



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The City of Ruston proposes a high-density development moratorium

RUSTON, LA – The Ruston Planning and Zoning Commission, in their regular meeting Monday March 16, 2009, unanimously endorsed the city’s proposed Temporary Moratorium on large, high density developments in Residential areas until the Ruston 21 plan and new land-use regulations are completed. The Temporary Moratorium, which is not a general moratorium on building and development, will provide an opportunity for adequate study of potential smart growth land use regulation which is balanced and compatible with existing neighborhoods. The proposed Ruston 21 plan, including potential recommendations for new smart growth regulation, is expected to be presented by mid-2010, coordinating with the expiration of the Temporary Moratorium.

The action taken is in response to concerns expressed by citizens who were involved in the Ruston 21 Visioning Day process in November 2008. Mayor Dan Hollingsworth stated, “Our citizens were concerned about a number of issues, and preserving existing neighborhoods was one of the widely expressed concerns voiced by Ruston citizens during the Visioning Day process.” This is just one of a sizeable number of other issues that are being addressed presently or will be addressed in the near future as the city works toward planning for the future. City officials were optimistic that the new plan, on which work already is underway, will be completed before the anticipated deadline of September 30, 2010.

This temporary moratorium only targets one small segment of the building and construction potential in Ruston and it does not apply to any existing development projects or any approved subdivisions. City officials emphasized that it is not a general moratorium on building and development. City officials expressed the opinion that the plan is to develop new and improved land use regulations which embrace Smart Growth and actually allow more compact developments, develop easier to understand regulations that will be more helpful to developers, and bring City codes up to date with the realities of today’s marketplace.

These new regulations should promote pedestrian friendly development that is compatible with neighborhoods and offer more green space. City officials expressed that the new regulations are expected to help developers reduce their infrastructure costs and at the same time provide open space and attractive developments that are compatible with their neighbors. Over the past few years, Ruston has enjoyed success in growing as a community. “The city recognizes that it must have better tools to meet the future challenges if we are to remain the city we love and preserve those things that are important to us,” says Hollingsworth, “our regulations have to be modified to complement the new while preserving our heritage.”

Included with this press release is a copy of the Staff Report for the March Planning Commission Meeting and a copy of the Proposed Ordinance for the Temporary Moratorium on High Density Residential Development.

For More Information Contact:

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