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CITY OF OPELIKA PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING CANCELLED FOR MARCH 24, 2020 DUE TO COVID-19

PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 20, 2020

OPELIKA, Ala. – Due to concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Opelika is cancelling the March 24 Planning Commission meeting. We understand that this will impact applicants, property and business owners, developers and design professionals, but it is numerically impossible for us to hold this meeting after Gov. Kay Ivey implemented a recent public health order.

In her order she mandated that all gatherings of 25 persons or more are prohibited. The Planning Commission meeting requires that at a minimum the city has some 17 people present – commission members, city staff, attorney, engineer, fire chief and power and utility personnel. This only leaves eight available spots for attendees.

The March Commission Meeting had 17 agenda items with 14 public hearings. The law states that the city must allow applicants and their engineers/surveyors, as well as citizens and the media attend the meeting. Therefore, the city planning department and city officials know that it will be impossible to stay within the Governor's order.

“We are looking at opportunities to implement technology that will allow us the ability to hold public meetings in the next few weeks. If we can get this done, we plan to call a special planning commission meeting prior to our next scheduled meeting on April 28. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this causes you,” said Matt Mosely, Planning Director.

For more information, please call the City of Opelika Planning Department at 334-705-5156.

