

**STAFF REPORT FOR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 29, 2017**

**FILE NO: ZCA-17-024**

**AGENDA ITEM: F-4**

**STAFF AUTHOR:** Hope Sullivan, Planning Manager

**REQUEST:** To make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors regarding an ordinance amending Title 18, Zoning, Chapter 18.16, Development Standards, Division 1, Land Use and Site Design, Section 1.17, Multi-Family Apartment Development Standards, and Section 1.18, Residential Development Standards in Non-Residential Districts, to clarify that only multi-family residential development in the Multi-Family Apartment zoning district or in a non-residential zoning district is subject to the common open space requirements. (Hope Sullivan)

**APPLICANT:** Carson City Planning Division

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** "I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors approval of ZCA-17-024, an ordinance amending Title 18, Chapter 18.16, Development Standards, Division 1, Land Use and Site Design, Section 1.17, Multi-Family Apartment Development Standards, and Section 1.18, Residential Development Standards in Non-Residential Districts, to clarify that only multi-family residential development in the Multi-Family Apartment zoning district or in a non-residential zoning district is subject to the common open space requirements, and addressing other matters properly relating thereto."

**LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:** CCMC 18.02.050 (Review); 18.02.075 (Zoning Map Amendments and Zoning Code Amendments); NRS 278.260.

**KEY ISSUES:**

The proposed ordinance would clarify that only multi-family residential developments in either the Multi-Family Apartment (MFA) zoning district or in a non-residential zoning district are subject to the requirements for common open space.

**DISCUSSION:**

Per CCMC Section 18.04.105, a single family dwelling and a two-family dwelling are allowed uses in the Multi-Family Apartment (MFA) zoning district. Nonresidential zoning districts including Residential Office (RO), General Office (GO), Neighborhood Business (NB), Retail Commercial (RC), and General Commercial (GC) each allow a single family dwelling or a two-family dwelling as either an allowed use or a conditional use.

Section 1.17 of the Carson City Development Standards identifies minimum standards for residential development in the Multi-Family Apartment (MFA) zoning district. These standards include a minimum of 150 square feet per dwelling unit of common open space be provided.

Similarly, Section 1.18 of the Carson City Development Standards identified minimum standards for residential development within the Neighborhood Business (NB), Retail Commercial (RC), General Commercial (GC), Residential Office (RO) and General Office (GO) zoning districts. These standards include a minimum of 150 square feet per dwelling of common open space be provided.

The result of these provisions is that any single family residential development or two-family dwelling would be required to provide for common open space, thus would need to include an Homeowner's Association or similar instrument. It is appropriate to require common open

space in the case of multi-family residential development, as each unit tends to be limited to a patio or balcony. The common open space allows for shared yard space in cases where residents don't have private yard.

This rationale does not apply to single family residential development or two-family dwellings as in each of the applicable zoning districts, the minimum lot size of 6,000 square feet is required. Therefore, each lot will accommodate its own private yard.

Staff believes that the provisions of 1.17 and 1.18 of the Development Standards were adopted in anticipated that the contemplated development would be multi-family residential. The proposed text amendments are intended to clarify that the requirements for common open space apply only to multi-family residential development.

The following text amendments are proposed. (*Proposed additional wording is bolded and underlined.*)

### **1.17 Multi-Family Apartment Development Standards.**

The following standards are intended to establish minimum standards for multi-family residential development within the Multi-Family Apartment (MFA) zoning district.

1. Maximum permitted density:
  - a. For one-bedroom or studio units, one unit per 1,200 square feet of area.
  - b. For two or more bedroom units, one unit per 1,500 square feet of area.
2. Maximum building height: 45 feet.
3. Setbacks:
  - a. Front yard: 10 feet, plus an additional 10 feet for each story above two stories; minimum driveway approach from property line to garage doors is 20 feet.
  - b. Side yard: 10 feet for external project boundaries; minimum 10 feet between residential structures for internal setbacks. Where a side yard is adjacent to a single-family zoning district, an additional 10 feet is required for each story above one story.
  - c. Street side yard: 10 feet, plus an additional 5 feet for each story above two stories; minimum driveway approach from property line to garage doors is 20 feet.
  - d. Rear yard: 20 feet. Where a rear yard is adjacent to a single-family zoning district, an additional 10 feet is required for each story above one story.
4. Required parking: Two spaces per dwelling unit; and in compliance with the Development Standards Division 2, Parking and Loading.
5. Open Space:

- a. A minimum of 150 square feet per dwelling unit of common open space must be provided. For projects of 10 or more units, areas of common open space may only include contiguous landscaped areas with no dimension less than 15 feet, and a minimum of 100 square feet per unit of the common open space area must be designed for recreation, which may include but not be limited to picnic areas, sports courts, a softscape surface covered with turf, sand or similar materials acceptable for use by young children, including play equipment and trees, with no dimension less than 25 feet.
  - b. A minimum of 100 square feet of additional open space must be provided for each unit either as private open space or common open space.
  - c. Front and street side yard setback areas may not be included toward meeting the open space requirements.
6. Landscaping. Landscaping shall comply with the Development Standards Division 3, Landscaping.

#### **1.18 Residential Development Standards in Non-Residential Districts.**

The following standards are intended to establish minimum standards and Special Use Permit review criteria for residential development within the Neighborhood Business (NB), Retail Commercial (RC), General Commercial (GC), Residential Office (RO) and General Office (GO) zoning districts.

1. Permitted uses. Residential uses are only allowed as permitted by Chapter 18.04, Use Districts, as a primary or conditional use in the applicable zoning districts.
2. Maximum permitted density. There is no maximum residential density within non-residential zoning districts subject to meeting the height, setback, parking and open space requirements of this chapter.
3. Maximum building height shall be the maximum height established by the zoning district in which the project is located.
4. Setbacks. Minimum setbacks shall be those established by the zoning district in which the project is located, subject to the following:
  - a. In the NB, RC, GC and GO zoning districts, a minimum setback of 20 feet is required adjacent to a residential zoning district, with an additional 10 feet for each story above one story if adjacent to a single-family zoning district.
  - b. A minimum setback of 10 feet is required from the right-of-way of an arterial street as identified in the adopted Transportation Master Plan, excluding the Downtown Mixed-Use area.
5. Required parking: Two spaces per dwelling unit; and in compliance with the Development Standards Division 2, Parking and Loading.

6. Open Space. The following provisions apply only to multi-family residential development:
  - a. A minimum of 150 square feet per dwelling unit of common open space must be provided. For projects of 10 or more units, areas of common open space may only include contiguous landscaped areas with no dimension less than 15 feet, and a minimum of 100 square feet per unit of the common open space area must be designed for recreation, which may include but not be limited to picnic areas, sports courts, a softscape surface covered with turf, sand or similar materials acceptable for use by young children, including play equipment and trees, with no dimension less than 25 feet.
  - b. A minimum of 100 square feet of additional open space must be provided for each unit either as private open space or common open space.
  - c. Front and street side yard setback areas may not be included toward meeting the open space requirements.
7. Landscaping. Landscaping shall comply with the Carson City Development Standards Division 3, Landscaping.
8. Special Use Permit review standards. Where a residential use is a conditional use within a given zoning district, the Planning Commission shall make two of the following findings in the affirmative in the review of the Special Use Permit in addition to the required findings of Section 18.02.080 of the Carson City Municipal Code.
  - a. The development is not situated on a primary commercial arterial street frontage.
  - b. The development is integrated into a mixed-use development that includes commercial development
  - c. The applicant has provided evidence that the site is not a viable location for commercial uses.
  - d. The site is designated Mixed-Use Commercial, Mixed-Use Residential or Mixed-Use Employment on the Master Plan Land Use Map and the project meets all applicable mixed-use criteria and standards.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Public notice of this proposed Zoning Code Amendment was published in the newspaper and posted on the City's website pursuant to the provisions of NRS and CCMC. As of the writing of this staff report, no public comments were received. Any comments that are received after this report is complete will be submitted prior to or at the Planning Commission meeting, depending on their submittal date to the Planning Division.

**FINDINGS:**

The Commission, in forwarding a recommendation to the Board for approval of a Zoning Code Amendment, shall make the findings of fact found in CCMC 18.02.075(5). The following findings are recommended by staff:

**1. That the proposed amendment is in substantial compliance with and supports the goals and policies of the Master Plan.**

*The proposed amendment is in substantial compliance with the Master Plan. Policy 2.2a: Variety of Housing Types states the City shall “encourage a mix of housing models and densities for projects within the urbanized areas based upon their size, locations, surrounding neighborhood context, and applicable land use policies.” The proposed amendment will allow for single family residential and two-family residential development that is consistent with the single family residential and two-family residential development currently in the City. The proposed amendment does not change land use designations, densities, or policies of the Master Plan. All Master Plan goals and policies will continue to be in effect. The amendment will allow for future single family residential development or two-family residential development to not provide for common open space.*

**2. That the proposed amendment will provide for land uses compatible with existing adjacent land uses and will not have detrimental impacts to other properties in the vicinity.**

*The proposed amendment will not change the type of land use permitted per the Zoning Ordinance, therefore it will not create incompatible land uses.*

**3. That the proposed amendment will not negatively impact existing or planned public services or facilities and will not adversely impact the public health, safety and welfare.**

*The proposed amendment will allow development of single family residential and two-family residential development without a requirement for common open space. Instead, due to minimum lot sizes, each home will have private yard space. The proposed amendment will not negatively impact existing or planned public services or facilities, nor will it adversely impact public health, safety and welfare.*

Attachments:

- 1) Draft ordinance

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE NO. 2017 - \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 18, ZONING, CHAPTER 18.16, DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, DIVISION 1, LAND USE AND SITE DESIGN, SECTION 1.17, MULTI-FAMILY APARTMENT DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, AND SECTION 1.18, RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS IN NON-RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS, TO CLARIFY THAT ONLY MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MULTI-FAMILY APARTMENT ZONING DISTRICT OR IN A NON-RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICT IS SUBJECT TO THE COMMON OPEN SPACE REQUIREMENTS, AND OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY RELATED THERETO.

The Board of Supervisors of Carson City do ordain:

SECTION I:

That Title 18 (Zoning), Chapter 18.16 (Development Standards), Division 1 (Land Use and Site Design), Section 1.17 (Multi-Family Apartment Development Standards) is hereby amended, in part, as follows (bold, underlined text is added, ~~stricken~~ text is deleted):

**1.17 Multi-Family Apartment Development Standards.**

The following standards are intended to establish minimum standards for multi-family residential development within the Multi-Family Apartment (MFA) zoning district.

1. Maximum permitted density:
  - a. For one-bedroom or studio units, one unit per 1,200 square feet of area.
  - b. For two or more bedroom units, one unit per 1,500 square feet of area.
2. Maximum building height: 45 feet.
3. Setbacks:
  - a. Front yard: 10 feet, plus an additional 10 feet for each story above two stories; minimum driveway approach from property line to garage doors is 20 feet.
  - b. Side yard: 10 feet for external project boundaries; minimum 10 feet between residential structures for internal setbacks. Where a side yard is adjacent to a single-family zoning district, an additional 10 feet is required for each story above one story.

- c. Street side yard: 10 feet, plus an additional 5 feet for each story above two stories; minimum driveway approach from property line to garage doors is 20 feet.
  - d. Rear yard: 20 feet. Where a rear yard is adjacent to a single-family zoning district, an additional 10 feet is required for each story above one story.
4. Required parking: Two spaces per dwelling unit; and in compliance with the Development Standards Division 2, Parking and Loading.
5. Open Space:
- a. A minimum of 150 square feet per dwelling unit of common open space must be provided. For projects of 10 or more units, areas of common open space may only include contiguous landscaped areas with no dimension less than 15 feet, and a minimum of 100 square feet per unit of the common open space area must be designed for recreation, which may include but not be limited to picnic areas, sports courts, a softscape surface covered with turf, sand or similar materials acceptable for use by young children, including play equipment and trees, with no dimension less than 25 feet.
  - b. A minimum of 100 square feet of additional open space must be provided for each unit either as private open space or common open space.
  - c. Front and street side yard setback areas may not be included toward meeting the open space requirements.
6. Landscaping. Landscaping shall comply with the Development Standards Division 3, Landscaping.

SECTION II:

That Title 18 (Zoning), Chapter 18.16 (Development Standards), Division 1 (Land Use and Site Design), Section 1.18 (Residential Development Standards in Non-Residential Districts) is hereby amended, in part, as follows (**bold, underlined** text is added, ~~stricken~~ text is deleted):

**1.18 Residential Development Standards in Non-Residential Districts.**

The following standards are intended to establish minimum standards and Special Use Permit review criteria for residential development within the Neighborhood Business (NB), Retail Commercial (RC), General Commercial (GC), Residential Office (RO) and General Office (GO) zoning districts.

1. Permitted uses. Residential uses are only allowed as permitted by Chapter 18.04, Use Districts, as a primary or conditional use in the applicable zoning districts.
2. Maximum permitted density. There is no maximum residential density within non-residential zoning districts subject to meeting the height, setback, parking and open space requirements of this chapter.
3. Maximum building height shall be the maximum height established by the zoning district in which the project is located.
4. Setbacks. Minimum setbacks shall be those established by the zoning district in which the project is located, subject to the following:
  - a. In the NB, RC, GC and GO zoning districts, a minimum setback of 20 feet is required adjacent to a residential zoning district, with an additional 10 feet for each story above one story if adjacent to a single-family zoning district.
  - b. A minimum setback of 10 feet is required from the right-of-way of an arterial street as identified in the adopted Transportation Master Plan, excluding the Downtown Mixed-Use area.
5. Required parking: Two spaces per dwelling unit; and in compliance with the Development Standards Division 2, Parking and Loading.
6. Open Space. **The following provisions apply only to multi-family residential development:**
  - a. A minimum of 150 square feet per dwelling unit of common open space must be provided. For projects of 10 or more units, areas of common open space may only include contiguous landscaped areas with no dimension less than 15 feet, and a minimum of 100 square feet per unit of the common open space area must be designed for recreation, which may include but not be limited to picnic areas, sports courts, a softscape surface covered with turf, sand or similar materials acceptable for use by young children, including play equipment and trees, with no dimension less than 25 feet.
  - b. A minimum of 100 square feet of additional open space must be provided for each unit either as private open space or common open space.
  - c. Front and street side yard setback areas may not be included toward meeting the open space requirements.
7. Landscaping. Landscaping shall comply with the Carson City Development Standards Division 3, Landscaping.



8. Special Use Permit review standards. Where a residential use is a conditional use within a given zoning district, the Planning Commission shall make two of the following findings in the affirmative in the review of the Special Use Permit in addition to the required findings of Section 18.02.080 of the Carson City Municipal Code.
- a. The development is not situated on a primary commercial arterial street frontage.
  - b. The development is integrated into a mixed-use development that includes commercial development
  - c. The applicant has provided evidence that the site is not a viable location for commercial uses.
  - d. The site is designated Mixed-Use Commercial, Mixed-Use Residential or Mixed-Use Employment on the Master Plan Land Use Map and the project meets all applicable mixed-use criteria and standards.

SECTION III:

That no other provisions of Title 18 of the Carson City Municipal Code are affected by this ordinance.

PROPOSED on \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

PROPOSED by \_\_\_\_\_.

PASSED \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

VOTE: AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

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NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

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ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROBERT L. CROWELL, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUSAN MERRIWETHER, Clerk-Recorder

This ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2017.