

# Council panel takes up

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THE JOURNAL

WALHALLA — Oconee County's much-debated Zoning Enabling Ordinance is out of the hands of the Planning Commission and in the laps of Oconee County Council members. Planners spent a good part of last year and the early part of this year reviewing and offering recommendations to improve the ZEO.

The Commission's recommended draft made it on the agenda of today's Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting that begins at 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commis-

sion Chairman Ryan Honea said Monday that he expects committee members to schedule a workshop for council and commission members to fully discuss the revised ZEO.

Honea said that while he doesn't expect the proposed ZEO changes to get a detailed look at today's meeting, he plans to attend just the same.

"I'll be there in case there's something for me to answer," Honea said. "Let's get a workshop scheduled and get this zoning ordinance half-way worked out."

The Commission completed a revision of the 52-page ZEO on Feb. 6. It



## IF YOU GO

**What:** Planning and Economic Development Committee

**When:** 5:30 p.m. Tuesday

**Where:** Council Chambers, 415 S. Pine St., Walhalla

marked the first wholesale changes to the ZEO since being adopted in 2008 and implemented May 1, 2009.

Honea recommended a provision that would

stop what he termed as "land-grabbing or overreaching" by some rezoning petitioners. The change, according to Honea, would make it more difficult for hom-

## zoning revisions

owners in subdivisions with 1.5 acres or less from pulling in property owners with larger tracts.

Other changes proposed is the addition of two new zoning districts — Mixed Use District and Planned Development District — to go with the 12 districts already in the law.

Mixed Use District allows for residential and

non-residential projects situated adjacent or nearby each other that must adhere to proposed dimensional requirements. Planned Development District is geared for "areas suitable for relatively intense mixed-use development that offers significant amounts of open space and amenities ..."

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