



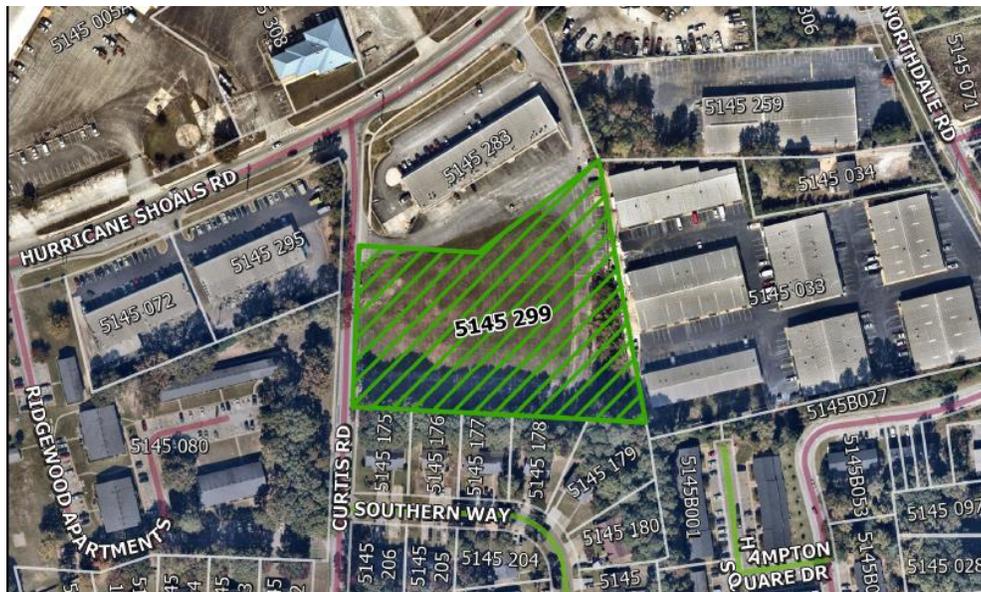
LAWRENCEVILLE

Planning & Development

REZONING

CASE NUMBER:	RZC2023-00052
OWNER:	RIVERSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONTACT:	MING ZHOU
LOCATION(S):	0 CURTIS ROAD
PARCEL IDENTIFICATION NUMBER(s):	5145 299
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE:	3.38 ACRES
CURRENT ZONING:	BG (GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT)
ZONING PROPOSAL:	LM (LIGHT MANUFACTURING DISTRICT)
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:	OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE FACILITY
DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION:	DENIAL

VICINITY MAP





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ZONING HISTORY

The subject property has been zoned BG (General Business District) since 1960, the earliest record on file for the parcel.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The applicant requests a rezoning of an approximately 3.38-acre parcel of land from BG (General Business District) to LM (Light Manufacturing District) to allow for the development of a flex office space consisting of three (3) buildings and a warehouse component. The subject property is located along the eastern right-of-way of Curtis Road, between its intersections with Hurricane Shoals Road and Southern Way.

The submitted materials include two (2) site plans with varying calculations related to the proposed flex office space square footage, lot area (square footage). Additionally, the application and Letter of Intent (LOI) specifically indicates the intended use of the property would be to build three office buildings. However, the architectural elevations and site plan appear to indicate the proposed use would include warehousing as well. In addition, the Zoning Ordinance does not specifically define or establish parameters relating to “flex office space.”

ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

The proposed development of a self-storage or mini-warehouse facility consisting of three (3) flex office spaces and warehouse component consisting of a square footage ranging from approximately 43,613 square feet to 48,485 square feet of office and warehouse space, as shown on the submitted site plans. Each suite will be from 1,500 to 3,000 square feet with enough space to accommodate approximately 18 to 22 tenants.

The property is currently undeveloped aside from a private access road and a detention pond on the eastern end of the property.



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Article 1 Districts, Section 103.2 Use Table

Standard	Requirement	Proposal	Recommendation
Office and Warehouse Facility	LM	LM	DENIAL

Article 1 Districts, Section 102.14 Light Manufacturing District, Table B. Lot Development Standards

Standard	Requirement	Proposal	Recommendation
Minimum Lot Area	25,000 sq. ft.	147,249 sq. ft.	N/A
Minimum Lot Width	50 feet	275 feet	N/A
Minimum Front Yard Setback	50 feet	40 feet	VARIANCE
Minimum Rear Yard Setback	0 feet	20 feet	N/A
Minimum Side Yard Setback	0 feet	20 feet	N/A
Impervious Surface Coverage	85%	74%	N/A
Maximum Building Height	50 feet	16 feet	N/A



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Article 1 Districts, Section 102.14 Light Manufacturing District, Table B. Lot Development Standards - Variance to allow an encroachment into the required Fifty-Foot (50 ft.) Minimum Front Yard Setback

Based on the submitted materials the applicant does not provide a justification for the requested ten-foot (10 ft.) reduction in the minimum fifty-foot (50 ft.) Front Yard Setback requirement. Therefore, without a significant justification support the applicant's request staff would not support the proposed encroachment into the required Minimum Front Yard Setback.

Article 4 Buffers, 403 Buffers Table

Adjacent Development	Requirement	Proposal	Recommendation
RM-12	50 feet	20 feet	VARIANCE
LM	0 feet	0 feet	N/A
BG	50 feet	0 feet	VARIANCE

Article 4 Buffers, Section 403 Buffers Table - Variance to allow a reduction or elimination of the required Buffers.

Based on the submitted materials the applicant does not provide a justification for the reduction of the required fifty-foot (50 ft.) buffer along the southern property line, as well as the elimination of the fifty-foot (50 ft.) buffer along the southern property line. As proposed the applicant does not provide a justification which would result in a particular hardship upon the owner. Therefore, staff could not support a reduction or elimination of the required Buffers.



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Article 5 Parking, Table 5-3: Number of Off-Street Parking Spaces Required

Standard	Requirement	Proposal	Recommendation
Office (Business, Government or Professional)	1 space per 300 sq. ft.	1.4 spaces per 1,000 SF GFA (95 spaces)	DENIAL

Article 5 Parking, Table 5-3: Number of Off-Street Parking Spaces Required – Variance to allow a reduction in the number of required Off-Street Parking Spaces from one-hundred sixty-two (162) to ninety-five (95).

Based on the submitted materials the applicant does not provide a justification for the reduction of the required Number of Off-Street Parking Spaces Required. The applicant’s calculations for off-street parking are calculated using the minimum standard applying to warehousing which would require one (1) off-street parking space per one thousand square feet (1,000 sq. ft.) of gross floor area (GFA). However, the submitted materials indicated the proposed use of the site would allow “flex office space” which would require one (1) off-street parking space per three hundred square feet (300 sq. ft.) of gross floor area (GFA) resulting in a total of one hundred sixty-two (162) total off-street parking spaces required for the proposed development. As proposed the applicant does not provide a justification which would result in a particular hardship upon the owner. Therefore, staff could not support a reduction or elimination of the required Buffers.

The granting of a variance would allow a property owner relief from certain provisions of a Zoning Ordinance when, because of the physical surroundings, shape, or topographical condition of the property, compliance would result in a particular hardship upon the owner, as distinguished from a mere inconvenience or desire to make more money. As proposed the applicant does not provide a justification which would result in a particular hardship upon the owner.



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ARCHITECTURAL AND DESIGN GUIDELINES

Although the proposed elevations meet the Architectural and Design Standards set forth in Article 6, Section 602 Non-Residential Minimum Architectural and Design Standards, the measurements shown on the submitted elevations (plans), the scale shown on the plans and the drawing appear to be inconsistent as shown. Additionally, the proposed roll-up doors shown on the submitted elevations should not be visible from an adjacent public right-of-way. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the applicant to provide revised plans prior to receiving a recommendation from the Planning Commission or the final binding decision of the City Council.

RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPROVEMENTS

Curtis Road is a City of Lawrenceville owned and maintained right-of-way, classified as a Local Residential Street (roadway). The proposed use and requested zoning could require the reclassification of Curtis Road into a Local Industrial Street classification. Additionally, the current right-of-way width of Curtis Road is inconsistent or varying with minimum standards, and local regulations would require a Local Industrial Street to consist of minimum right-of-way of sixty feet (60 ft.) in width. In addition, the current width of the pavement in the roadway is approximately nineteen feet (19 ft.), and local regulations would require a Local Industrial Street to consist of a minimum pavement width of thirty-two feet (32 ft.). Furthermore, the required improvements to Curtis Road could include the installation of a deceleration lane along the road frontage, and additional improvements to the Curtis Road right-of-way extending to the north with its intersection with Hurricane Shoals Road.

The site will be accessed via two (2) existing driveways along the right-of-way, and a shared private internal driveway traversing along or near the southern and eastern property lines and exiting the property at or near the northeastern portion of the property. The shared private internal driveway continues in a southwestern direction and traverses onto the subject property at or near the northwestern portion of the property. The City does not have verification of the existence of an



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internal access easement, and to satisfy the intent of the Development Regulations this type of agreement would be required prior to the commencement of land disturbing activity. In addition, the existing driveways along Curtis Road may require improvements consistent with the minimum standards regulating Industrial Driveways. Therefore, the development of the property will require the dedication of right-of-way, improvements to, and reclassification of the existing roadway.



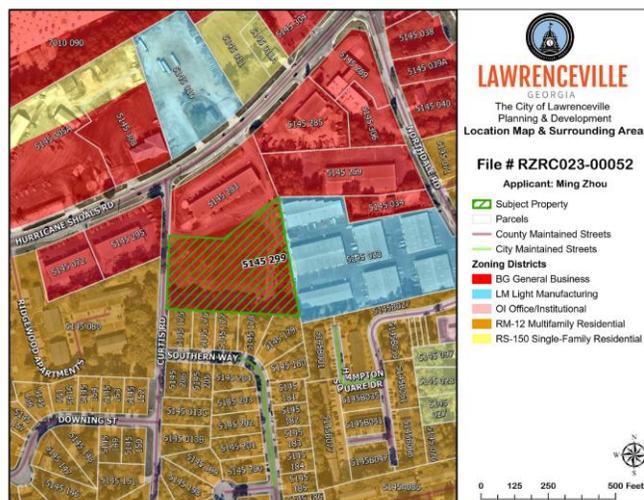
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SURROUNDING ZONING AND USE

The immediate surrounding area consists of a mix of commercial, residential multi-family, and light industrial uses and zoning. The parcel located immediately to the east of the subject property is zoned LM and is similarly used for flex office/warehouse spaces. The properties to the north along Hurricane Shoals Road are zoned predominantly BG and are used as retail spaces. The Southgate Unit 1 Subdivision is located directly south of the subject property, consisting of residential duplexes zoned RM-12. The Ridgewood Apartments are located directly across from Curtis Road and are also zoned RM-12. As proposed, use and zoning would be consistent with the established development and zoning pattern.

CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP





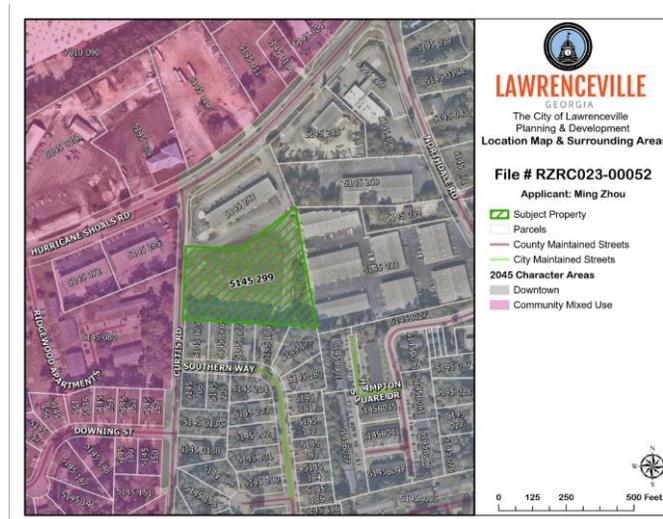
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2045 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The 2045 Comprehensive Plan and Future Development Map indicate the property lies within the Downtown Character Area. 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. In terms of location, the proposed use (flex office space) would be congruent with existing uses of the general area, however due to discrepancies with the application such a use that may consist of warehousing may be considered out of character for the Downtown Character Area. Therefore, the application will require modifications prior to receiving a recommendation from the Planning Commission or a final binding decision from the City Council.

LAWRENCEVILLE 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – FUTURE LAND USE PLAN MAP





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STAFF RECOMMENDATION

As detailed in this report the requested rezoning will require modification to correct the various errors found with the submitted materials. In addition, the applicant may not be aware of potential modifications to the existing right-of-way, variances relating to building setbacks and buffers. Although, the proposal as a flex office facility may be consistent with the established development and zoning pattern in the immediate area the discrepancies contained in the submitted materials should be corrected prior to receiving a final binding decision. Therefore, the Planning and Development Department recommends **DENIAL** for the proposed rezoning request.



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CITY OF LAWRENCEVILLE DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEW

- ***Zoning Ordinance, Article 1 Districts, Section 102, Subsection 102.14***

Lot Development Standards

- Minimum Front Yard Building Setback – 50 feet (**VARIANCE REQUIRED**)
- Minimum Side Yard Building Setback – 0 feet
- Minimum Rear Yard Building Setback – 0 feet

- ***Zoning Ordinance, Article 4 Buffers, Section 401, Standards for Permanent Buffers:***

The buffer area must:

- Be shown on each plat prior to final approval and be designated as a permanent easement.
- Not be temporarily or permanently disturbed by grading, property improvements, or construction activities.
- Utilize existing vegetation, or where required be supplemented with additional plantings.
- Retain its natural topography except when a portion must be cleared and graded as required by the City or County to prevent soil erosion.
- Shall be completely installed in accordance with the approved plan prior to issuance of a certificate of occupancy. Buffer shall not be used for temporary or permanent parking, or for a structure other than a fence, or for provision of drainage improvements as mandated by the City or County.



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- **Zoning Ordinance, Article 4, Section 402 Buffer Screening:**
 - Where existing natural vegetation and site topography are insufficient to accomplish the purpose of the required buffer area, existing vegetation will be supplemented. These additional plantings shall consist of evergreen trees not less than six feet in height, and shrubs not less than three feet in height at time of planting. All landscaping is subject to review and approval of the Director of the Planning and Development Department.
- **Zoning Ordinance, Article 4, Buffers, Table 403. Minimum Buffer Requirements:**
 - Provide a 50-foot natural, undisturbed buffer adjacent to BG (General Business District) and RM-12 (Multifamily Residential District).
 - Buffer Reduction requests that are 50% or greater require a public hearing with the Planning Commission and City Council.
 - Provide details of buffer showing existing tree line and replanting where sparsely vegetated. buffer planting must meet the requirements of Article 4 of the City of Lawrenceville Zoning Ordinance for screening.
 - Show factors used in determining the number of parking spaces as required by the Zoning Ordinance Article 5. If the proposed use is contractor office parking shall be calculated as 1 space per 250 gross floor area of office space. Additional parking is/may be needed.
 - Provide one (1) parking lot tree for every seven (7) parking spaces. Each parking space shall be within sixty-feet (60 ft.) of the trunk of a tree.
 - The site plan shall be revised to show the new/required right-of-way and corrected building setback lines.



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PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT – BUILDING PLAN REVIEW SECTION

- ***International Building Code, Chapter 1, Scope and Administration, Section 107 Submittal Documents***

Submittal documents consisting of construction documents, statement of special inspections, geotechnical report and other data shall be submitted in two or more sets with each permit application. The construction documents shall be prepared by a registered design professional where required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed. Where special conditions exist, the building official is authorized to require additional construction documents to be prepared by a registered design professional.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

- ***Development Regulations, Article VI, Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance***
- ***Development Regulations, Article XIX, Model Stream Buffer Protection Ordinance***
- ***Subdivision Regulations, Article XI, Section 2.14 Street Design Standards:***
 - Minimum Right-of-Way Local Industrial – sixty feet (60 ft.)
 - Minimum Pavement Width Local Industrial – thirty-two feet (32 ft.)
- ***Subdivision Regulations, Article XI, Section 2.12 Sidewalks:***
 - The subdivider is required to provide sidewalks within all major subdivisions, both residential and non-residential. When provided sidewalks shall be included within the dedicated non-pavement right-of-way of all roads. Sidewalks shall be concrete and five (5) feet in width. A median strip of grassed or landscaped area at least two (2) feet wide shall separate all sidewalks from adjacent curbs. Concrete curbs shall be required where sidewalks are installed.
- ***Subdivision Regulations, Article XI, Section 2, Subsection 2.13 Right-of-Way:***



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- Rights-of-way intended for streets, crosswalks, water mains, sanitary sewers, storm drains or any other use involving maintenance by a public agency shall be dedicated to public use by the preparer of the plat on which such right-of-way is established and shall be covered by any necessary easements.
- ***Subdivision Regulations, Article XI, Section 2, Subsection 2.19 C. Road Surfacing Improvements:***
 - Type IV: Eight (8) inch crusher run stone base applied on a properly prepared sub-grade brought to a ninety-five percent (95%) dry density compaction standard proctor. A three-inch (3 in.) Asphaltic Base Type B covered by a one and one-half (1½) inch surface course of Type “E” or “F” Plant Mix Asphalt.
If concrete paving is to be utilized, such paving shall be in accord with specifications by the Georgia Department of Transportation.
Concrete curbs and gutters shall be constructed with three thousand (3,000) pounds per square inch at twenty-eight (28) day compressive strength, six (6) by twelve (12) inches by twenty-four (24) inches. Hollywood type curbs and gutters may be permitted in single-family subdivisions. Provide one inch (1 in.) tapered gutter.
- ***Subdivision Regulations, Article XI, Section 6, Subsection 6.3 Easements:***
 - Utility easements for electric and telephone service lines, sewage lines, water lines, or other such utilities located along a rear lot line, or a side lot line shall be at least twenty feet (20 ft.) wide, ten feet (10 ft.) on each lot, and more if necessary. The same shall be recorded in the office of the Clerk of Gwinnett County Superior Court.

If the existing detention pond is to be used to provide stormwater detention for the proposed development, it will need to be brought up to current standards as they relate to all areas (both existing and proposed) draining into it.



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A 20'-wide easement will need to be provided for the existing 30" CMP. No portion of a building will be allowed to encroach into this easement.

Miscellaneous

The applicant should be advised that as soon as possible following the hiring of the project's site design professional, that individual should schedule a meeting with the Engineering Department, the purpose of which is to discuss the engineering aspects of the project and the City's engineering-related regulations, requirements, and policies.

PUBLIC WORKS

No comment.

ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

No comment.

GAS DEPARTMENT

No comment.

DAMAGE PREVENTION DEPARTMENT

No comment.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

No comment.

STREET AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT

Needs dumpster pad.



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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;**

As proposed, the plan would be suitable given the presence of other self-storage and warehouse facilities in the general area.

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

No.

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

The property has reasonable economic use as currently zoned.

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

Impacts on public facilities would be anticipated in the form of traffic, utility demand, and stormwater runoff. Curtis Road is classified as a local street according to GDOT; the induced demand from this development may strain its capacity. However, these impacts may be mitigated with appropriate conditions, site development requirements, and planning.

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

Yes; the Downtown character area includes a wide diversity and intensity of uses within Lawrenceville's Downtown core. However, special attention needs to be placed on the final design to ensure that it meets or exceeds local standards.

- 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;**

None.