

All records pertaining to notice to property owners, all correspondence and other related information pertaining to individual Zoning Change and Special Use Permit requests are located in the Planning and Zoning Department files for record purposes.

The Marion County Planning and Zoning Commission met on April 27, 2026, at 5:30 pm in the Board of County Commissioners Auditorium, 601 SE 25th Avenue, Ocala, Florida.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Michael Behar led the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Board members present were Michael Behar, Danny Gaekwad, Jerry Lourenco, Andy Bonner, and Alternate Len Racioppi.

P&Z Member Jerry Lourenco made a motion to elect Danny Gaekwad as Chair Pro Tem to preside over today's meeting in the absence of the board's elected Chair and Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Board Member Andy Bonner. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

Staff members present were Chief Assistant County Attorney Dana Olesky, Assistant County Administrator Tracy Straub, Growth Services Director Chuck Varadin, Deputy Director Ken Weyrauch, Planners Chris Rison, Ken Odom, Kathleen Brugnoli, Sarah Wells, Jared Rivera, Erik Kramer, Administrative Staff Assistant Kimberly Lamb, and Administrative Manager Autumn Williams.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROOF OF PUBLICATION AND MAILING AND POSTING OF NOTICE

Kimberly Lamb read the Proofs of Publication and the Affidavit of Mailing and Posting of Notice and advised that the meeting was properly advertised.

EXPLANATION OF PROCEDURE FOR HEARING REQUESTS

Chair Pro Tem Danny Gaekwad and Chief Assistant County Attorney Dana Olesky explained the procedure for hearing requests to the audience.

1. Items on the Consent Agenda

260501SU - Ward-Merrill, LLC

Special Use Permit, to Allow an Accessory Structure on the Property Without a Primary Residence, in a Single-Family Dwelling (R-1) Zone, 1.64 Acre Parcel, on Parcel 4938-001-001, No Address Assigned

260502SU - Partners Self Storage, LLC

Special Use Permit, to Allow for Covered Outdoor Storage of RVs, Boats, and Trailers in a Community Business (B-2) Zone, 11.00 Acre Parcel, on Parcel 39169-000-00, Site Address 7655 E. Highway 25, Belleview, FL 34420

260504SU - 848 Broadway, LLC

Special Use Permit, to Allow for the Operation of a Funeral Home and Crematorium Facility, in a Heavy Business (B-5) Zone, 1.65 Acre Parcel, on Parcel 36459-001-00, Site Address 7075 S. Pine Avenue, Ocala, FL 34480

260505SU - FCH Properties, LLC

Special Use Permit, to Allow Construction or Contractor Yard, in a Regional Business (B-4) Zone, 5.02 Acre Parcel, on Parcel 45458-002-03, Site Address 13866 S. US Highway 441, Summerfield, FL 34491

Michael Behar made a motion to agree with the staff's findings and recommendations, and recommend approval of the application on the consent agenda as amended because it will not adversely affect the public interest, is consistent with the Marion County Comprehensive Plan, and is compatible with the surrounding land uses. Seconded by Andy Bonner. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

2. Consider the Following Individual Requests**26-S03 - The Deltona Corporation (CONTINUED DATE CERTAIN TO MAY 27, 2026)**

Land Use Change, for Two Sites from Preservation (PR) to Commercial (COM), Totaling ± 0.29 Acres Within the Marion Oaks Vested Development of Regional Impact, Consisting of ± 0.15 acres East of Marion Oaks Course and ± 0.14 acres West of Marion Oaks Course, Portions of Two Tracts Totaling Approximate ± 7.48 Acres, on Parcels 8007-0000-10 and 8007-000-08, No Address Assigned

Michael Behar made a motion to approve the continuation of this item to be heard date certain at the May 27, 2026, Planning and Zoning Meeting. Seconded by Andy Bonner. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

This item was continued date certain to the May 27, 2026, Planning and Zoning Meeting.

260507ZC - The Deltona Corporation (CONTINUED DATE CERTAIN TO MAY 27, 2026)

Zoning Change, from Single-Family Dwelling (R-1) to Community Business (B-2) Zone, For All Permitted Uses, Totaling ± 0.29 Acres Within the Marion Oaks Vested Development of Regional Impact, Consisting of ± 0.15 acres East of Marion Oaks Course and ± 0.14 acres West of Marion Oaks Course, Portions of Two Tracts Totaling Approximate 7.48 Acres, on Parcel Numbers 8007-0000-10 and 8007-000-08, No Address Assigned

Michael Behar made a motion to approve the continuation of this item to be heard date certain at the May 27, 2026, Planning and Zoning Meeting. Seconded by Andy Bonner. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

This item was continued date certain to the May 27, 2026, Planning and Zoning Meeting.

260508BL- The Deltona Corporation (CONTINUED DATE CERTAIN TO MAY 27, 2026)

Binding Letter of Modification (BLIM) to a Binding Letter of Interpretation for Vested Rights (BLIVR) for the Marion Oaks Vested Development of Regional Impact to Allow the Subject Properties to be Used for Commercial Purposes Including Access to Adjacent Commercial lands, Consisting of ± 0.15 acres East of Marion Oaks Course and ± 0.14 acres West of Marion Oaks Course, Portions of Two Tracts Totaling Approximate 7.48 Acres, on Parcel Numbers 8007-0000-10 and 8007-000-08, No Address Assigned AND Consideration of a Request for County to Participate in a Joinder in Amendment to, and Partial Release of Tracts Subject to, Declaration of Restrictions (Green Belt) on Parcel Numbers 41200-056-06 (pt), 8007-0000-01, 8007-0000-03, 8007-0000-05 (pt), 8007-0000-08, 8007-0000-10, 8007-0000-11, 8007-0000-13, 8007-0000-18, 8007-0000-19, 8007-0000-22, 8007-0000-0000-23, 8007-0000-0001-23, 8007-0000-24, 8007-0000-25, 8007-0000-0000-26, 8007-0000-0001-26, and 8007-0000-1099-02 (pt)

Michael Behar made a motion to approve the continuation of this item to be heard date certain at the May 27, 2026, Planning and Zoning Meeting. Seconded by Andy Bonner. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

This item was continued date certain to the May 27, 2026, Planning and Zoning Meeting.

260503SU - Wood Resource Recovery (WRR) of Marion County, LLC (PULLED FROM CONSENT)

Special Use Permit to Operate a Human Food Grade De-Packing Facility to Augment a Currently Operating Vegetative Debris Composting Facility, in a Heavy Industrial (M-2) Zone, 36.77 Acre Tract, Parcels 12869-001-00 and 12907-003-00, Site Address 8510 and 8548 NW Gainesville Road, Ocala 34482

Planner Ken Odom, Growth Services, presented the case and read the report into the record. Staff recommends approval with conditions.

William Gaston, III, 4190 NW 91st Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32653, property owner and applicant, and Sarah Harrison with Denali Water Solutions, 220 S. Commerce Street, Russell, AZ 72081, serving as the agent on behalf of the applicant, addressed the Board.

The following members of the public spoke during Public Comment:

1. Thomas Nichols – P.O. Box 249, Lowell
 - Opposed, raised concerns that the application does not accurately describe the surrounding A1-zoned areas. Questions about wastewater and how it will adversely affect his property.
2. Traci Walker – 8045 NW Gainesville Road, Ocala
 - Opposed, expressed concern that potential odors from the facility could negatively impact her zipline business and other outdoor operations in the vicinity, which would ultimately decrease revenue to her business as well as the tourism it brings to Marion County.
3. Daniel Wilson – 8985 NW Gainesville Road, Ocala
 - Opposed, concerns regarding odors, increased presence of animals and insects, and the risk of well-water contamination. Mentions this will additionally negatively affect the nearby school.
4. Dawn Cameron – 3456 NW 100th Street, Ocala
 - Opposed, concerns about odors and wastewater impacts on her child's nearby school and her own property. Also states she believes the facility could reduce property values and harm future resale potential.
5. Jo McCants – 9431 NW 30th Avenue, Ocala
 - Opposed, expressed concern that debris and waste-related odors could negatively affect her church and neighborhood.
6. Martin Smith – 3035 Highway 329, Reddick
 - Opposed, concerns about odors impacting surrounding businesses and residents, as well as potential increases in traffic.
7. Robert Mitchell – P.O. Box 401, Anthony
 - Opposed, concerned that elevated pH levels could attract animals and create odors. Believes the facility may pose health risks to children at the nearby school.
8. Peggy Farland – 9650 NW Gainesville Road, Ocala
 - Opposed, concerns about rapid development replacing farmland and the potential for odors due to this facility. Recommended locating the plant in a less populated area with fewer resource constraints.

Jerry Lourenco made a motion to agree with the staff's findings and recommendation and recommend approval with conditions of this application because it will not adversely affect the public interest, is consistent with the Marion County Comprehensive Plan, and is compatible with the surrounding land uses. Seconded by Michael Behar. The motion passed, 3-1 with Andy Bonner dissenting.

260506SU - Marion County-County Administrator (PULLED FROM CONSENT)

Special Use Permit, to Allow Water Plant Upgrade and Expansion, in a Government Use (G-U) Zone, 8.75 Acre Parcel, on Parcel 12082-001-00, Site Address 14463 NE 250th Avenue, Salt Springs, FL 32134

Planner Sarah Wells, Growth Services, presented the case and read the report into the record. Staff recommends approval with conditions.

David Tillman, 1720 SE 16th Avenue, Bldg. 100, Ocala, FL 34471, on behalf of the property owner and applicant, addressed the Board.

The following members of the public spoke during Public Comment:

1. Larry Jones – 13711 NE 237th Court, Salt Springs
 - Opposed, questioned the need to relocate the water treatment plant, and expressed concern that it may result in unnecessary spending.
2. Don Regin – 24960 NE 146th Lane, Salt Springs
 - Opposed, raised concerns regarding decreased property values, increased noise, and potential reductions in lake water levels that could affect residents' quality of life.
3. Elizabeth Best – 9740 NE 306th Court, Salt Springs
 - Opposed, noted that most residents rely on septic and well systems, expressing concern that water drawn from the plant could deplete well water. Requested updates regarding any construction delays due to unforeseen costs.
4. Jeremy Boterf – 24990 NE 147th Place, Salt Springs
 - Opposed, expressed concern about potential noise, lighting impacts, and well-water availability.
5. Sherri Meadows – 9555 NE 306th Court, Salt Springs
 - Opposed, requested written assurances regarding avoidance of mandatory hookups or fees outside the 400-foot threshold. Sought clarification on long-term sewer expansion plans, preservation of recreational facilities, justification for relocating the existing plant, site selection rationale, and potential financial impacts on residents.
6. Ashley Jolly – 24990 NE 147th Place, Salt Springs
 - Opposed, requested that the existing public space remain unchanged.

Andy Bonner made a motion to agree with the staff's findings and recommendation and recommend approval with conditions of this application because it will not adversely affect the public interest, is consistent with the Marion County Comprehensive Plan, and is compatible with the surrounding land uses. Seconded by Michael Behar. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

260402ZC - Gironj, LLC

Zoning Change from Single Family Dwelling (R-1) to Community Business (B-2) Zone, For All Permitted Uses, 0.48 Acre Parcel, on Parcel 14138-000-00, Site Address 9645 NE 21st Avenue, Anthony, FL 32617

Planner Jared Rivera, Growth Services, presented the case and read the report into the record. Staff recommends approval.

The applicant was not present and did not address the Board.

There were no members of the public who spoke during Public Comment.

Andy Bonner made a motion to agree with the staff's findings and recommendation and recommend approval of this application because it will not adversely affect the public interest, is consistent with the Marion County Comprehensive Plan, and is compatible with the surrounding land uses. Seconded by Michael Behar. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

260509ZP - Marion Gaming Management, LLC

Zoning Change, from Planned Unit Development (PUD) to Amendment Planned Unit Development (PUD) for the addition of six (6) pickleball courts, two (2) manufactured buildings, and modify conditions concerning buffers and construction access on a 65.51 Acre Tract, on Parcels 48476-001-00 and 48476-002-00, Site Address 17996 S. US Highway 301, Summerfield, FL 34491

Deputy Director Kenneth Weyrauch, Growth Services, presented the case and read the report into the record. Staff recommends approval of six pickleball courts and two manufactured buildings, all B-2 uses, and expand allowable uses to B-2, modify DRA, and modify site plan layout as submitted PUD Master Plan (requests 1 & 4), and denial of the request to modify buffers and the construction access (requests 2 & 3).

David Tillman, 1720 SE 16th Avenue, Bldg. 100, Ocala, FL 34471, on behalf of the property owner and applicant, addressed the Board.

There were no members of the public who spoke during Public Comment.

Andy Bonner made a motion to agree with the staff's findings and recommendation and recommend approval of this application as to requests 1 & 4 and denial as to requests 2 & 3 because it will not adversely affect the public interest, is consistent with the Marion County Comprehensive Plan, and is compatible with the surrounding land uses. Seconded by Jerry Lourenco. The motion passed unanimously, 3-0, with Danny Gaekwad abstaining.

3. Other Business

4. Review the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Andy Bonner made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2026, Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting. Seconded by Jerry Lourenco. The motion passed unanimously, 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM

Attest:

Autumn Williams
Autumn Williams, Administrative Staff Assistant

Danny Gaekwad
Danny Gaekwad, Chairman Pro Tem
on behalf of

FORM 8B MEMORANDUM OF VOTING CONFLICT FOR COUNTY, MUNICIPAL, AND OTHER LOCAL PUBLIC OFFICERS

LAST NAME—FIRST NAME—MIDDLE NAME <i>Gaekwad Digvijay (danny)</i>		NAME OF BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY, OR COMMITTEE <i>Marion County Planning & Zoning Board</i>
MAILING ADDRESS <i>11980 SE 22nd Avenue Road</i>		THE BOARD, COUNCIL, COMMISSION, AUTHORITY OR COMMITTEE ON WHICH I SERVE IS A UNIT OF:
CITY <i>Ocala</i>	COUNTY <i>Marion</i>	☐ CITY ☒ COUNTY ☐ OTHER LOCAL AGENCY
DATE ON WHICH VOTE OCCURRED		NAME OF POLITICAL SUBDIVISION:
		MY POSITION IS: ☐ ELECTIVE ☒ APPOINTIVE

WHO MUST FILE FORM 8B

This form is for use by any person serving at the county, city, or other local level of government on an appointed or elected board, council, commission, authority, or committee. It applies to members of advisory and non-advisory bodies who are presented with a voting conflict of interest under Section 112.3143, Florida Statutes.

Your responsibilities under the law when faced with voting on a measure in which you have a conflict of interest will vary greatly depending on whether you hold an elective or appointive position. For this reason, please pay close attention to the instructions on this form before completing and filling the form.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 112.3143, FLORIDA STATUTES

A person holding elective or appointive county, municipal, or other local public office **MUST ABSTAIN** from voting on a measure which would inure to his or her special private gain or loss. Each elected or appointed local officer also **MUST ABSTAIN** from knowingly voting on a measure which would inure to the special gain or loss of a principal (other than a government agency) by whom he or she is retained (including the parent, subsidiary, or sibling organization of a principal by which he or she is retained); to the special private gain or loss of a relative; or to the special private gain or loss of a business associate. Commissioners of community redevelopment agencies (CRAs) under Sec. 163.356 or 163.357, F.S., and officers of independent special tax districts elected on a one-acre, one-vote basis are not prohibited from voting in that capacity.

For purposes of this law, a "relative" includes only the officer's father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, and daughter-in-law. A "business associate" means any person or entity engaged in or carrying on a business enterprise with the officer as a partner, joint venturer, coowner of property, or corporate shareholder (where the shares of the corporation are not listed on any national or regional stock exchange).

ELECTED OFFICERS:

In addition to abstaining from voting in the situations described above, you must disclose the conflict:

PRIOR TO THE VOTE BEING TAKEN by publicly stating to the assembly the nature of your interest in the measure on which you are abstaining from voting; *and*

WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER THE VOTE OCCURS by completing and filing this form with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who should incorporate the form in the minutes.

APPOINTED OFFICERS:

Although you must abstain from voting in the situations described above, you are not prohibited by Section 112.3143 from otherwise participating in these matters. However, you must disclose the nature of the conflict before making any attempt to influence the decision, whether orally or in writing and whether made by you or at your direction.

IF YOU INTEND TO MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION PRIOR TO THE MEETING AT WHICH THE VOTE WILL BE TAKEN:

- You must complete and file this form (before making any attempt to influence the decision) with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who will incorporate the form in the minutes. (Continued on page 2)

APPOINTED OFFICERS (continued)

- A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency.
- The form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

IF YOU MAKE NO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE THE DECISION EXCEPT BY DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

- You must disclose orally the nature of your conflict in the measure before participating.
- You must complete the form and file it within 15 days after the vote occurs with the person responsible for recording the minutes of the meeting, who must incorporate the form in the minutes. A copy of the form must be provided immediately to the other members of the agency, and the form must be read publicly at the next meeting after the form is filed.

DISCLOSURE OF LOCAL OFFICER'S INTEREST

I, Digvijay (Anny) G. Ekwu, hereby disclose that on April, 27th, 202026

(a) A measure came or will come before my agency which (check one or more)

- ☒ Inured to my special private gain or loss;
- ☐ Inured to the special gain or loss of my business associate, _____;
- ☐ Inured to the special gain or loss of my relative, _____;
- ☐ Inured to the special gain or loss of _____, by whom I am retained; or
- ☐ Inured to the special gain or loss of _____, which is the parent subsidiary, or sibling organization or subsidiary of a principal which has retained me.

(b) The measure before my agency and the nature of my conflicting interest in the measure is as follows:

If disclosure of specific information would violate confidentiality or privilege pursuant to law or rules governing attorneys, a public officer, who is also an attorney, may comply with the disclosure requirements of this section by disclosing the nature of the interest in such a way as to provide the public with notice of the conflict.

Date Filed

April 27th 2026

Signature



NOTICE: UNDER PROVISIONS OF FLORIDA STATUTES §112.317, A FAILURE TO MAKE ANY REQUIRED DISCLOSURE CONSTITUTES GROUNDS FOR AND MAY BE PUNISHED BY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: IMPEACHMENT, REMOVAL OR SUSPENSION FROM OFFICE OR EMPLOYMENT, DEMOTION, REDUCTION IN SALARY, REPRIMAND, OR A CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.

Planning & Zoning Attendance Report

2026		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Michael Behar	Board Member	X	X	X	X								
Danny Gaekwad	Board Member	X		X	X								
Greg Lord	Board Member	X	X	X									
Jerry Lourenco	Board Member	X	X	X	X								
Michael Kroitor	Board Member		X										
Andy Bonner	Board Member	X	X	X	X								
Donald Johnson	Board Member	X											
*Len Racioppi	Alternate				*								
*Paul Stentiford	Alternate	*	*	*									

- N/A

X Present; attendance is counted towards quorum

* Alternate Present; attendance not counted towards quorum