

# Baldwin County Planning & Zoning Department

# **Baldwin County Planning Commission Staff Report**

Case No. Z25-16
SR Development LLC Property
Rezone RA, Rural Agricultural to B-2, Neighborhood Business District
May 1, 2025

## **Subject Property Information**

Planning District: 22

**General Location:** East of County Rd 87 and South of County Rd 32

Physical Address: N/A

**Parcel Numbers:** 05-53-02-04-0-000-003.001 **Existing Zoning:** RA, Rural Agricultural District

**Proposed Zoning:** B-2, Neighborhood Business District

**Existing Land Use:** Vacant **Proposed Land Use:** Commercial **Acreage:** 2.55 ± acres

**Applicant:** Broadway Construction Company, LLC - Robert Broadway

PO BOX 18968

Huntsville, AL 35804

Owner: SR Development LLC

PO BOX 18968

Huntsville, AL 35804

Lead Staff: Calla Mckenzie, Planning Technician II

**Attachments:** Within Report

Adjacent Land Use		Adjacent Zoning
North	Residential	N/A - Unzoned
South	Vacant	RSF-1, Single Family Estate District
East	Residential	RSF-1, Single Family Estate District
West	Commercial – Under Construction	B-2, Neighborhood Business District

### **Summary**

The subject property encompasses approximately 2.55 acres and is currently zoned as RA, Rural Agricultural District. A request has been made to change the designation to B-2, Neighborhood Business District, to facilitate future commercial use.

# **Current Zoning Requirements**

# Section 3.2 RA, Rural Agricultural District

- 3.2.1 Generally. This zoning district provides for large, open, unsubdivided land that is vacant or is being used for agricultural, forest or other rural purposes.-Low-density residential development that maintains the rural character of the district is permitted in accordance with the permitted uses and area and dimensional requirements of this section.
- 3.2.2 Permitted uses. Except as provided by Section 2.3: Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts, the following uses and structures designed for such uses shall be permitted:
  - (a) The following general industrial uses: extraction or removal of natural resources on or under land.
  - (b) The following transportation, communication, and utility uses: water well (public or private).
  - (c) Outdoor recreation uses.
  - (d) The following general commercial uses: animal clinic and/or kennel; farm implement sales; farmers market/truck crops; nursery; landscape sales; country club.
  - (e) The following local commercial uses: fruit and produce store.
  - (f) The following institutional uses: church or similar religious facility; school (public or private).
  - (g) Agricultural uses.
  - (h) Single family dwellings including manufactured housing and mobile homes.
  - Accessory structures and uses.
- 3.2.3 Permit Exemptions for Agricultural Uses and Agriculture Buildings. Agricultural uses and Agriculture Buildings, as defined in this ordinance, within the RA zoning district, shall be exempt from the Zoning Site Plan and Zoning Land Disturbance permitting requirements of this ordinance.
- 3.2.33.2.4 Special exceptions. Except as provided by Section 2.3: Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts, the following uses and structures designed for such uses may be allowed as special exceptions: Not Applicable

3.2.43.2.5 Conditional Use Commission Site Plan Approval. Except as provided by Section 2.3: Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts, the following uses and structures designed for such uses may be allowed by the site plan approval process:

- (a) Transportation, communication, and utility uses not permitted by right.
- (b) Institutional uses not permitted by right.
- (c) The following general commercial uses: low density recreational vehicle park (see Section 13.8: Recreational Vehicle Parks).
- (d) The following local commercial uses: bed and breakfast or tourist home (see Section 13.10: Bed and Breakfast Establishments).

3.2.53.2.6 Area and dimensional ordinances. Except as provided by Section 2.3: Establishment of Zoning in Planning Districts, Section 12.4: Height Modifications, Section 12.5: Yard Requirements, Section 12.6: Coastal Areas, Section 12.8: Highway Construction Setbacks, Section 18.4 Variances, and Article 20: Nonconformities, the area and dimensional ordinances set forth below shall be observed.

Minimum Front Yard	40-Feet
Minimum Rear Yard	40-Feet
Minimum Side Yards	15-Feet
Minimum Lot Area	3 Acres
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	210-Feet
Minimum Lot Width at Street Line	210-Feet

3.2.63.2.7 Area and dimensional modifications. Within the RA district, area and dimensional requirements may be reduced, as set forth below, where property is divided among the following legally related family members: spouse, children, siblings, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, or step-related individuals of the same status.

Minimum Front Yard	30-Feet
Minimum Rear Yard	30-Feet
Minimum Side Yards	10-Feet
Minimum Lot Area	40,000 Square Feet
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	120-Feet
Minimum Lot Width at Street Line	120-Feet

#### **Proposed Zoning Requirements**

#### Section 5.2 B-2, Neighborhood Business District

- 5.2.1 *Purpose and intent.* The purpose and intent of the B-2 Neighborhood Business District is to provide a limited commercial convenience facility, servicing nearby residential neighborhoods, planned and developed as an integral unit.
- 5.2.2 Permitted uses. The following uses are permitted as of right, or as uses accessory to permitted uses in the B-2, Neighborhood Business District, conditioned on the Commission Site Plan Approval requirements of Section 18.9:
  - (a) All uses permitted by right under the B-1 zoning designation
  - (b) Antique store
  - (c) Apparel and accessory store
  - (d) Appliance store including repair
  - (e) Art gallery or museum
  - (f) Art supplies
  - (q) Bait store
  - (h) Bakery retail
  - (i) Bed and breakfast or tourist home
  - (j) Bicycle sales and service
  - (k) Boarding, rooming or lodging house, dormitory
  - (I) Book store
  - (m) Café
  - (n) Camera and photo shop
  - (o) Candy store
  - (p) Catering shop or service
  - (q) Copy shop
  - (r) Delicatessen
  - (s) Discount/variety store (not to exceed 8,000 square feet)
  - (t) Drug store (not to exceed 8,000 square feet)
  - (u) Fixture sales

- (v) Floor covering sales or service
- (w) Florist
- (x) Fraternity or sorority house
- (y) Fruit and produce store
- (z) Gift shop
- (aa) Hardware store, retail
- (bb) Ice cream parlor
- (cc) Interior decorating shop
- (dd) Laundry, self service
- (ee) Lawnmower sales and service
- (ff) Locksmith
- (gg) Music store
- (hh) Neighborhood convenience store
- (ii) News stand
- (jj) Paint and wallpaper store
- (kk) Picture framing and/or mirror silvering
- (II) Restaurant
- (mm) Shoe repair shop
- (nn) Shoe store
- (oo) Sign shop
- (pp) Sporting goods store
- (qq) Tailor shop
- (rr) Tobacco store
- (ss) Toy store

5.2.3 Conditional Use Commission Site Plan Approval. The following uses are permissible as Commission Site Plan Approval uses in the B-2, Neighborhood

Business District, subject to the standards and procedures established in Section 18.9: Commission Site Plan Approval:

- (a) Air conditioning sales and service
- (b) Amusement arcade
- (c) Animal clinic/kennels
- (d) Arboretum
- (e) Ball field
- (f) Business machine sales and service
- (g) Car wash
- (h) Country club
- (i) Discount/variety store (exceeding 8,000 square feet)
- (j) Drug store (exceeding 8,000 square feet)
- (k) Exterminator service office
- (I) Golf course
- (m) Liquor store
- (n) Mini warehouse
- (o) Night club, bar, tavern
- (p) Office equipment and supplies sales

- (q) Park or playground
- (r) Pawn shop
- (s) Pet shop
- (t) Plumbing shop
- (u) Restaurant sales and supplies
- (v) Riding academy
- (w) Rug and/or drapery cleaning service
- (x) Seafood store
- (y) Swimming pool (outdoor)
- (z) Tennis court (outdoor)
- (aa) Water storage tank
- (bb) Wildlife sanctuary
- (cc) Wireless telecommunication facility
- (dd) Dwellings, in combination with commercial uses, subject to the standards listed under Section 5.2.4: Mixed uses
- 5.2.4 Mixed uses. Mixed residential and commercial uses may be permissible as Commission Site Plan in the B-2 Neighborhood Business District, subject to the standards and procedures established in Section 18.9: Commission Site Plan Approval, and subject to the following criteria:
  - (a) The commercial uses in the development may be limited in hours of operation, size of delivery trucks and type of equipment.
  - (b) The residential uses shall be designed so that they are compatible with the commercial uses.
  - (c) Residential and commercial uses shall not occupy the same floor of a building.
  - (d) Residential and commercial uses shall not share the same entrances.

- (e) The number of residential dwelling units shall be controlled by the dimensional standards of the B-2 district. A dwelling unit density of .5 (½) dwelling units per 1,000 square feet of the gross floor area devoted to commercial uses, may be allowed (structures with less than 2,000 square feet devoted to commercial uses shall be allowed one dwelling unit). In no case, however, shall the overall dwelling unit density for a mixed use project exceed 4 dwelling units per acre.
- (f) Building height shall not exceed three stories.
- (g) A minimum of 30 percent of the mixed-use development shall be maintained as open space. The following may be used to satisfy the open space requirements: areas used to satisfy water management requirements, landscaped areas, recreation areas, or setback areas not covered with impervious surface or used for parking (parking lot islands may not be used unless existing native vegetation is maintained).
- (h) The mixed commercial/residential structure shall be designed to enhance compatibility of the commercial and residential uses through such measures as, but not limited to, minimizing noise associated with commercial uses; directing commercial lighting away from residential units; and separating pedestrian and vehicular access ways and parking areas from residential units, to the greatest extent possible.
- (i) Off-street parking spaces for the mixed residential and commercial uses shall be the sum total of the residential and commercial uses computed separately (See *Article 15: Parking and Loading Requirements*).

#### 5.2.5 Area and dimensional ordinances.

Maximum Height of Structure	35-Feet
Maximum Height of Structure in Habitable	Stories 2½
Minimum Front Yard	30-Feet
Minimum Rear Yard	25-Feet
Minimum Side Yards	15-Feet
Minimum Lot Area	20,000 Square Feet
Maximum Impervious Surface Ratio	.60
Minimum Lot Width at Building Line	80-Feet
Minimum Lot Width at Street Line	60-Feet

#### **Agency Comments**

**USACE**, James Buckelew: Staff reached out on 4/7/25 but received no comments.

ADEM, Scott Brown: Staff reached out on 4/7/25 but received no comments.

<u>Subdivisions</u>, Shawn Mitchell: We are currently reviewing an application for a 2-lot subdivision of the subject property.

<u>Civil Engineer, Tyler Austin:</u> No development proposed at this time. Any future development will require review for drainage and construction plans. Access for the subject property along CR 32 will require CTP permit from Baldwin County P&Z.

# **Staff Analysis and Findings**

The criteria for reviewing zoning amendments are outlined in Section 19.6 of the Baldwin County Zoning Ordinance. Staff carefully considered all of these factors during the evaluation of the application.

The subject property is situated in Planning District 22, which adopted a zoning map in November 2002. Following this adoption, there have been minimal changes in local conditions. All of the immediately adjacent properties have been rezoned since zoning was adopted to either RSF-1 or B-2. The proposed amendment appears to be a logical expansion and aligns with the existing development patterns in the area, as this property is immediately adjacent to a commercial property that is under development and is across the street from commercial uses. The proposed B-2 zoning aims to offer limited commercial services to nearby residential neighborhoods, planned and developed as a cohesive unit. The Future Land Use Map shows the property as having mainly Moderate Development Potential. The property is also located near a Rural Crossroads Center Node, which aims to serve the needs of the community with a mix of retail and service uses scaled to the appropriate context of the place type they are located within. This proposal should not conflict with any public improvements, affect traffic patterns, or affect the health, safety, and welfare of the County. There are also no environmental or historic resources that would be impacted.

#### **Staff Comments and Recommendation**

As previously mentioned, the subject property encompasses approximately 2.55 acres and is currently zoned as RA, Rural Agricultural District. A request has been submitted for the designation of B-2, Neighborhood Business District, to facilitate future commercial use. Staff has carefully evaluated all relevant factors concerning this application and recommends that the rezoning application be approved.

Unless information to the contrary is revealed at the public hearing, staff feels this rezoning application should be recommended for **APPROVAL**.\*

\*On rezoning applications, the Planning Commission will be making a recommendation to the County Commission.

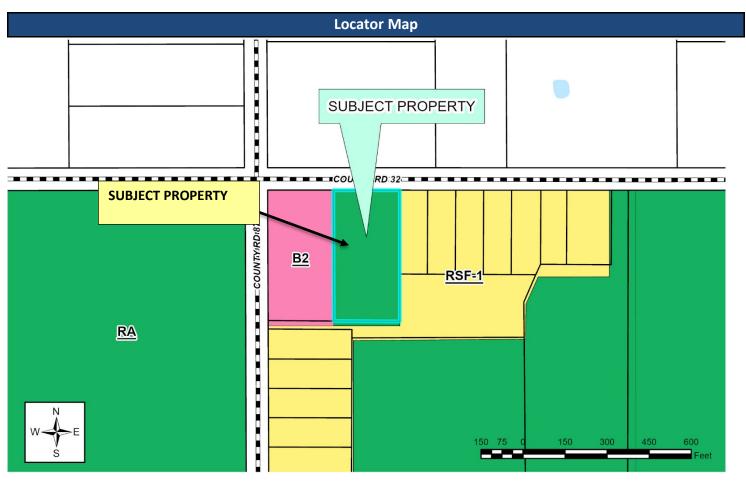
# **Property Images**













# **FLUM**

