

Planning and Zoning Commission

Agenda Item

Data Sheet

Meeting Date: January 8, 2024

Topic:

Consideration to Approve **Ordinance Amendment OAM23-03**: Request by the City of Tomball to amend Chapter 50 – Article III (*District Regulations*) adding Section 50-75.1 – Neighborhood Retail District (NR) zoning classification and subsequent district standards. Modifying Section 50-82 (*Use regulations (charts)*). Modifying Section 50-112 (*Off Street Parking and Loading Requirements*) adding parking regulations within the Neighborhood Retail District. Modifying Section 50-113 (*Landscape Requirements*) specifying parking lot screening requirements. Modifying Section 50-115 (*Screening, Buffering and Fencing Requirements*) replacing subsection (b)(1) (*Screening of Non-Residential, Multifamily, and manufactured (mobile) home parks*) with new land use buffering standards.

Background:

Over the course of the past several months, the City of Tomball has been approached by property owners and perspective developers requesting rezoning of properties to allow nonresidential commercial uses, often near existing and/or planned residential land uses or at the intersections of major thoroughfares. In many instances, these requests are in alignment with the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Plan. However, the current nonresidential zoning districts of General Retail (GR), Commercial (C), & Light Industrial (LI) often allow a range of uses that may be considered incompatible with nearby residential land uses or undesirable at certain intersections of high traffic major thoroughfare. In these instances, the Planning & Zoning Commission and/or City Council have approved downgrading rezoning requests to Office (O) zoning. Although this has been a suitable alternative in certain areas, often the Office (O) zoning district is considered overly stringent to accommodate many developments and planned land uses. In efforts to better accommodate these requests for nonresidential zoning near existing and/or planned residential land uses or intersections of major thoroughfares the City of Tomball is recommending the creation of a new zoning district hereby referred to as “Neighborhood Retail (NR)” zoning. The intent of this Neighborhood Retail district is to accommodate a limited range of retail trade, services and office activities that are needed to serve a neighborhood area. The land uses promoted by this district are intended to be a middle ground between the existing Office (O) and General Retail (GR) zoning districts. This zoning district is to be utilized as a transition district between residential uses and more intense non-residential uses. The overall goal of this ordinance amendment is to create a zoning designation that will promote pedestrian oriented neighborhood level commercial developments, while increasing landscaping, buffering & screening standards to better protect nearby residential land uses when located next to nonresidential zoning districts.

Origination: City of Tomball

Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of **Ordinance Amendment OAM23-03**.

Party(ies) responsible for placing this item on agenda: Jared Smith (City Planner)

FUNDING (IF APPLICABLE)

Are funds specifically designated in the current budget for the full amount required for this purpose?

Yes: _____ No: _____

If yes, specify Account Number: # _____

If no, funds will be transferred from account: # _____ To Account: # _____

Signed: _____ **Approved by:** _____
 Staff Member Date City Manager Date