

Griffin approves special-use permits for medical facility, kennel

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Griffin has approved separate special-use permits to allow for a medical facility and a non-commercial kennel.

At Tuesday's meeting, the City of Griffin Board of Commissioners approved zoning changes to permit a medical facility in the industrial park. The site is 12.75 acres on Greenbelt Parkway at Arthur K. Bolton Parkway, and the facility is a 30-bed, 24-hour-access behavioral health crisis center, with an average projected stay for patients of three to five days, according to the request.

The request required a change in the city's Unified Development Ordinance to allow a medical facility in a light industrial zoning with a special-use permit, as well as approval of the special-use permit. Director of Planning and Development Taurus Freeman said that prior to the change, hospitals or clinics were only allowed in the mixed-use overlay neighborhood and medical overlay districts as well as a special-use in institutional zoning.

City Commissioner Dick Morrow said

the project includes a \$3 million building and more than 90 jobs created.

"This is a good project," Morrow said.

The commissioners also approved a retroactive enterprise zone agreement with the developer of a 20,000-square-foot medical building at 747 S. Eighth St. Downtown Development Authority Executive Director Kenwin Hayes said three of four suites built are currently filled and the developer asked for the refund that was part of the incentive package promised him two years ago.

According to City Attorney Drew Whalen, there was "not a problem going back retroactively. The former planning director overstepped his authority, as the request has to go before this board. That's what this is."

The city commissioners also approved a special-use permit to allow a non-commercial kennel for a home on 0.48 acres at 1112 Skyline Drive. The applicant, Cynthia McIver, requested the non-commercial kennel as she works to rescue dogs from the local animal shelter.

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Deaths

Mr. Steven C. Sand
Carrie Lois Thaxtc
Deacon Gary L. Pai
Ms. Lizzie A. Williar

Mrs. Ruby Sanders, may be made to the Alzheimer's Foundation of America. Higgins Hillcrest Chapel Funeral Home, Newnan, is in charge of arrangements. 770-253-4723.

DEATH NOTICES

Carrie Lois Thaxton, 87, of Griffin, died on Sunday, July 6, 2014. Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 12, 2014, at Shoal Creek Baptist Church. Interment will follow in the church cemetery. Conner-Westbury Funeral Home, 1891 W. McIntosh Road, Griffin, is in charge of arrangements. www.conner-westburyfuneralhome.com.

Funeral services

held to assemble at the church by 1:15 p.m. McDowell's Funeral Home Inc., 305 N. Hill St., is in charge of arrangements. www.mcdowellfuneralhome.org.

Mr. Marvin Jenkins, 89, of Griffin, died Tuesday, July 8, 2014, at Brightmoor Nursing Center. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 12, 2014, in the chapel of Haisten McCullough Funeral Home. A private family interment will follow. Haisten McCullough Funeral Home, 1155 Everee Inn Road, is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Gene Sampler died Wednesday, July 9 at Southern Regional Hospital. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday, July 12, 2014, in the chapel

Barnes, 92, of 431 Sky View Drive, Griffin, died Thursday, July 3, 2014, at Spalding Regional Hospital. The homegoing celebration will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday, July 12, 2014, at Rising Star Missionary Baptist Church in Griffin. Interment will follow at the Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Jackson. Mrs. Barnes will lie in state from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, July 11, 2014, at Lewis Sims & Son Funeral Home, 263 McKibben St., Jackson. The family hour is from noon to 1 p.m. Saturday at the church. Lewis Sims & Son Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

PERMITS

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The McIvers were unaware that they needed the permit until getting a citation, following a complaint from a neighbor about the number of dogs. McIver noted that the complaint was about the number, but there has never been a complaint about noise.

The non-commercial kennel allows for five or more dogs, and the McIvers currently have two of their own, and adopt strays, have them treated and transport them for out-of-state rescues. Several of their neighbors and others spoke in support of her rescue efforts.

City Commission Chairman Ryan McLemore noted that the special-use permit doesn't take away a nuisance complaint, and he noted that the city can revoke the permit if there are nuisance complaints.

POLICE

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

red ski mask entered the store, pointed a chrome pistol at them, and said "give me all the money."

The clerk reportedly complied, emptying the cash register in the red bag provided by the robber. The suspect ordered the two of them to the floor, while waving the pistol back and forth. They reportedly were unable to see which direction he went when he left.

And just off Experiment Street, on July 7 at 4:59 p.m., police responded to the parking lot of the Easy Shop, 375 N. 13th St., regarding a person operating a business without a license. The SafeLink employee was given code enforcement citations for operating the business without a license and for the prohibited sign, which was 5 feet from the roadway, and given a court date of Sept. 4.

SPLOST

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

at the Searcy Avenue, Solomon Street, High Falls Road intersection and railroad crossing.

At Tuesday's meetings, the commissioners decided at a called workshop in the morning and voted Tuesday night to accept the suggestion of City Commission Chairman Ryan McLemore that there not be any level two countywide projects but to let the county have that \$4.4 million in SPLOST money for county projects and accept the city's portion

projects will instead be included as county projects, paid for from the county's \$27 million share of the projected \$50,400,000 SPLOST. The county's projects, approved at the July 3, special called county commission meeting included a new computer-aided dispatch (CAD) system for the county 911 Center at \$1 million; lights for the soccer fields at Wyomia Tyus Olympic Park at \$400,000; a new animal shelter at \$1 million; and \$2 million for a swim center, which had been suggested as countywide projects, plus \$3.4 million going toward paying off remaining amounts due on the Oxford

resurfacing 52 miles of road at \$5.2 million and \$9.8 million for paving 6.5 miles of dirt roads.

After city officials had agreed to the split at the Tuesday morning city workshop, County Commissioner Gwen Flowers-Taylor spoke to the city commissioners, questioning why the city did not go along with the level two countywide projects. She also pointed out possible changes in the county numbers.

"It has come to my attention that the numbers that have come out are not the engineered numbers," referring to the county-approved costs for the pool, which she

facility that's heated in the winter."

She said, "I'm hoping you're not opposed to us adding more funds to make this something for the community," adding, "Is everything a go? Not really. It isn't."

McLemore said, "My calculations are this would leave the county with \$27 million. The difference would come off from their projects."

Wilson agreed, saying, "If my board decides to change the projects," the money would come from the county's share, the \$27 million, and the split to which he referred to as "the McLemore plan."

Wilson noted that since

city to vote at its next scheduled meeting, the following day, July 22. Wilson said the language is being drawn up by county bond counsel.

The resolution approved Tuesday by the city commissioners specified the city's projects in the call for a referendum on the continuance of the 1-cent SPLOST, and to provide for an intergovernmental agreement between the county and cities governing the collection, distribution and use of the SPLOST funds, if approved by the voters at said referendum.

The cities of Orchard Hill and Sunny Side each asked for \$500,000 in projects, and each would also have to