

MINUTES OF THE  
THOMASVILLE BOARD OF PLANNING AND ADJUSTMENT  
MEETING – July 25, 2023

The regularly scheduled July meeting of the Thomasville Board of Planning and Adjustment was called to order at 5:30 P.M. with a quorum present.

Members present: Ms. Jane Hill, Chairperson; Mr. Carl Shatley, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Chris Myrick; Mrs. Judy Smith; and Mr. Oran Jefferies.

Members absent: Mr. Brandon Byerly and Mrs. Pat Shelton

Alternate member present: Mr. Eric Kuppel

The following staff members attended the meeting: Mr. Chuck George, Planning Director; Ms. Tamara Lebow, Recording Secretary; and Mrs. Misti Whitman, City Attorney.

City Council Liaison present was: Mr. Doug Hunt

Business taken up was as follows:

- 1) Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hill, who declared a quorum to be present.

- 2) Approval of Minutes of June 27, 2023 Meeting

Upon a motion by Mr. Shatley and a second by Mrs. Smith, the minutes of the June 27, 2023 Regular Meeting were unanimously approved.

- 3) Swearing in for the purposes of giving testimony.

Chairperson Hill asked for anyone that would like to speak to come forward and be sworn in. Tim Mages and Chuck George came forward and were both sworn in by City Attorney, Misti Whitman.

- 4) Variance Request (BOA-23-05)  
Applicant/Owner: Imaflex, USA Inc.  
Location: 1201 Unity Street  
Existing Zoning: M-1 Light Industrial District  
Request for a Variance of Maximum Height of Structure in M-1 Light Industrial Zoning District from the maximum of 50 feet to 65 feet.

Mr. George gave the staff comments, wherein he noted, there are currently 16 existing silos on the property, ranging in height from 22 feet to 57 feet. The two new silos would be 49 feet in height. This type of variance needs a unanimous approval to pass. Chairperson Hill asked if this would go to City Council. Mr. George advised her it would not.

Chairperson Hill asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak for the request. Tim Mages, Vice President of Operations for Imaflex USA Inc came forward to speak. He stated the company is in the process of an expansion in their product lines later in the year and need the additional silos for storing the resin needed to make the products.

Chairperson Hill asked if anyone on the Board had any questions for the applicant. There was none. Mrs. Smith asked what the company makes. Mr. Mages explains the production or process starts with the resin, which is brought in by railcars. It is then placed into the machines and is melted down, and a film is extruded which is used to make a number of various products, including film to wrap products or bags. Mr. Shatley asked if the silos hold the resin. Yes, they hold approximately 220k lbs. of resin. Mrs. Smith asked where the bags or products go. Mr. Mages advised they are primarily shipped all around North America, as well as Canada, being they are a Canadian-owned company. Mr. Jefferies asked if there is such a thing as bio-degradable plastic. Mr. Mages advised there is and the company has a technical team that is doing a lot of work with the bio-degradable or post industrial recycleable films, as that's the way the industry is headed.

Chairperson Hill asked if anyone would like to come forward to speak against this request. Seeing there were none, she asked for a motion. Mr. Shatley made a motion in favor of the request for the following reasons; failure to grant the variance would restrict the ability to make necessary improvements to the facility. The property is a manufacturing site that already has 16 silos on the property (two of which are now 60' tall), so the variance is a similar adjustment. The height restriction appears arbitrary in light of the fact the applicant only seeks a 15 foot variance. The variance will not conflict with the neighboring properties due to the existing tree that conceal the silos. Mr. Kuppell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous across the Board.

5) Other Business

Chairperson Hill asked if there was other business to be discussed. Mrs. Smith asked if there were any updates on the salary discussion held during the June meeting. There were none. Mr. Shatley added he thinks the pay for members would help in the future in trying to attract people to a board.

6) Adjournment

Seeing there was no other business, Chairperson Hill asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jefferies made a motion for adjournment. Mrs. Smith seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous across the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck George, Director  
Board of Planning and Adjustment  
City of Thomasville

Tamara Lebow, Recording Secretary  
Board of Planning and Adjustment  
City of Thomasville

DRAFT