

TMOD-21-012 - Attachment 1 - Staff Report



PLANNING & ZONING STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: November 22, 2021

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Petition Number:** TMOD 21-012
- Applicant:** Stonecrest Planning and Zoning Department
- Project Location:** City-Wide
- Proposed amendment:** Amendment to Stonecrest Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 27, Article 6 - Parking to amend the parking regulations concerning gravel truck parking lots.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

- The 2018 revision of Section 6.1.3. to allow parking on gravel has succeeded in encouraging creation of new standalone truck parking lots, but the appearance of the lots from the public right of way needs improvement.
- The street frontage fencing and landscaping of S & W Automotive Parts and Encore Recycling were installed to a higher standard which should be observed by new standalone truck parking lots, and current lots should be retrofitted to the new standard.
- Monitoring of the existing gravel lots has been strain on code enforcement and site inspection staff. Steps should be put in place to require pre-approved third party inspections of these sites at the cost of the parking lot operator.

PROPOSAL:

- Revise Subsection B.10. to improve the appearance of parking lots. Fences along street frontage would be upgraded to the standard of fences which are currently in place along the LIB and Chapman Road frontages of S & W Automotive Parts and Encore Recycling. Frontage fences of new parking lots could not be made of corrugated metal fencing.
- Vegetation between streets and fences would have to be 100% evergreen trees at least six feet high and/or two-inch caliper, and would have to be mulched, watered, and maintained, and replaced where necessary. All



PLANNING & ZONING STAFF REPORT

existing parking lots would have to upgrade to this new standard no later than at the time of business license renewal in 2023.

- Issuance of a Business License for such a gravel parking lot is dependent on submittal of site inspection report approved by the Building Department showing that the gravel lot pervious and impervious surface conditions, as well as onsite storm water facilities meet the requirements of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Removal of the 2-year exemption from this ordinance that granted in 2018, as the exemption has expired.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Based on staff recommendations, the Planning Commission recommend **Approval** to the City Council at their meeting on October 5, 2021 as shown in Attachment 2, with the exception of the third party site inspection report and the removal of grandfathered exemption from this ordinance which was added by staff based on recommendations received at the Zoning Summit participants on October 14, 2021.

TMOD-21-012 - Attachment 2 - Proposed Changes

TMOD-21-012
STONECREST ZONING CODE UPDATE
REVISIONS and NEW ORDINANCES

Revision to Sec. 6.1.3. – Parking regulations, off-street parking spaces

Proposal:

- Revise Subsection B.10. to improve the appearance of parking lots. Fences along street frontage would be upgraded to the standard of fences which are currently in place along the LIB and Chapman Road frontages of S & W Automotive Parts and Encore Recycling. Frontage fences of new parking lots will be made of corrugated metal, and must be ten feet high.
- Revise Subsection B.10, to improve vegetated buffer between streets and fences. Vegetated buffers have to be 100% evergreen trees at least six feet high and/or two-inch caliper, and would have to be mulched, watered, and maintained, and replaced where necessary. All existing parking lots would have to upgrade to this new standard no later than time for business license renewal in 2023.
- Remove the 2 year exemption from these requirements for grandfathered uses as granted with the adoption of the 2018 gravel parking ordinance, Ordinance 2018-07-02, signed on July 16, 2018, as the compliance period for this exemption as already expired.

Photos illustrating the recommended fencing type for Gravel Parking



Reason for proposal:

The 2018 revision of Section 6.1.3. to allow parking on gravel has succeeded in encouraging creation of new standalone truck parking lots, but the appearance of the lots from the public right of way needs improvement. The street frontage fencing and landscaping of S & W

Automotive Parts and Encore Recycling were installed to a higher standard which should be observed by new standalone truck parking lots, and current lots should be retrofitted to the new standard as of the beginning of 2025.

Track changes version of proposed changes.

Sec. 6.1.3. - Parking regulations, off-street parking spaces.

Off-street parking spaces shall be provided in accordance with the following requirements:

- A. Each application for a development permit or building permit, other than for a detached single-family residence, shall be accompanied by a parking plan showing all required off-street parking spaces, driveways, and the internal circulation system for each such parking lot.
- B. All parking lots and spaces shall conform to the following requirements:
 - 1. All vehicles shall be parked on a paved surface that is connected to and has continuous paved access to a public or private street, except as otherwise allowed in this section.
 - 2. Each parking space, except those located on a single-family residential lot, shall comply with the minimum dimensions established in Table 6.1. Each parking lot shall have adequate space for each car to park and exit every parking space and space for internal circulation within said parking lot.
 - 3. Each parking lot, except those parking spaces located on property used for single-family residential purposes, shall comply with section 5.4.4, site and parking area landscaping.
 - 4. All parking lots and parking spaces, except those located on property used for single-family residential purposes, shall conform to the geometric design standards of the Institute of Traffic Engineers.
 - 5. Parking and loading shall not be permitted within the front yard in any MR, HR, O-I, or O-I-T zoning district, except for required handicapped parking. Notwithstanding the previous sentence, parking and loading shall be permitted within the front yard where provision of adequate parking spaces within the rear is impractical and upon issuance of a variance pursuant to article 7 of this chapter.
 - 6. Parking shall not be permitted within the front yard of any property used for single-family residential purposes, except within a driveway, or in a roofed carport or enclosed garage. Within any single-family residential district, not more than 35 percent of the total area between the street right-of-way line and the front of the principal building shall be paved.

7. No parking space, driveway or parking lot shall be used for the sale, repair, dismantling, servicing, or long-term storage of any vehicle or equipment, unless located within a zoning district which otherwise permits such use.
8. The parking of business vehicles on private property located within residential zoning districts is prohibited. This section shall not prohibit:
 - (1) Typical passenger vehicles, with or without logos, including automobiles, pickup trucks, passenger vans, and dually trucks;
 - (2) Vehicles engaged in active farming, construction activities or contractor services on the private property, or the temporary parking (12 hours or less) of vehicles for the purpose of loading/unloading within residential zoning districts; nor
 - (3) The parking of vehicles on property located in residential zoning districts, where such property is used for an authorized nonresidential use such as a church.

Vehicles used in law enforcement are exempt from the restrictions of this subsection.

9. All parking lots shall conform to the requirements of section 6.1.7.

Table 6.1. Minimum Parking Space Dimensions

Minimum Parking Space Dimensions			
Parking Angle	Minimum Stall Width	Minimum Stall Depth	Minimum Parking Aisle Width
Regular-sized vehicles			
90 degrees	9'	18'	24'
75 degrees	9'	19'	21'
60 degrees	9'	17'	14'
45 degrees	9'	15'	11'
Compact vehicles			
90 degrees	8.5'	15'	22'
75 degrees	8.5'	16'	20'

60 degrees	8.5'	15'	14'
45 degrees	8.5'	14'	10'

10. Notwithstanding any other provisions of chapter 27 or chapter 14, parking areas and/or parking on unpaved surfaces for transportation equipment and storage or maintenance (vehicle) storage, without services provided, shall be permitted as a principal use on parcels zoned M or M-2, provided that:
 - a. The parking area shall be screened from view of the public street with an opaque corrugated metal fence or wall minimum of ~~six~~ ten feet in height. Chain link and wooden fences along street frontage are prohibited.
 - b. The parking area shall be at least 25 feet from the street right-of-way.
 - c. A ten-foot-wide evergreen landscape buffer shall be planted around the perimeter of the fence along the public street with at least two rows of trees. All trees shall be a least six feet in height and/or two inches caliber, and shall be regularly maintained and watered as necessary. Dead or dying trees shall be promptly replaced. All surfaces between trees shall be mulched. ~~75 percent evergreens and at least two rows of plants.~~
 - d. The soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution requirements of chapter 14, article V of the Code of the City of Stonecrest, Georgia are met;
 - e. Minimum standards of the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual are met in terms of stormwater runoff and water quality; and
 - f. The parking lot has a minimum of one acre.
 - g. All parking areas and/or parking on unpaved surfaces for transportation equipment and storage or maintenance (vehicle) storage without services provided which are permitted as a principal use on parcels zoned M or M-2 shall be upgraded to the standards of this Sec. 6.1.3.B.10. no later than at the time of business license renewal in 2023.

11. Unpaved parking areas within the M and M-2 zones permitted under subsection B.10. of this section shall comply with the following specifications:
 - a. The parking area shall be at least 150 feet from the boundaries of a residentially zoned parcel;
 - b. The parking area subgrade must meet a minimum compaction of 95 percent as certified by a registered professional engineer;
 - c. The parking area surface shall be composed of at least eight inches of compacted Graded Aggregate Base;

- d. The Graded Aggregate Base shall be stabilized and treated to control dust through approved means, which may include but is not limited to, the effective design and operation of the facility, the periodic application of dust suppressant materials such as calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, or lignin sulfonate, reduced operating speeds on unpaved surfaces, or the periodic replenishment of gravel surfaces;
- e. Parking areas shall be inspected by the City of Stonecrest or a third-party inspector approved by the City of Stonecrest every year ~~two years~~ to ensure continued compliance with the above specifications. Proof of inspection and compliance with the Stonecrest Code of Ordinances is required at time of annual business license renewal, and this inspection report must be approved by the Building Department prior to issuance or renewal of a business license. Additional maintenance such as grading, Graded Aggregate Base, or surface treatment may be required;
- f. ~~Parking areas on unpaved surfaces for transportation equipment and storage or maintenance (vehicle) storage with existing unpaved areas shall be considered a nonconforming use under section 8.1.5 exempt from the requirements of subsections B.10. and 11 of this section. if the underlying use of the parcel was issued a business license or Motor Carrier Number valid on December 31, 2017;~~
- g. ~~All other parcels with existing unpaved areas shall have two years to comply with these specifications with a one time extension up to 12 months.~~