



Department of Planning & Zoning Staff Report – Map Amendment Case No. 2024-1-R

APPLICATION INFORMATION

- **Submittal Date:** 1/3/2024

- **Applicant / Property Owner**

Denver Perilloux 2237 Singleton Street Houston, TX 77008 504-201-1803 denverperilloux@gmail.com	Terry & Dana Perilloux 17956 River Road Montz, LA 70068 985-817-9482 twperilloux@rcloud.com
Chris M. Trepagnier OT Properties, LLC 17968 River Road Montz, LA 70068 985-778-0888 chris@treplawfirm.com	Chris M. Trepagnier Three 4 Three, LLC 331 Girod Street Mandeville, LA 70441 985-778-0888 chris@treplawfirm.com
Robert Oubre 23046 Mixon Road Amite LA 70422 504-559-5099 rroubre@gmail.net	

- **Request**

Change of zoning:

 - Current - O-L, Open Land District & R-1A(M), Single Family Residential Detached Conventional Homes, Manufactured Homes, and Mobile Homes - Medium density
 - Proposed - R-1A, Single family residential detached conventional homes - Medium density

SITE INFORMATION

- **Location**

The site consists of five individual tracts (P-1, 1B-1-A, 1A-1, Roussel & 3605A) situated between Dixieland and Country Cottage Subdivisions in Montz. Subject tracts 1B-1-A and 1A-1 are addressed as 17956 & 17962 River Road, Montz.
- **Size:** approximately 1,851,300 sq. ft. (42.5 acres)
- **Current Use:**

The subject site is mostly undeveloped land, some of which is wooded. Portions of Lot P-1 and the Roussel Tract have been used for agricultural purposes. A single family house is located on Lot 1B-1-A. Another single family house occupied Lot 1A-1 but has been removed.
- **Surrounding Zoning**

B-2, Batture, R-1A(M), and O-L zoning is located to the River Road side; R-1A(M) and O-L zoning is located to the Country Cottage Subdivision side; R-1A zoning is located to the Thoroughbred Avenue and Edgewood Lane sides.
- **Surrounding Uses**

The site is located in an area of Montz developed primarily with single family residential subdivisions, including Dixieland to the downriver side, Country Cottage to the upriver side, and Evangeline Estates to the Airline Drive side. Additional single family homes can be found outside of established subdivisions fronting River Road.

▪ **Zoning History**

The existing R-1A(M) and O-L districts were established in 1981.

▪ **Future Land Use Recommendation**

Low-to-Moderate Residential – Single-family detached dwellings; attached dwellings such as duplexes, patio/zero-lot line homes and townhomes; and accessory units. Neighborhood retail, services, offices and institutions are also permitted in appropriate locations such as along transportation corridors or at intersections. (over six dwellings per acre)

Recommended Zoning Districts: R-1A (6,000 sf. min. lot size), R-1B (10,000 sf. min. lot size), R-1AM (accessory units and individual mobile homes)

▪ **Flood Zone & Minimum Building Elevation**

1992 Flood Insurance Rate Map: X zone

2013 Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map: X

▪ **Traffic Access**

Lot P-1 and 3605A do not have direct frontage/access to an improved public right-of-way. The remaining tracts (1B-1-A, 1A-1, Roussel) have contiguous frontage on River Road totaling approximately 450 ft.

▪ **Utilities**

The Parish GIS map shows drainage, water, and sewer facilities along River Road. Drainage facilities are also depicted within the subject area, most notably the Coulee Canal.

A representative from the Department of Waterworks stated no burden to the water system is expect from potential resulting development.

The Director of Wastewater stated down-stream sewer improvements may be needed, but offered no objection to the rezoning request.

The Senior Parish Engineer for the Department of Public Works stated they have no objection to the rezoning request, but with any subsequent development items such as drainage will have to be addressed.

Any significant subdivision development that could result from approval of this rezoning would go through the Major Subdivision process. As part of that process the Parish reviews a Drainage Impact Analysis, Traffic Impact Analysis, and detailed construction plans to ensure new infrastructure is developed to current Parish standards and existing infrastructure and surrounding development are not adversely affected.

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

Appendix A. Section VI. – Zoning District Criteria and Regulations

[I.] *R-1A. Single family residential detached conventional homes—Medium density.*

Policy statement: This district is composed of areas containing one-family dwellings constructed on a permanent foundation, connected to public utilities and which meet the architectural standards of a permanent residence. The district regulations are designed to protect the residential character of the areas by prohibiting all commercial activities; to encourage a suitable neighborhood environment for family life by including among the permitted uses such facilities as schools and churches; and to preserve the openness of the areas by requiring certain minimum yard and area standards to be met.

1. Use Regulations:

a. A building or land shall be used only for the following purposes:

- (1) Site-built single-family detached dwellings
- (2) Accessory uses
- (3) Private recreational uses

b. Special exception uses and structures include the following:

- (1) Parks, public libraries, fire stations, police or sheriff's stations or substations, and sewer pumping stations.
- (2) Showing the operation of historic buildings and/or sites and their related activities, provided a certificate from the United States Department of Interior is furnished by the owner verifying that the building and/or site is on the National Register of Historic Places.
- (3) Accessory uses to golf courses and country clubs limited to the following:
 - art studios
 - churches and religious institutions

- commercial recreation facilities
 - commercial schools
 - personal service businesses, examples include but are not limited to beauty shops and barber shops, acupuncture, and massage services
 - professional offices, examples include but are not limited to doctors, dentists, engineers, architects, landscape architects, plan services, realtors, insurance
 - restaurants and cafeterias
- c. Special permit uses and structures include the following:
- (1) Child care centers.
 - (2) Public and private schools (except trade, business, and industrial).
 - (3) Golf courses (but not miniature courses or driving ranges), country clubs, and accessory commercial uses on such properties.
 - (4) Educational, religious and philanthropic institutions. These buildings must be set back from all yard lines a distance of at least one (1) foot for each foot of building height.
 - (5) Modular, panelized and precut homes, provided that they are placed on a permanent foundation.
 - (6) *Reserved.*
 - (7) Private commercial access roads, upon review by the Planning Commission and supporting resolution of the Council.
 - (8) Accessory dwelling units upon approval by the Planning Commission and supporting resolution of the Council.
 - (9) Garden Home Developments in accordance with Section VII Supplemental Regulations upon review and recommendation of the Planning Commission and supporting resolution of the St. Charles Parish Council.
2. Spatial Requirements:
- a. Minimum lot size: Six thousand (6,000) square feet per family; minimum width—sixty (60) feet.
 - b. Minimum yard sizes:
 - (1) Front—Twenty (20) feet.
 - (2) Side—Five (5) feet.
 - (3) Rear—Twenty (20) feet.
 - (4) For lots with less than one hundred (100) feet depth, front setback and rear setback shall be twenty (20) percent of lot depth respectively with a minimum of ten (10) feet to the front lot line and five (5) feet to the rear lot line.
 - (5) Whenever property abuts a major drainage canal as defined by the Subdivision regulations the required setback for all structures shall be ten (10) feet measured from the inner boundary of such servitude or right-of-way, notwithstanding any other more restrictive setbacks, this provision shall not apply to any lot of record created and existing prior to the effective date of Ordinance No. 99-12-8, December 15, 1999.
 - c. Accessory buildings:
 - (1) An accessory building may occupy no more than twenty-five (25) percent of the required rear yard.
 - (2) The accessory building shall not exceed two-story construction.
 - (3) Minimum setback of accessory buildings including overhangs, shall be three (3) feet.
 - (4) Nonresidential accessory buildings shall not be permitted.
 - d. Permitted encroachments:
 - (1) Overhangs projecting not more than twenty-four (24) inches, excluding gutter. For accessory buildings, overhangs shall not be closer than three (3) feet to any property line.
 - (2) Stairs and landings not more than three (3) feet in height, projecting no more than four (4) feet into required front or rear yard.

Appendix A. Section XV. - Amendment procedure

D. Rezoning guidelines and criteria: The proponent for a change should present reasonable factual proof that two or more of the following criteria are met:

1. The proposed rezoning conforms to land development pattern established by the St. Charles Parish Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and does not create a spot zone that is incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood.
2. The Land-use pattern or character has changed to the extent that the existing zoning no longer allows reasonable use of the applicant's property, and that the proposed zoning does. In order to determine what is reasonable use of the property, the proponent for the zoning change should consider one or more of the following:
 - a. Consideration of uses on adjacent properties that would limit the use of the site under consideration.
 - b. Consideration of unique or unusual physical or environmental limitations due to size, shape, topography or related hazards or deficiencies.
 - c. Consideration of changes in land value, physical environment or economic aspects which can be shown to limit the usefulness of vacant land or buildings.
3. Potential uses permitted by the proposed rezoning will not be incompatible with existing neighborhood character nor will they overburden public facilities and infrastructure.

The Planning Staff shall base rezoning analyses on these criteria but shall not be prohibited from factoring unique circumstances of the application into the analysis. The Planning and Zoning Commission may state in its recommendations to the Council: its concurrence with, or rejection of, any or all of the proponents' case for the suggested amendment, and/or its position relative to proponents' statements on the case. Planning Staff analyses and recommendations shall be forwarded to the Council along with the Commission's recommendations.

E. Rezoning approval criteria: Before the Council votes to approve a rezoning, there should be reasonable factual proof by the applicant that:

1. The proposed map amendment is in compliance, or is not in conflict, with the goals and recommendations of the St. Charles Parish Comprehensive Plan and Future Land Use Map, also
2. The proposed map amendment does not negatively impact the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

REZONING GUIDELINE & CRITERIA EVALUATION

1. *The proposed rezoning conforms to the land development pattern established by the St. Charles Parish Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map and does not create a spot zoning that is incompatible with the surrounding neighborhood.*

The subject site is within an area designated *Low-Moderate Residential*, which anticipates development of those residential uses typically permitted in the R-1A, R-1B, and R-1A(M) zoning districts. The request would not be considered a spot zone since it covers a large area and expands on an adjacent R-1A district. The proposed R-1A zoning does conform to the land development pattern established by the Future Land Use Map and furthers the goal of the Comprehensive Plan. **The request meets the first guideline.**

2. *The Land-use pattern or character has changed to the extent that the existing zoning no longer allows reasonable use of the applicant's property and the proposed zoning does.*

Montz has been the subject of five large-scale rezonings to R-1A causing significant shifts in the land-use pattern/character:

- PZR-1990-04; Ordinance No. 90-3-1 – Evangeline Road from River Road to the CN Railroad
- PZR-1990-08; Ordinance No. 90-5-6 – Evangeline Road to from the CN Railroad to Airline Drive
- PZR-2001-03; Ordinance No. 01-2-5 – Evangeline Estates Subdivision
- PZR-2002-06; Ordinance No. 02-5-1 – Country Cottage Estates Subdivision
- PZR-2003-06; Ordinance No. 03-5-15 – Country Cottage Estates Subdivision

Large-scale, planned residential subdivision development in Montz had long been limited to Evangeline Road (Evangeline City, 1927) and Thoroughbred Avenue (Dixieland, 1977 & 1979). Development in the remaining area was sparse and consisted of either heavily wooded undeveloped land, agricultural uses, or individually developed residences along River Road. The early 2000s marked a significant shift in the land use pattern of Montz. The above referenced rezonings in 2001, 2002, and 2003 allowed for the introduction of typical suburban single family subdivisions with the development of Country Cottage Estates (263 lots, 2002-2006) and Evangeline Estates (70 lots, 2002-2004).

The existing zoning is not necessarily unreasonable. Those uses permitted in the R-1A district can be permitted in the R-1A(M) and O-L districts. But the proposed R-1A zoning would be more reasonable as it would permit the type of development that is more in line with the current land-use pattern and character of Montz as detailed above. **The request meets the second guideline.**

3. *Potential uses permitted by the proposed rezoning will not be incompatible with existing neighborhood character nor will they overburden public facilities and infrastructure.*

The proposed R-1A zoning would be compatible with the surrounding neighborhood character consisting primarily of single family residential homes, most of which within typical residential subdivisions (Dixieland, Country Cottage Estates, Evangeline Estates).

R-1A zoning would allow for residential development at a higher density compared to what could be permitted under the primarily O-L zoning (6,000 sq. ft. lot minimum vs. 20,000 sq. ft. lot minimum), so increased impact to public facilities could be expected and must be accounted for as part of any resulting development. At this time the Department of Waterworks stated no additional burden to their system would occur.

The Director of the Department of Wastewater stated that while down-stream sewer improvements may be necessary, there is no objection to the proposed zoning change. Any significant subdivision development resulting from this request would go through the Major Subdivision process. As part of this process, detailed plans are reviewed to ensure new water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure will be built to Parish standards, and any adverse impact to existing facilities identified and mitigated. **The request meets the third guideline.**

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Approval, based on meeting all rezoning criteria.

This request will be forwarded with the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Parish Council for a second public hearing and final determination.