

Summary of the October 7, 2016 Public Hearing

In the following comments below you will find a summary of the public hearing to receive public comment on proposed revisions to the Greene County Zoning Ordinance to establish appropriate restrictions on and regulation of vacation rental by owner (VRBO) uses.

Jerry Hill – Jerry spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance, adding that he considers himself a victim of VRBO uses that negatively affect him. He believed that the County was leaving hotel/motel tax revenue uncollected today. He would like the ordinance to not exclude PUD or CPUD rentals “that are rented through a professionally-managed rental program of the developer of such developments.” He cited a VRBO in his neighborhood that advertised the ability to accommodate 34 people, and that said number of people was too many. He mentioned that VRBO uses are upsetting to residents and fellow church members, as well as a burden on public safety agencies.

Sally Littleton – Sally stated that she rents her house weekly and that they remit hotel/motel taxes and maintain the appropriate licensing. She added that she personally levies a \$500 fine for violations by tenants, they never allow more than 12 to stay in their house, and have never had a call complaining about tenants. She added that VRBO uses positively affect real estate and are part of the overall sales pitch to sell homes.

Ginny VanOostrom-Willett – Ginny stated she disagreed with the proposed ordinance, believing it to infringe on personal property rights. She believed that Georgia law exempts VRBOs from having to be recorded as rentals. She stated that limiting the use of a home as proposed in the ordinance would have negative economic effects and lead to decreased patronization of shopping and restaurant establishments, adding later that she believed greater than 50% of traffic is attributable to vacationers using VRBO homes. She further stated that that would negatively affect the price of homes in light of the fact that people couldn’t rent out homes for weekends or Masters week.

Joyce Kinder – Joyce identified herself as a realtor with 23 years experience. She stated that you cannot disregard the VRBO vacationers’ desire to spend money in this community, while also adding that you cannot disregard