

MINUTES

Valdosta-Lowndes Zoning Board of Appeals
*Valdosta City Hall Annex Multi-Purpose
Room 300 North Lee Street,
Valdosta, Georgia*

Tuesday May 5, 2026 2:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

John “Mac” McCall
Keith Godfrey
Nancy Hobby
Allan Strickland
Travis Cox
Marion Ramsey

MEMBERS ABSENT

Nathan Brantley

STAFF PRESENT

Margaret Torres
Trinni Amiot
David Henry

VISITORS PRESENT

Mike Dupell
Michelle Dupell
Carlton Richard
Justin Woodward

CALL TO ORDER

John “Mac” McCall

Calling of meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. and explanation of meeting process to all those in attendance.

CITY OF VALDOSTA CASES:

APP-2026-05-Mike Dupell-(3618 Victoria Dr.) Request for a Variance to LDR 218-7 (G) as it pertains to Accessory Structure Setback Standards in R-15 (Single-Family Residential) Zoning District. The subject property is located at 3618 Victoria Drive (all or part of Tax Parcel 0107C 182).

Margaret Torres presented the case to the Board. She explained that the applicant is requesting a variance to setbacks so that he may place an accessory structure on his property. For the applicant to meet the setback requirements, he would need to remove a large pine tree from his property. Margaret Torres stated that staff recommended denial.

Mac McCall asked if anyone was present to speak in favor.

Michelle Dupell addressed the Board. She stated that they need the variance to clean out their garage so that they may park their cars. She also stated that their handicapped mother needs easier access in the garage. She stated that they talked to their neighbors and received no opposition to the request.

Mac McCall asked if there was anyone in opposition to the request. There were none. Mac McCall asked Margaret Torres if her office was contacted. She stated that her office was not contacted.

Mac McCall asked for motions. Keith Godfrey motioned to approve the variance as presented. Allan Strickland seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-1.

APP-2026-06-Complete Signs-(1301 N. St Augustine Rd.) Request for a Variance to LDR 230-9 (D)(4)(c) as it pertains to Freestanding Signs in the C-H (Highway Commercial) Zoning District. The subject property is located at 1301 N. St Augustine Road (all or part of Tax Parcel 0081D 026)

Margaret Torres presented the case to the Board. She stated that Applebee's is requesting a variance to the size limits. Applebee's was forced to relocate their sign because of a Georgia DOT project. The current sign is legal non-conforming. Applebee's would like to erect a new sign. Margaret Torres stated that if Applebee's were simply moving the current sign, no variance would be needed. Margaret Torres stated that staff recommend denial due to the increase in non-conformity.

Nancy Hobby asked about an old three-pole sign that has Applebee's advertised on it. Margaret Torres stated that she could not determine ownership of that sign.

Mac McCall asked if there was anyone to speak in support of the request.

Justin Woodward from Complete Signs addressed the Board. Mr. Woodward stated that he would take questions from Board members.

Allan Strickland asked if there was something wrong with the existing sign. Jason Woodward stated that there is nothing structurally wrong with the current sign. Applebee's would like to erect a larger sign for better visibility.

Mac McCall asked Jason Woodward if he knew anything about the three-pole sign, Jason Woodward said he did not have any information.

Marion Ramsey asked Jason Woodward if Applebee's was opposed to a high-rise sign. Jason Woodward stated that Applebee's has a set sign design.

Mac McCall asked if there was anyone in opposition. There were none. Mac McCall asked Margaret Torres if her office was contacted. Margaret Torres stated that she had not been contacted.

Mac McCall asked for motions. Marion Ramsey motioned to approve the variance as presented. Nancy Hobby seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mac McCall stated that it would be beneficial for the Board members to plan a time for member education. He also stated that some members have expressed a need to review the Board's processes for granting variances.

Allan Strickland stated that he thought the Board had by-laws in the past.

Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes from the April 7, 2026, meeting were reviewed by the board members. Allan Strickland motioned to approve the minutes. Keith Godfrey seconded the motion. The minutes were approved. 5 yeas – 1 abstention.

Attendance review:

Nathan Brantley was excused for work-related obligations.

Victoria Copeland's tenure expired.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.



John "Mac" McCall, Chairman

6-2-26 Date