requested variance would allow the front facades of townhouse units 7-12 to be perpendicular to the public right-of-way of Jackson Street.

Given the narrow trapezoidal arrangement of the subject property, such a variance may be considered. Variance requests are intended to provide property owners with relief from certain zoning provisions due to the unique physical characteristics, shape, or topographical conditions of the property. In line with the City's efforts to improve its image, development should emphasize quality and value, rather than focusing solely on quantity.

These standards ensure that no lot is created without guaranteed access to critical services and public infrastructure. This can be through a public street, an approved or maintained street, or a private street that meets necessary construction standards. The core principle is to make sure all lots have proper access to roads and utility infrastructure (electric, gas, water and sewer), and access for life safety.

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP



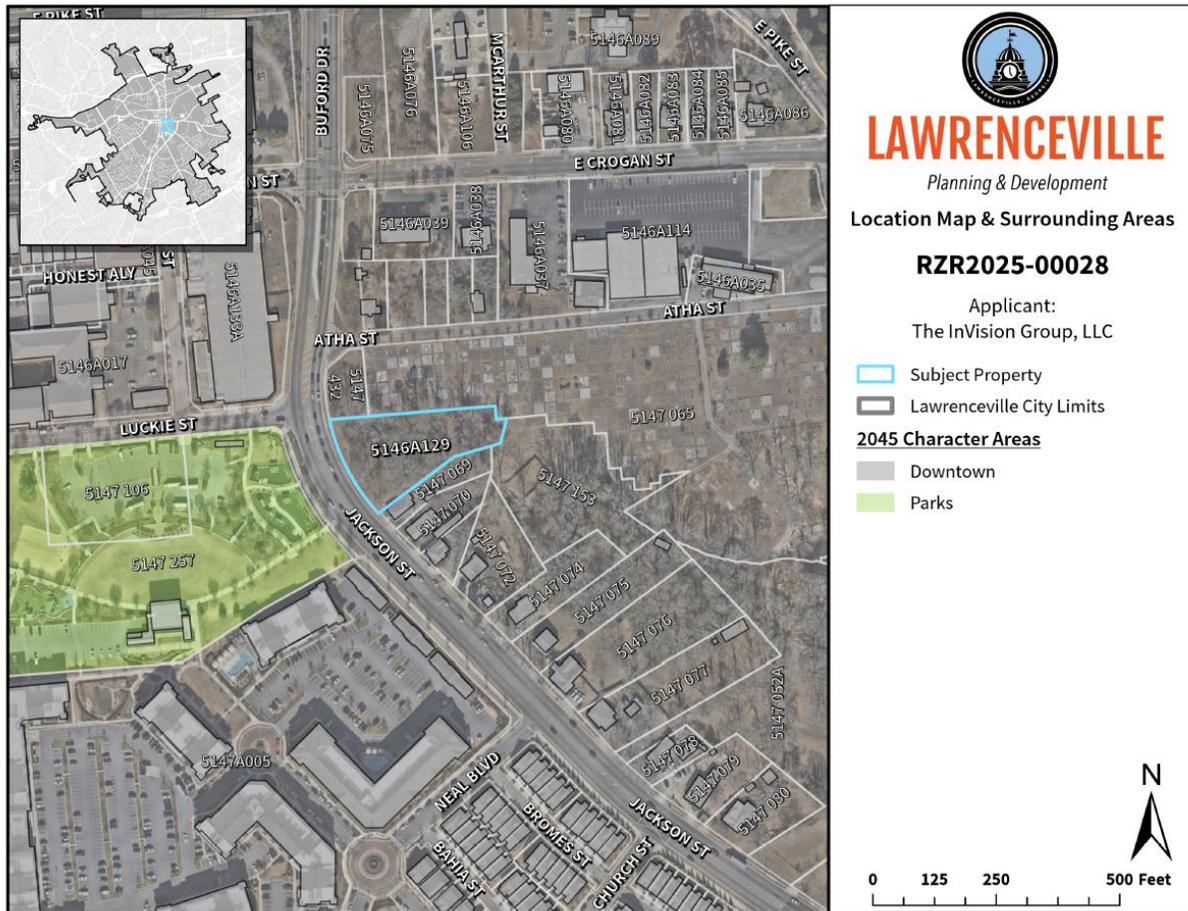
SURROUNDING ZONING AND USE

The subject property is bordered primarily with residential uses and zoning districts, though there is a wide range of uses in the general vicinity of Downtown Lawrenceville. The properties directly surrounding the subject property on the eastern right-of-way of Jackson Street are all zoned RS-150 (Single-Family Residential District) and are used primarily as single-family residential dwellings. The adjacent properties to the east and north of the property as part of the Shadowlawn Memorial Garden cemetery and are also zoned RS-150. Across the right-of-way of Jackson Street is Lawrenceville Lawn as well as the Southlawn mixed-use development, both of which are composed of various zoning districts. It should be noted that Southlawn development includes a significant townhouse residential component which is similar in scope and character to the zoning proposal. To the northwest of the subject property is a parcel zoned HSB (Highway

Service Business District), site of a city-owned & operated parking deck and future site of a boutique hotel, currently under construction.

The purpose of infill zoning classifications is to enable the development of new structures on unused or underutilized land within existing urban areas. This approach aims to revitalize neighborhoods, promote density, reduce urban sprawl, enhance accessibility, and improve urban sustainability (quality of life). Therefore, the requested rezoning may align with the City Council's policies, which are designed to encourage growth and development.

LAWRENCEVILLE 2045 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP



2045 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The 2045 Comprehensive Plan and Future Development Map indicates the property lies within the Downtown character area, defined as such:

Lawrenceville’s Downtown character area serves as the historical and cultural heart of the city, preserving its unique charm while nurturing economic vitality. With a robust economy and a focus on community life, Downtown is a hub of cultural activities and commerce.

The development, by incorporating townhouses, is expected to raise the housing density, potentially enhancing the walkability of the area and boosting the local population. Additionally, investments in pedestrian infrastructure and streetscape upgrades will focus on improving walkability and accessibility.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approval of the requested variance for the alignment of townhouse units 7-12 is recommended, given the property's unique trapezoidal shape. This variance will help accommodate the site's physical constraints while still aligning with the broader goals of the development.

Revised elevations for all sides of the proposed townhouses should be submitted to ensure compliance with the architectural and design standards. This will also help maintain harmony with the historic character of Downtown Lawrenceville.

The applicant should address the 40-foot utility and access easement requirement and clarify how the private access drive will meet the necessary local street right-of-way standards. This review should take into account both utility infrastructure and emergency access needs.

The off-street parking and green space provisions exceed the minimum standards, which will positively impact the livability and overall community benefits of the development.

A comprehensive review of the utility infrastructure and the proposed private access drive is essential to ensure that the development meets all required access, safety, and service standards, including public and emergency access.

Given these factors, the proposal aligns well with the City's objectives for urban infill and neighborhood revitalization. The requested variances should be evaluated in light of the property's unique characteristics to facilitate a well-integrated and functional development.

Given the aforementioned factors, the Planning and Development Department recommends **APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS** for the proposed rezoning.

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

No comment

PUBLIC WORKS

No comment

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

Lawrenceville Power will serve this development.

GAS DEPARTMENT

Lawrenceville Gas will serve this development.

DAMAGE PREVENTION DEPARTMENT

No comment

CODE ENFORCEMENT

No comment

STREET AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT

No comment

STATE CODE 36-67-3 (FMR.) REVIEW STANDARDS:

1. Whether a zoning proposal will permit a use that is suitable in view of the use and development of adjacent and nearby property;

The proposed rezoning to RS-TH INF would permit a residential use that is suitable in view of the surrounding development. While adjacent properties are primarily zoned for single-family residential use, the subject site is located near Downtown Lawrenceville, directly across from the Southlawn mixed-use development, which includes similar townhouse units. The proposal offers a logical transition between traditional neighborhoods and higher-density urban development, aligning with the area's evolving character and supporting broader planning goals for walkability and housing diversity.

2. Whether a zoning proposal will adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby property;

The proposed rezoning is not expected to adversely affect the existing use or usability of adjacent or nearby properties. The development has been designed to meet required setbacks, height limits, and density standards, helping to minimize impacts on surrounding single-family homes. Additionally, the inclusion of landscaped common areas, architectural compatibility, and enhanced pedestrian features further supports a smooth transition with neighboring properties and maintains the overall character and function of the area.

3. Whether the property to be affected by a zoning proposal has a reasonable economic use as currently zoned;

Yes; the property could be developed according to the current standards of the RS-150 zoning district.

4. Whether the zoning proposal will result in a use which will or could cause an excessive or burdensome use of existing streets, transportation facilities, utilities, or schools;

The project will induce demand on public facilities in the form of traffic, utilities, stormwater runoff, and schools. However, the effects of this demand can be mitigated through zoning conditions, consistent monitoring of outcomes, and active planning efforts moving forward.

5. Whether the zoning proposal is in conformity with the policy and intent of the Comprehensive Plan;

The proposed zoning change and development are in full conformity with the policy and intent of the 2045 Comprehensive Plan. The development aligns with key goals such as increasing residential density, promoting walkability, revitalizing the Downtown area, and encouraging infill development. It supports sustainable urban growth by enhancing housing options within the city's core, improving pedestrian infrastructure, and contributing to the overall vibrancy of the area. Therefore, the proposal is consistent with the city's long-term vision for urban development and should be seen as a step forward in achieving the goals outlined in the Comprehensive Plan.

6. Whether there are other existing or changing conditions affecting the use and development of the property, which give supporting grounds for either approval or disapproval of the zoning proposal;

The ongoing growth and redevelopment in Downtown Lawrenceville, including nearby mixed-use and townhouse projects, represent changing conditions that support the rezoning by aligning with the city's goals for increased density, infill development, and improved walkability in the urban core; additionally, the irregular shape of the property presents unique site constraints that may justify the requested variance and support a more flexible approach to development.