

AGENDA

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022 - 4:30 PM
MCALLEN DEVELOPMENT CENTER – EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
311 NORTH 15TH STREET
MCALLEN, TEXAS**

At any time during the course of this meeting, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals may retire to Executive Session under Texas Government Code 551.071(2) to confer with its legal counsel on any subject matter on this agenda in which the duty of the attorney to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of Texas clearly conflicts with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Further, at any time during the course of this meeting, the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals may retire to Executive Session to deliberate on any subject slated for discussion at this meeting, as may be permitted under one or more of the exceptions to the Open Meetings Act set forth in Title 5, Subtitle A, Chapter 551, Subchapter D of the Texas Government Code.

CALL TO ORDER -

1. MINUTES:

- a) Minutes for the meeting held on January 5, 2022

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- a) Request of Diana Torres for the following special exception and variances to the City of McAllen Zoning Ordinance to allow: **1)** an encroachment of 11 ft. into the 25 ft. front yard setback for an existing metal carport measuring approximately 111 ft. by 13 ft., **2)** an encroachment of 6 ft. into the 6 ft. side yard setback along the north property line for an existing metal carport measuring approximately 111 ft. by 13 ft., **3)** an encroachment of 6 ft. into the 6 ft. side yard setback along the north property line for an existing metal garage measuring approximately 15 ft. by 13 ft., and **4)** an encroachment of 10 ft. into the 10 ft. rear yard setback for an existing metal garage measuring approximately 15 ft. by 13 ft., at the North 60 feet of Lot 15, of the Southeast ¼ of Section 9, Hidalgo Canal Company-McAllen Subdivision, Hidalgo County, Texas; 817 North 5th Street. **(ZBA2021-0073)**
- b) Request of Eladio Ayala Jr. for the following Variances to the City of McAllen Zoning Ordinance: **1)** to allow an existing secondary structure (garage) to remain in its current location with no primary structure and **2)** to allow an encroachment of 2 feet into the 6 feet side yard setback along the south side for an existing irregular shaped steel garage at Lot 47, Bonham Subdivision Unit No. 2, Hidalgo County, Texas; 2209 South 28th Street. **(ZBA2021-0065) (TABLED: 12/15/2021) (REMAIN TABLED: 01/05/2022)**

3. DISCUSSION:

- a) Election of Officers

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a) 900 South 15th Street
- b) 1109 Erie Avenue

ADJOURNMENT:

IF ANY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR A DISABILITY ARE REQUIRED, PLEASE NOTIFY THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT (681-1250) 72 HOURS BEFORE THE MEETING DATE. WITH REGARD TO ANY ITEM, THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MAY TAKE VARIOUS ACTIONS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO RESCHEDULING AN ITEM IN ITS ENTIRETY FOR PARTICULAR ACTION AT A FUTURE DATE.

Minutes for January
5, 2022 will uploaded
on Monday.

Memo

TO: Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals

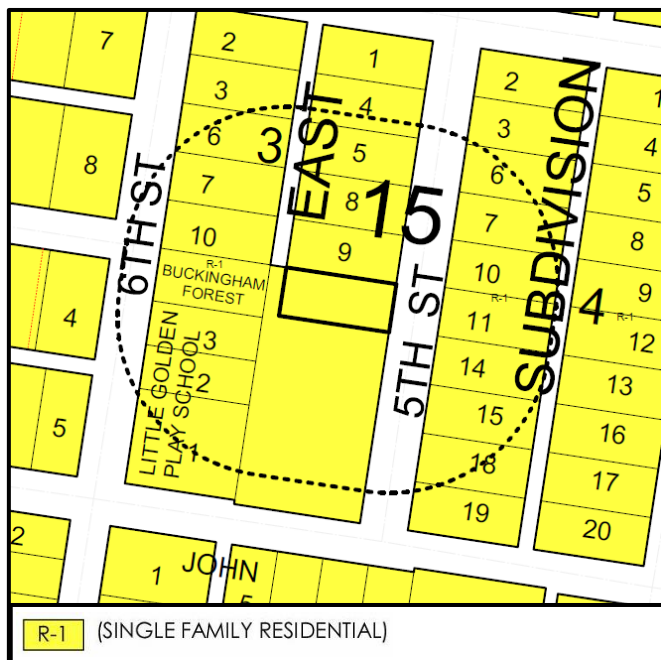
FROM: Planning Staff

DATE: January 13, 2022

SUBJECT: REQUEST OF DIANA TORRES FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL EXCEPTION AND VARIANCES TO THE CITY OF MCALLEN ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW: 1) AN ENCROACHMENT OF 11 FT. INTO THE 25 FT. FRONT YARD SETBACK FOR AN EXISTING METAL CARPORT MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 111 FT. BY 13 FT., 2) AN ENCROACHMENT OF 6 FT. INTO THE 6 FT. SIDE YARD SETBACK ALONG THE NORTH PROPERTY LINE FOR AN EXISTING METAL CARPORT MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 111 FT. BY 13 FT., 3) AN ENCROACHMENT OF 6 FT. INTO THE 6 FT. SIDE YARD SETBACK ALONG THE NORTH PROPERTY LINE FOR AN EXISTING METAL GARAGE MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 15 FT. BY 13 FT., AND 4) AN ENCROACHMENT OF 10 FT. INTO THE 10 FT. REAR YARD SETBACK FOR AN EXISTING METAL GARAGE MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 15 FT. BY 13 FT., AT THE NORTH 60 FEET OF LOT 15, OF THE SOUTHEAST ¼ OF SECTION 9, HIDALGO CANAL COMPANY-MCALLEN SUBDIVISION, HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS; 817 NORTH 5TH STREET. (ZBA2021-0073)

REASON FOR APPEAL:

The applicant is requesting a special exception request in order to allow encroachment into the front yard and north side yard setbacks for an existing metal carport for medical reasons. She is also applying for two variance requests to allow encroachments into the rear and north side yard setbacks for an existing metal garage. The rear portion of the carport is enclosed; therefore, it will be considered a garage and requires a variance.



PROPERTY LOCATION AND VICINITY:

The subject property is located on the west side of North 5th Street, 304.8 ft. south of Jasmine Avenue. The property has 60 ft. of frontage along North 5th Street and a depth of 138 ft. according to the submitted warranty deed for a lot size of 8,280 sq. ft. The surrounding land use is single-family residence.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

Hidalgo County Appraisal District records show that the residential home was built in 1966 and the carport and enclosed garage was constructed in 2016. In December 2021, the applicant came to the Planning Department and mentioned that she had received a notice from the City to apply for a building permit for a carport built without a permit. A building permit application for the existing metal structure was submitted on December 8, 2021. An application for special exception requests for the existing carport was submitted on December 10, 2021.

ANALYSIS:

Request #1 is for a special exception to allow an encroachment of 11 ft. into the 25 ft. front yard setback for an existing metal carport measuring approximately 111 ft. by 13 ft. The carport is constructed over the existing drive way and attached to the house. Front yard setbacks are important in establishing the character of a single-family neighborhood by providing landscaping to enhance the residence and curb appeal of the street view of properties in a subdivision. Carports are not permitted to be located within the front yard setbacks.

Request #2 is for a special exception to allow an encroachment of 6 ft. into the 6 ft. side yard setback along the north property line for an existing metal carport measuring approximately 111 ft. by 13 ft. The carport is constructed over the existing drive way, attached to the house, and extends to the north property line, with no overhang to the adjacent property to the north according to the applicant. Carports are not permitted to be located within the side yard setbacks.

Request #3 is for a variance to allow an encroachment of 6 ft. into the 6 ft. side yard setback along the north property line for an existing metal garage measuring approximately 15 ft. by 13 ft. During the site visit, staff noticed that approximately the rear 15 ft. of the metal carport is enclosed; therefore, it will be considered a garage and requires a variance. A garage is not allowed to be located within the side yard setback.

Request #4 is for a variance to allow an encroachment of 10 ft. into the 10 ft. rear yard setback for an existing metal garage measuring approximately 15 ft. by 13 ft. During the site visit, staff noticed that approximately the rear 15 ft. of the metal carport is enclosed; therefore, it will be considered a garage and requires a variance. A garage is not allowed to be located within the rear setback.

Approval of the building permit application is pending approval of this application.

Staff has not received a phone call or email in opposition to the special exception and variance requests.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends disapproval of the special exception and variance requests. If the Board chooses to approve the requests, the approval should be limited to the encroachments shown on the submitted site plan.

ZBA 2021-0073



City of McAllen

Planning Department

APPEAL TO ZONING BOARD OF

ADJUSTMENT TO MCALLEN ZONING ORDINANCE

311 North 15th Street
McAllen, TX 78501
P. O. Box 220
McAllen, TX 78505-0220
(956) 681-1250
(956) 681-1279 (fax)

Project

Legal Description

North 60.0 feet of Lot 15 of the Southeast 1/4
of Section 9, Hidalgo Canal Company

Subdivision Name

Hidalgo Canal Company

Street Address

817 N 5th ST

Number of lots

1

Gross acres

0.19

Existing Zoning

R-1

Existing Land Use

Residential C

Reason for Appeal (please use other side if necessary)

ENCROACHMENT front-11 ft into 25 ft setback
Rear-10 ft into 10 ft setback side North 6 ft into 6 ft - Aluminum Carport Existing
12 ft L / 13 ft wide

☒ \$300.00 non-refundable filing fee + ☒ \$50.00 Recording Fee for Special Exception (carport)

☐ Current Survey and Metes and Bounds (if the legal description of the tract is a
portion of a lot) is required

Applicant

Name Diana Torres

Phone

Address 817 N 5th ST

E-mail

City McAllenState TX

Zip

78501

Owner

Name Marco Antonio / Diana Torres

Phone

Address 817 N 5th ST

E-mail

City McAllenState TX

Zip

78501

Authorization

To the best of your knowledge are there any deed restrictions, restrictive covenants,
etc. which would prevent the utilization of the property in the manner indicated?

☐ Yes☒ No

I certify that I am the actual owner of the property described above and this
application is being submitted with my consent (include corporate name if applicable)
OR I am authorized by the actual owner to submit this application and have
attached written evidence of such authorization.

Signature Diana Torres

Date

12/10/21

Print Name Diana Torres☒ Owner☐ Authorized Agent

Office

Accepted by KF

Payment received by

Date

Rev 10/18

DEC 10 2021

BY: me



City of McAllen
Planning Department
REASON FOR APPEAL & BOARD ACTION

*A variance will not be granted to relieve a self-created or personal hardship, nor shall it be based solely on economic gain or loss. In order to make a finding of hardship and grant the variance, the Zoning Board of Adjustment will consider **any combination** of the following: (Please use an additional page if necessary to complete responses)

**Information provided here by the applicant does not guarantee that the Board will grant a variance.

***Applicant should include all information they determine is relevant, but it is not required to provide responses to all sections listed below.

1. Describe the special circumstance or condition affecting the land involved such that the strict application of the provisions required would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land:

Only option to put carport no other space or land for parking house established before 1966.

2. Describe how the variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of the legal property rights of the owner: Request for variance to be accepted by the city are as followed

used for handicap child at home with special needs, used for therapy and able to keep child/adult from harm from elements

3. Describe how the variance will not be detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare or injurious to the legal rights other property owners enjoy in the area: property in request Not detrimental to

Neighbors, city workers Access to property or any city utilities, No flooding zone in question structurally stable build with aluminum and iron posts.

4. Describe special conditions that are unique to this applicant or property:

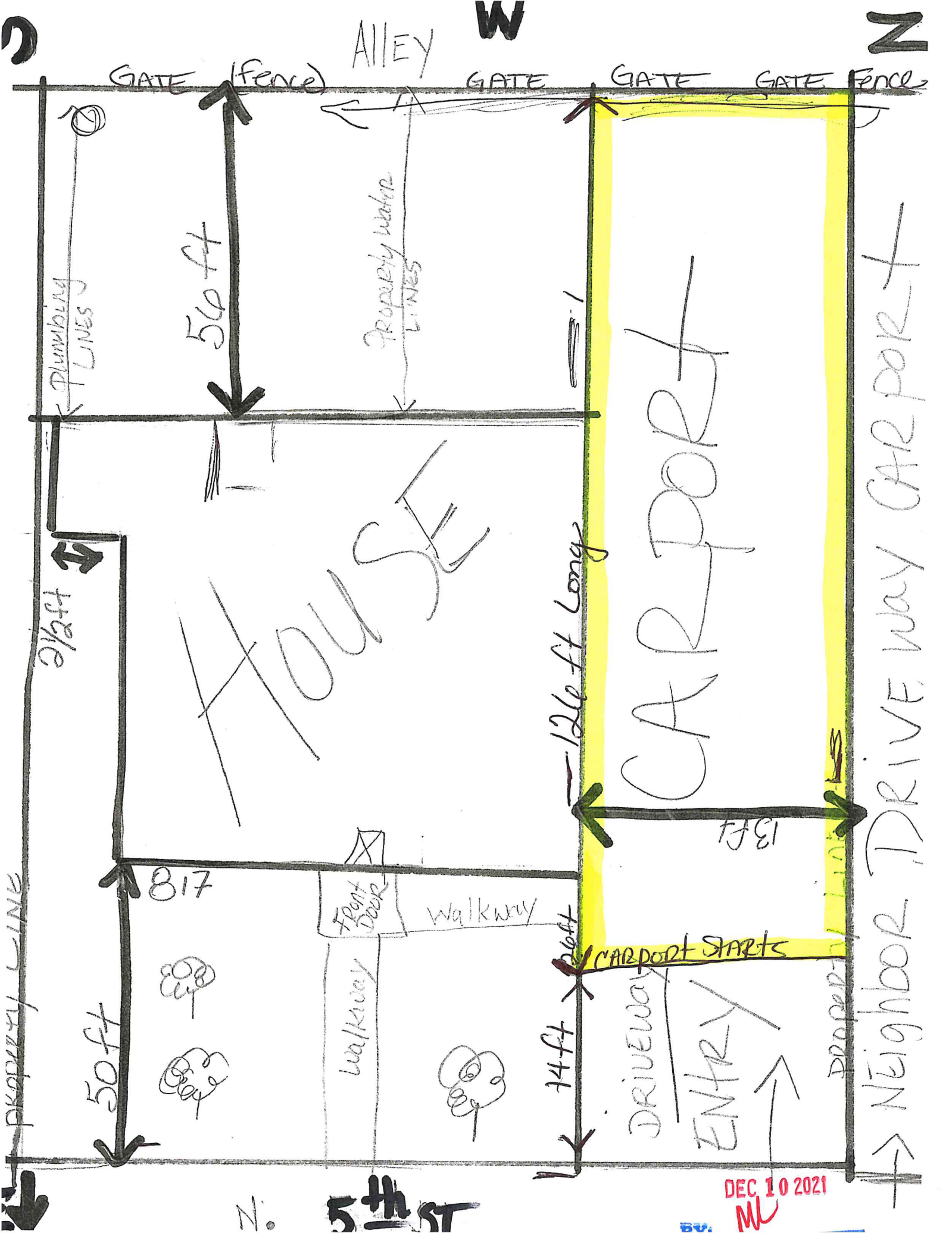
Not used for financial gain, Open carport front and back back is accessible with sliding (gate door).

Reason for Appeal

Board Action

Chairman, Board of Adjustment
Signature

Date



N. 5th ST

Alley

GATE (Fence)

GATE

GATE

GATE

Fence

50 ft

126 ft Long

13 ft

50 ft

14 ft

817

2 1/2 ft

56 ft

House SE

CARPORT

DRIVEWAY ENTRY

Property Lines

Plumbing Lines

Water Lines

Fence

Neighbor

DRIVEWAY

CARPORT STARTS

Front Door

Walkway

Walkway

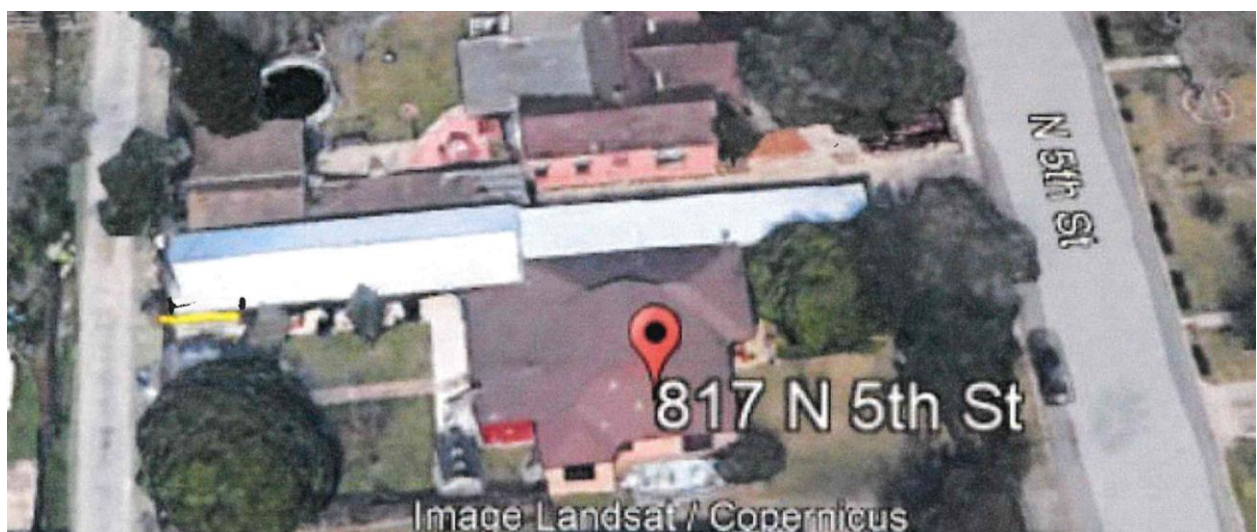
DEC 10 2021

ML



NOTICE
VARIANCE
SPECIAL EXCEPTION
FOR
THIS PROPERTY
ZBA2021-0073
CITY OF MCALLEN PLANNING DEPT.
305-641-1230
WWW.MCALLENNET





Memo

TO: Zoning Board of Adjustment & Appeals

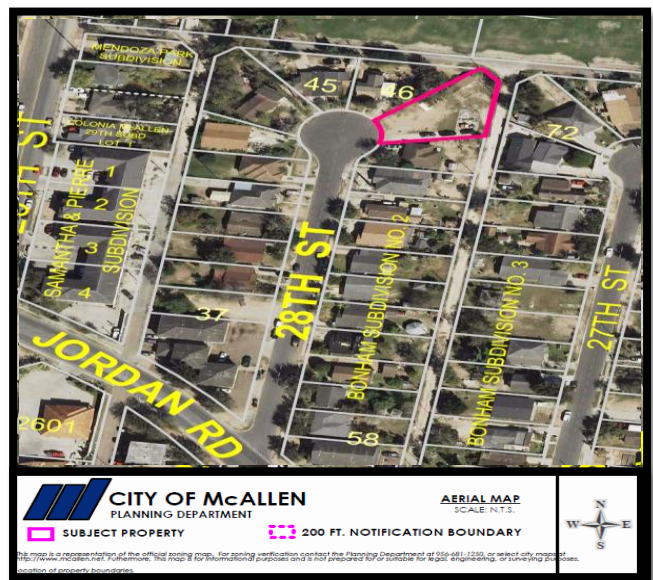
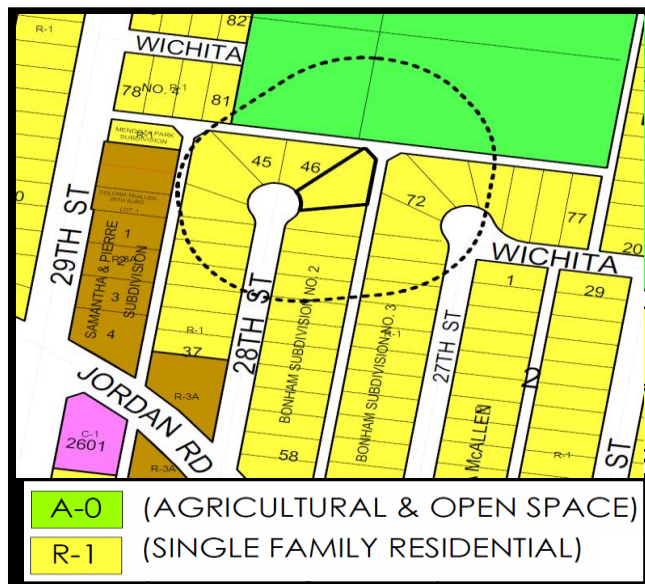
FROM: Planning Staff

DATE: December 7, 2021

SUBJECT: Request of Eladio Ayala Jr. for the following Variance to the City of McAllen Zoning Ordinance: 1) to allow an existing secondary structure (garage) remain in its current location with no primary structure and 2) to allow an encroachment of 2 feet into the 6 feet side yard setback along the south side for an existing irregular shaped steel garage at Lot 47, Bonham Subdivision Unit No. 2, Hidalgo County, Texas; 2209 South 28th Street. (ZBA2021-0065)

REASON FOR APPEAL:

The applicant is requesting a variance to allow an existing steel garage to remain on a lot that does not have a primary building, and to allow an encroachment of 2 feet into the 6 feet side yard setback along the south side of Lot 47. The applicant built the existing steel garage in order to protect his vintage vehicles and use it as a building where he will be preserving his older model vehicles.



PROPERTY LOCATION AND VICINITY:

The subject property is located along a cul-de-sac on South 28th Street and has 10,400 of square footage. The property is zoned R-1 (single-family residential) District. The adjacent zoning is R-1 (single-family residential) District to the east, south, and west. The adjacent zoning to the north is A-O (agricultural and open space) District to the north. Surrounding land uses are single-family residences and vacant land.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY:

Bonham Subdivision Unit No. 2 was recorded on September 1970. On October 29, 2021, the Building and Inspections department issued a stop work order for construction built without a building permit. An application for a building permit was submitted on November 8, 2021 for an existing garage and an application for a variance request was submitted on November 8, 2021.

ANALYSIS:

Variance request #1: This request is for an existing steel garage which remains without a primary building on the 10,400 square feet subject property. The applicant owns a single-family residence adjacent to the subject property on Lot 48. As per the applicant, the previous property owner was proposing to build a single-family residence in 1994 on Lot 47 but only the foundation was completed. The existing steel garage was subsequently constructed on the concrete foundation. The construction of the existing steel garage began in 2021. According to the applicant he was unaware that a building permit for a steel garage was necessary as it was not a residential home.

Variance request #2: This request is for an existing irregular shaped steel garage measuring 23.95 feet by 54.25 feet at its longest side that encroaches 2 feet into the 6 feet side yard setback along the south side of the subject property. The steel garage has access to a 20 feet alley at the rear of the subject property. The applicant owns a single family residence on the adjacent Lot to the south on Lot 48. Both lots are surrounded by a chain link fence. According to the applicant, he would like to ultimately turn the garage into a suitable building in which the garage would have amenities such as air conditioning and proper lighting for hobby-related use. Original construction of the concrete foundation was built encroaching 2 feet into the 6 feet side yard setback. The applicant constructed the garage structure over the foundation.

During a site visit, staff noticed other encroachments along the front yard and rear yard within Bonham Subdivision Unit No. 2. A review of Planning Department records did not reveal any variance or special exceptions in the area.

There are no utility easements along the side of the property.

The Planning Department has not received any emails or phone calls in opposition of both variance requests.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends disapproval of both variance requests as a secondary structure (garage) must be located within the same lot as the primary structure and buildings are not allowed within setbacks. However, if the Board approves the request it should be limited to the encroachment shown in the submitted site plan.

ZBA-12/15/21

ZBA2021-0065



City of McAllen

Planning Department

APPEAL TO ZONING BOARD OF

ADJUSTMENT TO MCALLEN ZONING ORDINANCE

311 North 15th Street
McAllen, TX 78501
P. O. Box 220
McAllen, TX 78505-0220
(956) 681-1250
(956) 681-1279 (fax)

Project	<p>Legal Description <u>Bonham UT No. 2 Lot 47</u></p> <p>Subdivision Name <u>Bonham UT No. 2.</u></p> <p>Street Address <u>2209 S. 28th</u></p> <p>Number of lots <u>1</u> Gross acres _____</p> <p>Existing Zoning _____ Existing Land Use _____</p> <p>Reason for Appeal (please use other side if necessary) <u>SECONDARY Structure with NO PRIMARY structure & ENCROACHING into SIDE YARD 2' set back of 2'.</u></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$300.00 non-refundable filing fee + <input type="checkbox"/> \$50.00 Recording Fee for Special Exception (carport)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Current Survey and Metes and Bounds (if the legal description of the tract is a portion of a lot) is required</p>
	Applicant
Owner	<p>Name <u>Eladio Ayala, JR.</u> Phone <u>956-258-6112</u></p> <p>Address <u>2213 S. 28th</u> E-mail <u>eladio.ayala@hotmail.com</u></p> <p>City <u>McAllen</u> State <u>TX</u> Zip <u>78503</u></p>
Authorization	<p>To the best of your knowledge are there any deed restrictions, restrictive covenants, etc. which would prevent the utilization of the property in the manner indicated?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>I certify that I am the actual owner of the property described above and this application is being submitted with my consent (include corporate name if applicable) OR I am authorized by the actual owner to submit this application and have attached written evidence of such authorization.</p> <p>Signature <u>[Signature]</u> Date _____</p> <p>Print Name <u>Eladio Ayala, JR.</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Owner <input type="checkbox"/> Authorized Agent</p>
Office	<p>Accepted by _____ Payment received by _____ Date <u>ENTERED</u></p> <p>Rev 09/20</p> <p>NOV 08 2021</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u></p>

05



City of McAllen

Planning Department

REASON FOR APPEAL & BOARD ACTION

*A variance will not be granted to relieve a self-created or personal hardship, nor shall it be based solely on economic gain or loss. In order to make a finding of hardship and grant the variance, the Zoning Board of Adjustment will consider **any combination of** the following: (Please use an additional page if necessary to complete responses)

****Information provided here by the applicant does not guarantee that the Board will grant a variance.**

*****Applicant should include all information they determine is relevant, but it is not required to provide responses to all sections listed below.**

1. Describe the special circumstance or condition affecting the land involved such that the strict application of the provisions required would deprive the applicant of the reasonable use of the land:

I would be able to use my garage for protection of my investment on automobile.

2. Describe how the variance is necessary for the preservation and enjoyment of the legal property rights of the owner:

Be able to enjoy tinkering on my vintage cars.

3. Describe how the variance will not be detrimental to the public health, safety or welfare or injurious to the legal rights other property owners enjoy in the area:

It will all be done according to city codes.

4. Describe special conditions that are unique to this applicant or property:

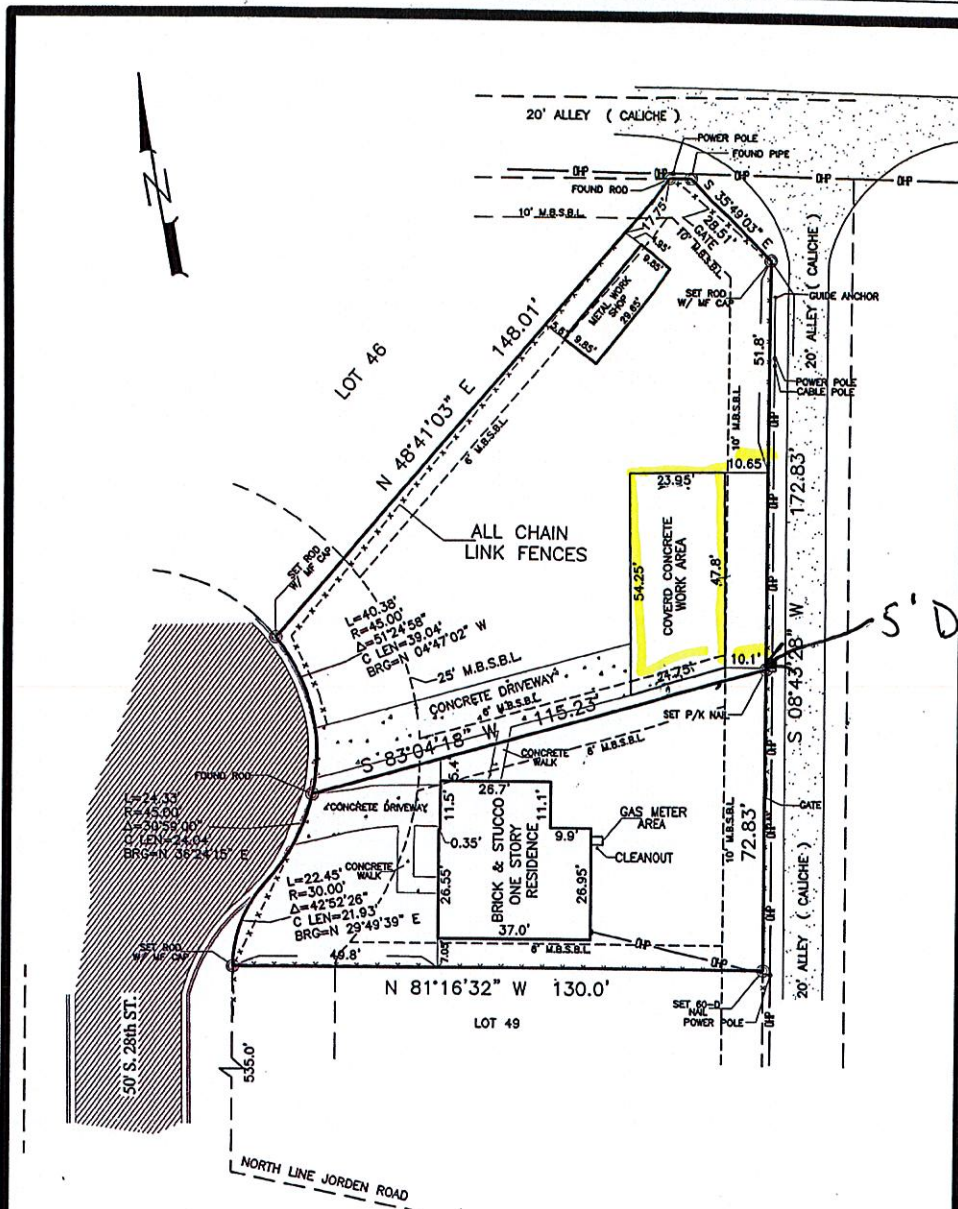
Being able to build my dream garage.

Reason for Appeal

Board Action

Chairman, Board of Adjustment
Signature

Date



NOTE:
SURVEY DONE WITHOUT BENEFIT OF
TITLE REPORT OR TITLE COMMITMENT

I, MICHAEL FABIAN, A REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING MAP IS A REPRESENTATION OF SURVEY MADE ON THE GROUND UNDER MY SUPERVISION AND THAT THERE ARE NO VISIBLE AND APPARENT EASEMENTS, DISCREPANCIES, CONFLICTS, OR SHORTAGES IN AREA OR BOUNDARY LINES, OR ANY ENCROACHMENTS OR OVERLAPPING OF IMPROVEMENTS EXCEPT AS SHOWN ON THIS PLAT. THIS PROPERTY FALLS IN ZONE "B" OF THE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS.

Michael Fabian
MICHAEL FABIAN
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR
MCALLEN, TEXAS
4893

COPYRIGHT MICHAEL FABIAN SURVEYING INC. 2021. NO LICENSE HAS BEEN CREATED.
THIS MAP IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY. IT IS NOT TO BE USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.
IT IS THE POLICY OF MICHAEL FABIAN SURVEYING INC. TO PROVIDE THE BEST SERVICE POSSIBLE.
ARTICLE 5522 C, VERNON'S TEXAS CIVIL STATUTES.



MAP
OF
LOT 47, & LOT 48,
BONHAM SUBDIVISION
UNIT NO. 2,
CITY OF MCALLEN,
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS
RECORDED IN VOL. 17, PG. 24, M/R

PREPARED BY
MICHAEL FABIAN SURVEYING, INC.
1203 E. HACKBERRY AVE.
MCALLEN, TEXAS 78501 (956) 835-1432 FAX (956) 835-4890

MICHAEL FABIAN
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL
LAND SURVEYOR

W.O.# 03884 CRD : SAME PRINT SIZE: LEGAL
SCALE: 1" = 30' DATE: 04/14/2021
EMAIL ADDRESS: SURVEY @ MFABIANSURVEYING.COM
FIRM # 101938652

ENTERED

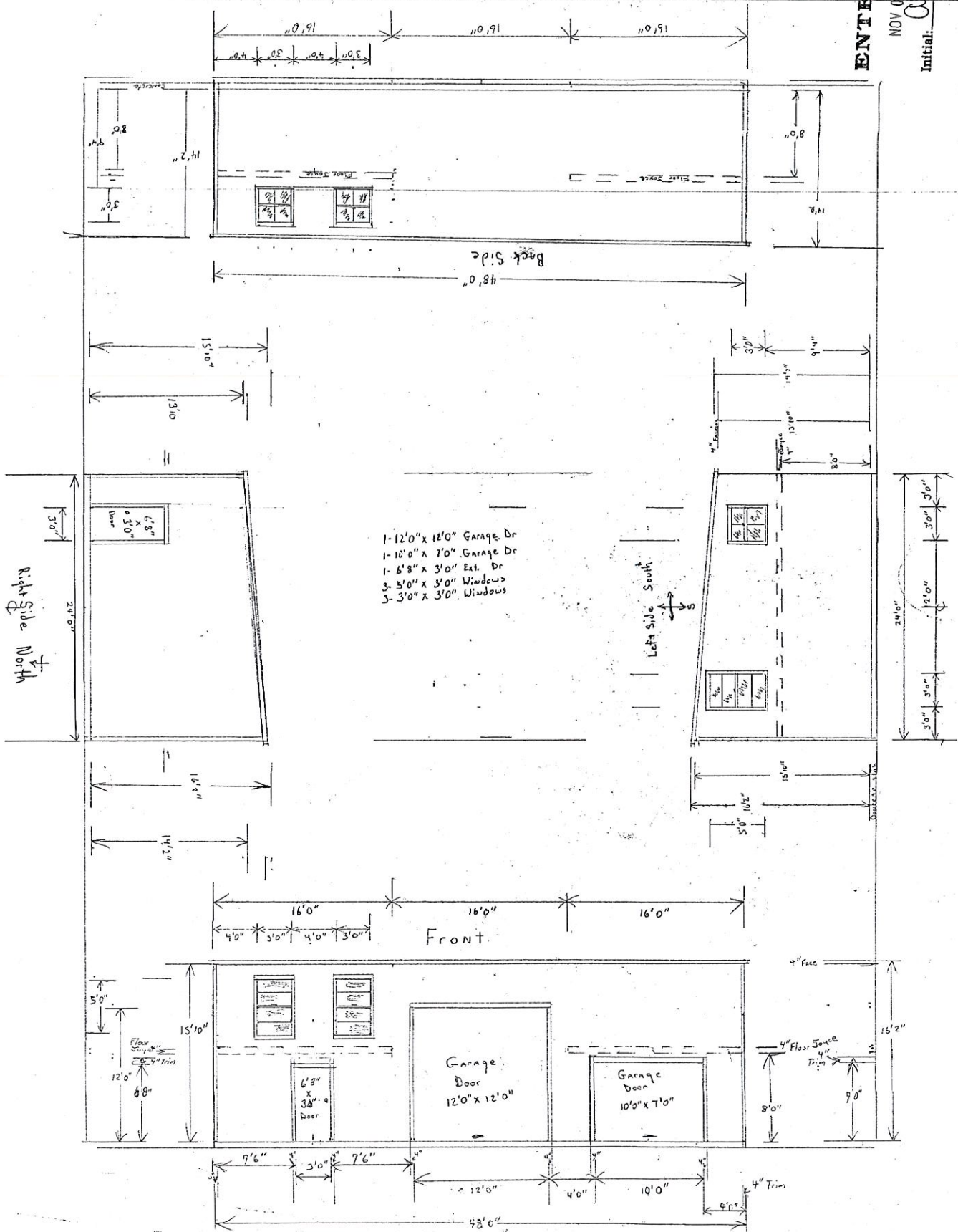
NOV 13 2021

Initial: *Am*

Concrete poured in 1994
Building construction started in 2021



Initial: -







**NOTICE
VARIANCE
FOR
THIS PROPERTY
ZBA 2021-0065**

CITY OF MCALLEN PLANNING DEPT.
956.951.1280
WWW.MCALLENNET

RECEIVED
CITY OF
MCALLEN
PLANNING
DEPT.



ELECTION FOR OFFICERS TO BE

HELD ON JANUARY 19, 2022

CRITERIA FOR ZBOA DETERMINATIONS

APPEALS

1. ZBOA may hear and decide appeals **where it is alleged there is error** in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official **in the enforcement of Chapter 138** of the Code of Ordinances ("Zoning").
2. In conformity with the provisions of V.T.C.A., Local Government Code § 211.009 et seq. and Chapter 138 of the Code of Ordinances, the **ZBOA may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify** the order, requirement, decision or determination appealed from.

SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

Authorized under Ord. Sec. 138-43 ("Powers") in the following instances:

1. Where the **street layout** actually on the ground varies from the street layout as shown on such maps.
2. To permit the **reconstruction of a nonconforming building** which has been damaged to the extent of more than 50 percent of its replacement cost.
3. To **waive or reduce the parking and loading requirements** whenever:
 - a. The character or use of the building is such as to make unnecessary the full provisions of parking or loading facilities, OR
 - b. Where such regulations would impose an unreasonable hardship upon the use of the lot, as contrasted with merely granting an advantage or a convenience.
4. To allow a change **from an existing nonconforming use to another nonconforming use** of a structure, or a structure and premises in combination, if:
 - a. No structural alterations are made, AND
 - b. The Board finds that the proposed nonconforming use is not more nonconforming in the district as the existing nonconforming use.

Ord. Sec. 138-86. – GENERAL POLICY.

The general public, the board of commissioners, and the planning board are directed to take note that nonconformities in the use and development of land and buildings are to be avoided, or eliminated where now existing, wherever and whenever possible, except:

- (1) When necessary to preserve property rights established prior to the date the ordinance from which this article is derived became effective as to the property in question, and
- (2) When necessary to promote the general welfare and to protect the character of the surrounding property.

VARIANCES

Authorized only when ALL of the following applies:

1. Owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of Zoning Ordinance provisions would result in **unnecessary hardship**.
2. **Applicant proves** to the Board the following:
 - a. Land in question cannot yield a reasonable return if used only for a purpose allowed in that zone,
 - b. **Plight is unique** and not shared in general by others in the neighborhood, and
 - c. Variance will **not alter the essential character of the locality**.
3. Variance would **not merely serve as a convenience** to the applicant.
4. Variance must be in **harmony with purpose and intent of Zoning Ordinance**.
5. Variance would **not be contrary to the public interest**.
6. **Surrounding property is be properly protected**.
7. **The spirit of this Zoning Ordinance is observed and substantial justice done**.

Definitions

Table of Contents

Chapter 138-Zoning1

 Section 138-1 Definitions1

Chapter 110-Vegetation6

 Section 110-26 Definitions6

Chapter 138-Zoning

Sec. 138-1. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Accessory building means a subordinate building, located on the same lot as the main building, the use of which is clearly incidental to and customarily found in connection with the main building or principal use of the property.

Accessory use means a use which is clearly incidental to and customarily found in connection with the principal use of the premises and which is located on the same lot as the principal use.

Accessory use of building means a subordinate use or structure customarily incident to and located on the lot occupied by the main use or structure and conforming with setback and other regulations concerning location.

Alley means a minor public right-of-way which is used primarily for vehicular and utility service access to the backs or sides of properties otherwise abutting on a public street.

Apartment means a room or suite of rooms located in a building with other such rooms or suites arranged, designed, or to be occupied as a residence by a family. (See Dwelling unit.)

Associated recreation means recreational uses which are an integral part of a common ownership or associated or high density residential development (example: homeowners' association with a private club or facility).

Authorized agent means an architect, builder, developer or other person empowered to act on behalf of such persons.

Base station. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below, except for new base stations that are not eligible for Section 6409, need not be existing at the time of the application, nor does subsection 138-1.A(a)1.c. apply to a new base station.

Boardinghouse means a building other than a hotel where lodging and meals are provided for compensation.

Building means any structure designed to be built for the support, enclosure, shelter or protection of persons, animals, chattel or property of any kind. The word "building" includes the word "structure."

Carrier on wheels or cell on wheels ("COW"). A portable self-contained mobile facility moved to a location and set up to provide wireless services on a temporary or emergency basis.

Concealed or stealth design elements. A design elements of any tower, base station or transmission equipment that allows it to be integrated as an architectural feature of a tower or base station or so that it is not readily apparent to a casual observer. It may be screened, disguised, concealed or otherwise camouflaged as a natural structure, structure or part of a structure so that it is not easily recognizable from other natural structures.

Conditional use means a use which may be suitable in certain locations in a zoning district if developed and operated under specific conditions and/or for a limited period of time.

Depth of lot means the mean horizontal distance between the front and rear lot lines. (See definitions of Front and Rear lot lines.)

District means a section of the city for which the regulations governing the areas, heights or uses of buildings are uniform.

Dwelling unit means any building or portion thereof which is designed for or used primarily for residential occupancy, but not including hotels, boardinghouses or mobile homes.

- (1) *Single-family* means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by one family as a separate dwelling unit.

- (2) *Duplex* means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by two families living independently of each other.
- (3) *Triplex* means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by three families living independently of each other.
- (4) *Fourplex* means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by four families living independently of each other.
- (5) *Multiple* means a building designed for and/or occupied exclusively by five or more families living independently of each other.

The determination of whether one family is living independent of another is based on one or more of the following criteria: separate sanitary facilities; separate kitchen facilities; separate entrances; or separate utilities.

Eligible facilities request. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Eligible support structure. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Existing. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Family means one or more persons living together as a single housekeeping unit with common sanitary and kitchen facilities.

Garage, commercial means a building or premises used for storage, repair, rental or servicing of motor vehicles.

Garage, private means an accessory building, attached or detached, designed or used for the storage of motor-driven vehicles owned and used only by the occupants of the building to which it is accessory.

Guesthouse means an accessory building designed for the temporary occupancy of guests of the primary dwelling for which there is no remuneration. "Maids' quarters" means a portion of a dwelling unit, within the same enclosure and not a separate accessory building attached to the primary building, that may contain separate sanitary and/or kitchen facilities which is designed for or used for residential occupancy by an employee of the primary residence.

Height means, for a building or portion of a building, the vertical distance from grade to the highest point of the coping of a flat roof, the deck line of a mansard roof, and the mean height level between eaves and ridge for hip, gable or gambrel roofs. In measuring the height of a building, the following structures shall be excluded: chimneys, cooling towers, elevator bulkheads, mechanical rooms, tanks, water towers, radio towers, television antennas, ornamental cupolas, domes or spires, and parapet walls not exceeding four feet in height. Heights authorized in this chapter are subordinate to the airport zoning ordinance, appendix A.

Loading space means a space within the main building or on the same lot therewith, providing for the standing, loading or unloading of trucks and having a minimum dimension of 12 by 35 feet and a vertical clearance of at least 14 feet.

Lot means an undivided tract or parcel of land having frontage on a public street, and which is, or in the future may be, offered for sale, conveyance, transfer or improvement, which is designated as a distinct and separate tract, and which is identified by a tract or lot number or symbol in a duly approved subdivision plat which has been properly filed of record. The word "lot" includes the word "plot."

- (1) *Corner lot* means a lot abutting upon two or more public streets at their intersection.
- (2) *Building coverage* means percentage of the lot that is occupied by the ground area of a building and its accessory buildings.
- (3) *Lot, double frontage* means a lot abutting on two nonintersecting public streets as distinguished from a corner lot.

- (4) *Lot lines* means the lines bounding a lot as defined in this section.
- a. *Front lot line* means the property line between the front yard and the contiguous street right-of-way boundary.
 - b. *Rear lot line* means the property line between the rear yard and the adjacent property or right-of-way, and contiguous with the legal boundary of such use.
 - c. *Side lot line* means the property between two adjacent lots or between the side yard and the contiguous street right-of-way boundary on corner lots.

Lot of record means a parcel of land which is part of a subdivision, the map or plat of which has been recorded in the office of the county clerk; or a tract of land not a part of an urban or town lot subdivision, the deed of which has been recorded in the office of the county clerk prior to October 15, 1973, which has not been divided since recording.

Maneuvering space means the space entirely on private property required for maneuvering vehicles in such a manner as to preclude the backing of any vehicle into any street right-of-way.

Mobile home means a movable or portable dwelling originally constructed to be towed, on its own chassis, by a motor vehicle over public roads.

Mobile home and modular home park means a unified development of five acres or more for mobile homes arranged on a tract of land owned by an individual or a single business entity for the purpose of renting or leasing lots, and meeting the requirements of chapter 122, article II of this Code.

Mobile home and modular home subdivision means a unified development of five acres or more for mobile homes arranged on a tract of land in such a manner as to provide an individual lot (see definition of Lot) for each of the mobile homes.

Modular home means a dwelling unit in which more than 50 percent of the structure is constructed at other than the construction site, brought to the site in modules, and set on a permanent foundation.

Ornamental feature means an addition to a structure designed to enhance the appearance of the structure, in compliance with all of the following criteria:

- (1) Any space occupied by or enclosed by the ornamental feature should not be included in or made a part of the air conditioned, heated, or enclosed portion of the structure;
- (2) The feature should serve no purpose or function for the structure other than ornamentation. The building should be equally functional without the feature as with the feature; and
- (3) The feature shall extend no further than 24 inches into a required yard.

Parking area means a space used exclusively for the parking of vehicles and where no other business is conducted.

Parking space means an area, not closer than six feet from the back edge of the curb, the width and length of which shall exceed by a minimum of two feet the dimensions of the type of vehicle normally to be parked in the space, and connected with a street or alley by a driveway affording satisfactory ingress and egress. The minimum dimension of a parking space shall be in accordance with the city off-street parking requirements in article VII of this chapter.

Planned unit development (PUD) means and includes a combination of different dwelling types and/or a variety of land uses which creatively complement each other and harmonize with existing and proposed land uses in the vicinity, and which comply with the Planned Unit Development provisions of chapter 134, article IV of this Code.

Portable building means a temporary building that does not have a foundation and is transportable.

Recreational vehicle or travel trailer means a vehicular, portable structure built on a chassis, designed to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreational and vacation uses, permanently identified as a travel trailer by the manufacturer of the trailer and, when factory-equipped for the road, it shall have a body width not exceeding eight feet and a body length not exceeding state maximums.

Residential storage building means any building, either portable or constructed onsite, utilized for storage purposes and not requiring plumbing and electrical wiring, and not used for living quarters.

Restaurant means a building or portion of a building where the primary business is the on-premises sale of prepared food, with adequate kitchen facilities for the preparation of the food to be sold, the adequacy of such kitchen facilities to be based upon the seating capacity of the restaurant and the type of menu offered, and where alcoholic beverages may be sold under the following conditions:

- (1) At least 51 percent of the gross income shall be derived from the sale of prepared food.
- (2) Any outside entrances, outside separate identification, outside signs or other separate advertising for lounge or bar areas shall be permitted only as an accessory or secondary feature of the restaurant.
- (3) Live entertainment may be permitted.
- (4) Whenever the director of planning on the basis of a sworn complaint from any person determines that a violation of this section exists, he may require any person serving alcoholic beverages as an incidental use to provide the city, within 30 days of notification, a verified audit for each quarter of the calendar year, showing the gross income derived from the sale of food.

Retail means the sale of goods directly to a consumer; engaged in, pertaining to or relating to the sale of merchandise at retail; or selling by individual items, or by the piece, directly to a consumer.

Right-of-way line means a dividing line between a lot, tract or parcel of land and the public right-of-way.

Street means a public or private thoroughfare which affords the principal means of access to abutting property, excluding alleys.

Structural alteration means any change in the supporting members of a building, such as bearing walls, columns, beams or girders.

Structure means anything constructed, erected or artificially built up; or composed of parts and joined together in a permanent manner.

Substantial change. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Tower. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below, except for new towers that are not eligible for Section 6409, they need not be existing at the time of the application.

Townhouse means a single-family dwelling unit constructed in a series or a group of units having common walls, each on a separate lot.

Transmission equipment. As defined in section 138-1.A - Eligible facilities request (Section 6409) Definitions, below.

Yard means an open space between a building and the adjoining lot lines, unoccupied and unobstructed by any portion of a structure from the ground upward, except as otherwise provided in the definitions of "yard" set out in this section. In measuring a yard for the purpose of determining the width of a side yard, the depth of a front yard, or the depth of a rear yard, the minimum horizontal distance between the lot line and the main building shall be used.

- (1) *Front yard* means a yard extending across the front of a lot between the side lot lines, and being the minimum horizontal distance between the right-of-way line and wall of the main building or any projections thereof other than projections of the usual uncovered steps, uncovered balconies or uncovered porches. On corner lots, the front yard shall be considered as parallel to the street upon which the lot has its least dimension, except where corner lots may be square in dimension and/or have double frontage, in which case the front yard shall correspond to the lot's side adjacent to the longest block face in which it occurs and to which the majority of the existing structures front.

- (2) *Rear yard* means a yard extending across the rear of a lot and being the required minimum horizontal distance between the rear lot line and the rear of the main building or any projections thereof other than projections of uncovered steps, uncovered balconies or uncovered porches. On all lots, the rear yard shall be in the rear of the front yard.
- (3) *Side yard* means a yard between the main building and the side line of the lot, and being the minimum horizontal distance between a side lot line and the sides of the main buildings or any projections thereof.

(Code 1966, § 32-2; Ord. No. 1996-8, § I, 1-22-96; Ord. No. 1996-70, § I, 11-18-96; Ord. No. 1998-68, § 1, 2-27-98; Ord. No. 1999-69, § 1, 8-9-99; Ord. No. 2004-15, § 5, 2-9-04; Ord. No. 2015-38, § II, 5-11-15)

Cross reference— Definitions and rules of construction generally, § 1-2.

Footnotes:

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Note— 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(C) Definitions. For purposes of this paragraph—(i) the term "personal wireless services" means commercial mobile services [cellular service], unlicensed wireless services, and common carrier wireless exchange access services..."; 47 U.S.C. § 332(d)(1) the term "commercial mobile service" means any mobile service (as defined in section 153 of this title) that is provided for profit and makes interconnected service available (A) to the public or (B) to such classes of eligible users as to be effectively available to a substantial portion of the public, as specified by regulation by the Commission;..."

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Note— 47 U.S.C. § 332(c)(7)(C) Definitions for purposes of this paragraph... (ii) the term "personal wireless service facilities" means facilities for the provision of personal wireless services..."

Chapter 110-Vegetation

Sec. 110-26. - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Buffer means a screen constructed of wood, concrete block, masonry, a combination of wood and masonry, or landscape material with a chain link fence in such a manner that adjacent property is visually screened, and so that noise, solid waste or other objectionable influences will be avoided. Such buffer shall be perpendicular to the ground, a minimum of six feet in height, continuous and uninterrupted, and 100 percent opaque except where extraordinary circumstances exist where additional height will more adequately accomplish the desired end.

Caliper means the diameter of a tree measured 12 inches above the ground for trees up to and including eight inches in diameter and four and one-half feet above the ground for trees having a diameter of more the eight inches. The diameter of a multi-stem tree shall be measured at the point below branching or the sum of the two largest stems measured at four and one-half feet above the ground which ever is greater.

Contiguous means adjacent property whose property lines are shared, or are separated by only a street, alley, easement or right-of-way.

Developed property means that portion of a lot or parcel upon which a building, structure, pavement, or other improvements have been or are proposed to be placed.

Diameter-at-breast-height (DBH) means the tree trunk diameter measured in inches at a height of four and one-half feet (54 inches) above natural grade or the DBH measurement according to the latest edition of the Guide for Plant Appraisal as published by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, when the tree trunk branches out at a point lower than four and one-half feet.

Frontage means lineal distance measured along abutting street rights-of-way.

Ground cover means low growing plants planted in such a manner as to form a continuous cover over the ground, typical horizontal growth form with a maximum height of 24 inches, such as liriopse, low growing varieties of honeysuckle, confederate jasmine, English ivy or others.

Landscape material means trees, shrubs, ground cover, vines or grass installed in planting areas, including but not limited to those installed for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of this article.

Landscape strip area means a planting area within the property lines of specified width and parallel to a public street, excluding driveways for ingress and egress.

Paved ground surface area (also referred to in this article as paved area or paved ground area) means any paved ground surface area (excepting public rights-of-way) used for the purpose of driving, parking, storing or displaying of vehicles, boats, trailers and mobile homes, including new and used car lots and other open lot uses. Parking structures, covered drive-in parking areas to the drip line of the covering or garages shall not be considered as paved ground surface areas.

Planting area means an area intended or used for landscaping that has a minimum of 40 square feet of actual plantable area and an inside dimension on any side of at least 36 inches.

Reconstruction means rehabilitation or replacement of structures on nonresidential or multifamily property to an extent exceeding 50 percent of the assessed valuation of such structures as shown on the most recent tax roll of the city.

Shrub means any woody plant of relatively low height, having several stems arising from the base and lacking a single trunk.

Stormwater detention facility means an impoundment on a lot or parcel reserved for detaining and controlling the release of stormwater runoff as required by City of McAllen Drainage Policy.

Street line means that line separating the right-of-way from any adjacent property.

Tree means any self-supporting woody plant of a single trunk and of a species which normally grows to an overall mature height of a minimum of 15 feet in the lower Rio Grande Valley of the state.

Vine means any of a group of woody or herbaceous plants which may climb by twining, by means of aerial rootlets or tendrils, or which may simply sprawl over the ground or other plants.

Xeriscape means landscape methods which conserve water through the use of drought-tolerant plants and planting techniques.

(Code 1966, § 17 3/8 -4; Ord. No. 1993-88, § I, 12-13-93; Ord. No. 2006-118, § 1, 11-13-06; Ord. No. 2007-28, § 1, 3-26-07)

Cross reference— Definitions and rules of construction generally, § 1-2.

Exceptions Cited within the Zoning Ordinance

Exceptions pertaining to front yard setbacks:

1. Balconies opening upon fire towers not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
2. Balconies, uncovered (*Section 138-1, Yard (1)*)
3. Chimneys not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
4. Cornices up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
5. Eaves up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
6. Fence not to exceed 3 feet within 25 feet of a curb intersection in residential zones (*Section 138-367 (c)*)
7. Fire escapes, open or lattice-enclosed not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
8. Flues not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
9. Ornamental features up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
10. Planting not to exceed 3 feet within 25 feet of a curb intersection in residential zones (*Section 138-367 (c)*)
11. Porches, uncovered (*Section 138-1, Yard (1)*)
12. Projections up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
13. Pumps, filling station not less than 13 feet from the property line or 18 feet from the curb, whichever greater (*Section 138-367(d)*)
14. Pumps, gas and canopies not less than 9 feet from the property line or 10 feet from the curb, whichever greater (*Section 138-259*)
15. Pumps, islands not less than 13 feet from the property line or 18 feet from the curb, whichever greater (*Section 138-367(d)*)
16. Sills up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
17. Stairways, outside not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
18. Steps, uncovered (*Section 138-1, Yard (1)*)
19. Structure not to exceed 3 feet within 25 feet of a curb intersection in residential zones (*Section 138-367 (c)*)

Exceptions pertaining to rear yard setbacks:

1. Balconies opening upon fire towers not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
2. Balconies, uncovered (*Section 138-1, Yard (1)*)
3. Buildings, accessory may occupy no more than 30% (*Section 138-369*)
4. Carports, unenclosed abutting an alley may be built up to the rear property line within the R-3A and R-3C Districts (*Section 138-356, Footnote 5*)
5. Chimneys not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
6. Cornices up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
7. Eaves up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
8. Fire escapes, open or lattice-enclosed not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
9. Flues not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
10. Ornamental features up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
11. Parking, unenclosed may occupy no more than 90% (*Section 138-369*)
12. Porches, uncovered (*Section 138-1, Yard (1)*)
13. Projections up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
14. Sills up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
15. Stairways, outside not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
16. Steps, uncovered (*Section 138-1, Yard (1)*)

Exceptions pertaining to side yard setbacks:

1. Balconies opening upon fire towers not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
2. Canopy, unenclosed and not less than 4 feet from the side lot line or 8 feet from a corner lot line (*Section 138-368 (d)*)
3. Chimneys not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
4. Cornices up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
5. Eaves up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
6. Fire escapes, open or lattice-enclosed not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
7. Flues not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
8. Ornamental features up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
9. Porte-cochere, unenclosed and not less than 4 feet from the side lot line or 8 feet from a corner lot line (*Section 138-368 (d)*)
10. Projections up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
11. Side yards can be reduced to 10% of the lot width provided the lot has a width less than 50 feet. However, no side yard shall be less than 3.5 feet (*Section 138-368 (f)*)
12. Sills up to 2 feet (*Section 138-366 (c)*)
13. Stairways, outside not to exceed 5 feet (*Section 138-366 (d)*)
14. Townhouses can be built up to the side property line with a firewall (*Section 138-356, Footnote 10*)

Exceptions pertaining to height measurements (*Section 138-1, Height*):

1. Chimneys
2. Cooling towers
3. Domes
4. Elevator bulkheads
5. Mechanical rooms
6. Ornamental cupolas
7. Parapet walls not exceeding four feet in height
8. Radio towers
9. Spires
10. Tanks
11. Television antennas
12. Water towers

Exceptions as per Planning Department Policy

By policy the following are permitted:

1. AC Units
2. Clothes lines
3. Concrete slabs
4. Fire pits
5. Pergolas, arbors, and trellises as a landscape feature (legal opinion, 2009)
6. Playground equipment
7. Pool decks
8. Pool pumps
9. Portable grills
10. Sports equipment i.e. basketball hoop
11. Swimming pools prior to 2009 (legal opinion)
12. Umbrellas and patio furniture
13. Water features and fountains

Legal opinions:

1. In 2009 Assistant City Attorney Ignacio Perez made an interpretation to allow arbors, pergolas, and trellises within the required setbacks. The definition of landscape material is stated as trees, shrubs, ground cover, vines or grass installed in planting areas in Section 110-26 of the Vegetation Ordinance. The legal interpretation was if vines were allowed by code as a planting area and they cover vertical planes such as walls then the same logic could be applied to arbors, pergolas, and trellises as a planting area. Mr. Perez also cited Section 110-56 (g) of the Vegetation Ordinance stating architectural planters may be permitted to fulfill landscape requirements.
2. Prior to 2009 swimming pools were not considered a structure due to the fact they were constructed underground and the Zoning Ordinance defines a structure as anything constructed, erected or artificially built up or composed of parts and joined together in a permanent manner. However, an interpretation was made in 2009 to consider swimming pools as a structure to abide by setback requirements.

ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT AND APPEALS

RULES AND PROCEDURES

CITY OF MCALLEN

The McAllen Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals adopts the following Rules and Procedures (hereinafter “Rules”) to govern the substance of all board matters.

I. ORGANIZATION AND OFFICERS

A. Members

The McAllen City Commission created the Zoning Board of Adjustment and Appeals (hereinafter referred to as “Board”) pursuant to Chapter 211 of the Texas Local Government Code and Chapter 138, Article II, Division 3 of the City of McAllen, Texas Code of Ordinances (the “City Code”). The Commission appoints the members for that Board under Section 211.008 of the Texas Local Government Code (the “Code”).

The Commission composed the Board to sit five (5) members. Each member serves a two-year term. The Commission may renew a member’s term for a maximum of three total consecutive terms. The Commission also appoints four (4) alternate members to serve in the absence of a regular board member. Alternate members serve just as regular members and are subject to the same rules as regular members, unless otherwise provided in these Rules, but do not vote except in the absence of a regular member.

B. Officers

The Board shall elect a Chair and a Vice Chair from its own regular members by majority vote. The Chair and Vice Chair each serve one year. The Board shall accept an Executive Secretary appointed by the McAllen Planning Department. The Board shall adopt an attorney advisor appointed by the McAllen Legal Department. The Board shall only accept the appointment of personnel under the condition each person remains the employee and charge of the City of McAllen, with no employment relationship to the Board.

C. Duties and Officers

The Chair shall preside over the Board, hold meetings of the Board, decide points of order, and dispense the business of the Board. The Chair may administer oaths, compel the attendance of witnesses, and issue subpoenas as per Section 211.008 of the Code. The Chair shall sign the minutes of board meeting after the minutes have been approved by the Board.

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, or in both their absences the most senior member, according to the member’s appointment date, shall dispense the duties of the Chair.

II. POWERS OF THE BOARD

A. General Powers

The Board has those powers specified in Section 211.009 and 241.033 of the Code, and those powers granted by the City Commission under Chapter 138 (Zoning Ordinance) and Chapter 110 (Vegetation Ordinance) of the City Code, and those powers granted to the Board by ordinance.

B. Specified Powers

As per city ordinance and state statute, the Board has those powers described in Section 211.009 of the Code and Section 138-43 of the City Code. Those powers described in Section 138-43 are:

1. Hear and decide appeals that allege an error in any order, requirement, decision or determination made by an administrative official or agency in the enforcement of applicable provisions of the Local Government Code, the City Ordinance;
2. Authorize variances to specific cases from the terms of the City Code as will not be contrary to the public interest, where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of City Ordinance will result in unnecessary hardship, and so that the spirit of ordinances shall be observed and substantial justice done;
3. Grant special exception to waive or reduce parking and loading requirements whenever the character and use of the building is such as to make unnecessary the full provisions of parking or loading, or where such regulations would impose an unreasonable hardship upon the use of the lot; and
4. Hear and decide any other matters authorized by the City Commission through ordinance.

III. DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

A. General Duties of Members

1. All members of the Board should attempt to inspect the premises of each case which is under consideration at each meeting and become generally familiar with each case prior to Board meetings.
2. All members shall attend all meetings, provided, however, the member must provide 72 hours prior notice to the Executive Secretary in the event the member cannot attend.
3. All members of the Board shall arrive at a logical and fair decision on each case, except where a conflict may preclude a vote on the case.

B. Disqualification/Conflict of Interest

All members of the Board of Adjustment are subject to the City of McAllen Ethics Ordinance (Chapter 2 of the City Code).

In all cases before the Board where a member of the Board has a conflict as described in the Ethics Ordinance, the member shall refrain from any discussion, deliberation or vote. When applicable, the member shall complete and submit a City Conflict of Interest form, but in all cases alert the Executive Secretary at least 72 hours prior to the meeting on which the conflict is at issue. The Executive Secretary shall submit all notices of conflict to the City's attorney.

IV. A BASIS FOR ACTION

The Board shall decide each case based on the following:

1. Facts filed with application.
2. Testimony presented at the public hearing on the appeal.
3. The Planning Department's technical report on the appeal.
4. The Board's findings in its field inspection of the property may question all witnesses to assist the Board in arriving at a correct, logical and fair decision.
5. The applicable standards of review described in Section 138-43 of the City Code and Sections II.A., II.B. and VI. of these Rules.
6. All decisions shall be made on the Basis for Action. Neither the Board nor the individual members may use personal, first hand knowledge of any facts to make a determination, if such information has not been entered into the record or made available at the public hearing.

V. APPLICANTS

A. Legally Vested Interest

The Board shall not consider an application from any applicant who does not have a vested legal or equitable interest in the property in question. Applicants may appear on their own behalf or may be represented by counsel or agent. Any representation by someone other than an applicant must be accompanied with a written designation by the applicant for the agent to act on behalf of the applicant. (For example, the representative may produce a letter from the applicant to the Planning Department to authorize the representative to speak on behalf of the applicant; or, the representative may submit an application on behalf of a verifiable power of attorney.)

B. Applications

All applications for consideration by the Board must be on the prescribed form approved by the Planning Department and acceptable to the Board. The Board shall not consider applications for a variance or a special exception or any other Board action, if the application is not on a designated form. The Board shall approve the official application and the Chair shall implement it.

All applications for variances and special exceptions to commercial properties must be submitted with a current, valid "on the ground" survey. An applicant must submit a pauper form with their application if

they cannot proffer a valid survey; provided, however, the applicant illustrates their property with setbacks and encroachments as a survey would.

C. Meetings

Applicants have the right to be heard at all meetings where their applications are considered for a dispositive vote. Applicants not able to be present at the scheduled meeting to consider their application may submit to the Planning Department a written request for the Board to table the application. The Board will decide whether or not to grant the applicant's request to table. No application may be tabled at the request of applicant for more than two meetings prior to being considered for a dispositive vote. However, if the applicant requests for his/her application to be tabled because there are only four (4) board members present, such request shall not be counted against applicant's two (2) opportunities to table his/her request. Board action may proceed on any application despite the request of any applicant to table the application. The Board shall note on the record the reason(s) for the tabling of an agenda item. The reason(s) for each tabling, as well as the number of times an agenda item has been tabled, shall be reflected in an activity log in the meeting minutes at the end of each agenda item.

D. Evidence

Applicants should be prepared to present evidence necessary to prove their application. The burden of persuasion on seeking a remedy from the Board remains with the applicant at all times.

VI. HARDSHIP

A. For an "unnecessary hardship" to apply to a variance, it must relate to the very property for which the variance is sought and be a condition unique, oppressive, and uncommon to other properties. An unnecessary hardship may not be self-created, or be solely financial.

B. "Hardship" must be based on hardship resulting from sharp changes in topography or unusual terrain features. The applicant may prove the topography with a plot plan which includes topographic information related to known base points or surveys, and profiles or particular problems involved, including relationships to topographic features of adjoining properties.

C. There is no unnecessary hardship if the property is suitable and useable for the uses permitted in the district in which it lies, although there will be a loss of profit or other economic disadvantage on account of such use.

VII. MEETINGS

A. Texas Public Information Act and Open Meetings Act.

Except as permitted under the advice of the Board's attorney, all meetings of the Board are subject to the Texas Public Information Act and shall be open to the public. The minutes of the Board's meetings and records of its examination or other official actions are public records, unless excepted under law.

B. Quorum

A quorum consists of seventy-five percent (75%) of the full complement of members. For a full complement of five (5) members, therefore, four (4) members present constitute a quorum. The Chair may declare a quorum does not exist fifteen (15) minutes following a posted meeting time, having found at least four (4) members and alternate members are not present; provided however, the Chair may not declare a quorum thirty (30) minutes from the posted time, should at least members and alternate members not be present.

C. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings shall be held every first and third Wednesday at 5:30 P.M., or at other times as determined by the Board, in the City Commission Chambers. The Board by majority vote may change the place, day, and hour of the meetings; provided that, notice complies with the Texas Open Meetings Act (Chapter 511 of the Texas Government Code).

D. Special Meetings

The Chair may call a special meeting. A special meeting shall have a lawful purpose and members and public shall be given at least seventy-two (72) hours notice prior to the meeting.

E. Order of Business

The usual order of business shall be:

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Open Public Hearing
4. Other Statements
5. Introduction: New Information Recommendation
 - a) Presentation of recommendation by City Staff.
 - b) The Chair shall call the applicant or his representative(s) to present the case and answers any questions. If the applicant or representative is not present when called, the Chair may move a case to the end of the agenda.
 - c) The Chair shall then inquire if there are others who wish to address the Board in support of the case.
 - d) The Chair shall then inquire if there are those present who wish to address the Board who are opposed to the case.
 - e) The applicant or his representative may then give a rebuttal to any opposition.
 - f) If new facts are presented during this rebuttal, opposition shall be given the opportunity for rebuttal
 - g) Staff shall then have an opportunity to provide additional information, clarification or address questions from the Board.
 - h) Board discussion.
 - i) The Chair shall then declare that the discussion of the case is closed.

- j) In order to achieve an unambiguous decision, motions should be made in affirmative manner when possible.
- k) Any motion by a member shall require a second. After a motion has been made and duly seconded, discussion of the motion may be held for a reasonable time. Discussion shall terminate whenever a member shall call for a vote upon the question or whenever the Chair shall so rule.
- l) Vote on a motion.
- 6. The Chair may move a case out of regular agenda order.
- 7. Staff Report
- 8. Other Business posted on the Agenda
- 9. Adjournment

F. Staff Recommendations

City staff shall provide recommendations on each case before the Board.

G. Action by the Board

The super-majority concurring vote of seventy-five percent of the full board compliment, i.e., four affirming members of the Board, shall be necessary to reverse an order, requirement, decision or determination of an administrative official or agency; to decide in favor of an applicant on a matter upon which the Board is required to pass under any such ordinance or regulation; to authorize a variation; or to recommend to the Director of Planning to uphold or modify the interpretation of the City Code. All other matters shall be decided by a majority vote, unless otherwise specified in the City Code. The Board on its own motion may table an application when an applicant does not appear; provided however, in no case may the board table an application, for failure of the applicant to appear, more than twice without taking a dispositive vote.

H. Minutes of the Board

The Board, through its designated appointee, shall keep minutes of all meetings that indicate the vote of each member on every question on which it is required to act, or the fact that a member is absent or fails to vote. The minutes shall be filed in the office of the Planning Department and are public record.

VIII. DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

A. Precedent

There is not precedent. Any one case does not set a precedent for any future case. Each case shall be decided on its own merits and upon the circumstances of the case.

B. Public Statements

No Board member shall release any official statement to the public or the press. Only the Director of the Planning Department or her designated representative may make official statements on behalf of the Board.

B. Parliamentary Procedure

Any question regarding parliamentary procedure not covered by these rules shall be decided according to the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

IX. WITHDRAWAL OF APPEAL

Any appeal or application may be withdrawn by the applicant upon written notice to the Director of Planning.

X. ATTENDANCE

Excessive absences cannot be tolerated, as the Board depends on a super majority of attendance in order to exercise decisions on applications for a variance. Three absences or more in a six-month period are excessive. If a Board member is excessively absent from regularly scheduled meetings, the Board may recommend to City Commission, by majority vote, that the Commission appoint an immediate replacement.

XI. AMENDEMENT PROCEDURE

Amendment to these rules and procedures may be made by the Board at any meeting, upon the affirmative vote of five (5) members, provided any such amendment is proposed at a preceding meeting and entered into the minutes of such meeting. However, board members may adopt through unanimous consent of all members an amendment at the meeting at which it was introduced; provided, however, the amendment shall not become effective until the next regular meeting.

Adopted this _____ day of _____, 2014 as affirmed by the designated Executive Secretary assigned by the Planning Department of the City of McAllen.

Executive Secretary

ORDINANCE NO. 2018- 70

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MCALLEN AT CHAPTER 138 ("ZONING"), ARTICLE VI ("SUPPLEMENTARY DISTRICT REGULATIONS"), DIVISION 3 ("LOTS AND YARDS"), BY ADDING PROVISIONS REGULATING CARPORTS AND GRANTING THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS TO GRANT SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS THERETO; PROVIDING FOR PUBLICATION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, AND ORDAINING OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT MATTER HEREOF.

WHEREAS, the City of McAllen desires to establish rules and regulations relating to the construction and maintenance of carports within the City,

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that it is in the public interest to delegate the authority to regulate carports to the Zoning Board of Adjustments,

WHEREAS, the City of McAllen seeks to protect the value of property located within the corporal limits of the City,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF MCALLEN, TEXAS, THAT:

SECTION I: The Code of Ordinances, City of McAllen, Chapter 138 ("Zoning"), Article VI ("Supplementary District Regulations"), Division 3 ("Lots and Yards") is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 138-371. – Special Exception for carports.

- (a) The Zoning Board of Adjustment may grant a special exception to the minimum setback requirements for a carport when, in the opinion of the board:
 - (1) there is no adequate vehicular access to an area behind the required front building line that would accommodate a parking space; and

- (2) the carport will not have a detrimental impact on surrounding properties.
- (b) In determining whether to grant this special exception, the board shall consider the following factors:
 - (1) Whether the requested special exception is compatible with the character of the neighborhood.
 - (2) Whether the value of surrounding properties will be adversely affected.
 - (3) The suitability of the size and location of the carport
 - (4) The materials to be used in construction of the carport
- (c) Storage of items other than motor vehicles is prohibited in a carport for which a special exception has been granted under this subsection.
- (d) If the Zoning Board of Adjustmnet Grants a special exception as provided in this section, the site plan and the minutes of the Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting shall be officially recorded with Hidalgo County.
- (e) Any special exception granted under this chapter is granted solely to the applicant and may not be transferred, sold, inherited, bequeathed, or devised.
- (f) A new special exception shall be required upon any change or transfer in ownership of the underlying tract; a special exception granted to a previous applicant does not confer any right to any other individual or corporation to maintain the carport without approval from the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

SECTION II: The City Secretary of the City of McAllen is hereby authorized and directed to cause the caption of this ordinance to be published in a newspaper having general circulation in McAllen, Hidalgo County, Texas in accordance with the Code of Ordinances of the City of McAllen, Section 2-56. Publication of ordinances.

SECTION III: The City Secretary of the City of McAllen is hereby authorized and directed to cause the language in Chapter 38, Article VI, Division 3, the McAllen Code of Ordinances, as amended by Section I, hereinabove, to be published in the appropriate location in the said Code of Ordinances.

SECTION IV: This Ordinance shall be and remain in full force and effect from and

after its passage by the Board of Commissioners, and execution by the Mayor.

SECTION V: If any part or parts of this Ordinance are found to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court having competent jurisdiction, then such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining parts hereof and such remaining parts shall remain in full force and effect, and to that extent this Ordinance is considered severable.

CONSIDERED, PASSED and APPROVED this 8th day of October, 2018, at a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the City of McAllen, Texas at which a quorum was present and which was held in accordance with Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

SIGNED this 9th day October, 2018.

CITY OF McALLEN

John Ingram, City Commissioner

Attest:

Perla Lara

Perla Lara, TRMC/CMC, CPM
City Secretary

Approved as to form:

Austin W. Stevenson

Austin W. Stevenson, Assistant City Attorney









PLANNING DEPARTMENT

311 N 15th Street McAllen, TX 78501
Phone: 956-681-1250 Fax: 956-681-1279



2022 CALENDAR

Meetings:

-  City Commission
-  Public Utility Board
-  Planning & Zoning Board
-  Zoning Board of Adjustment

HPC - Historic Preservation Council

Deadlines:

D- Zoning/CUP Application N - Public Notification

* **Holiday** - Office is closed

JANUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	A-1/18 & 1/19		N-1/18 & 1/19 D-2/1 & 2/2			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	A-2/1 & 2/2		N-2/1 & 2/2 D-2/16 & 2/17			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			HPC			
30	31					
	A-2/16 & 2/17					

FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			N- 2/16 & 2/17 D- 3/28 & 3/3			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	A-3/2 & 3/3		N-3/2 & 3/3 D-3/16 & 3/17			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				HPC		
27	28					
	A-3/16 & 3/17					

MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			N-3/16 & 3/17 D - 4/5 & 4/6			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			D-4/19 & 4/20			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	A-4/5 & 4/6		N-4/5 & 4/6			
27	28	29	30	31		
			HPC			

APRIL 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	A-4/19 & 4/20		N-4/19 & 4/20 D-5/3 & 5/4			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
					HOLIDAY	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	A- 5/3 & 5/4		N- 5/3 & 5/4 D-5/17 & 5/18			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
			HPC			

MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	A- 5/17 & 5/18		D: 6/1 & 6/7 N-5/17 & 5/18			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	A-6/1 ZBA		N-6/1 ZBA D-6/15 & 6/21			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	A-6/7 PZ		HPC		A-6/15 ZBA	
29			N-6/7 PZ			
	HOLIDAY	30	31			

JUNE 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			N-6/15 ZBA D-7/6 & 7/7			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	A-6/21 P&Z		N-6/21 P&Z			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			D-7/19 & 7/20			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	A-7/6 & 7/7		N-7/6 & 7/7			
26	27	28	29	30		
			HPC			

Deadlines and Meeting Dates are subject to change at any time. Please contact the Planning Department at (956) 681-1250 if you have any questions.

2022 CALENDAR

Meetings:





-  City Commission
-  Planning & Zoning Board
-  Public Utility Board
-  Zoning Board of Adjustment
- HPC - Historic Pres Council

Deadlines:






- D- Zoning/CUP Application
- N - Public Notification

* **Holiday** - Office is closed





JULY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
					A-7/19 & 7/20	
3	4 HOLIDAY	5	6 N-7/19 & 7/20 D-8/2 & 8/3	7	8	9
10	11 	12 	13	14	15	16
17	18 A-8/2 & 8/3	19	20 N-8/2 & 8/3 D-8/16 & 8/17	21	22	23
24	25 	26 	27 HPC	28	29	30
31						






AUGUST 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 N- 8/16 & 8/17 D-9/7 & 9/8	4	5	6
	A- 8/16 & 8/17					
7	8 	9 	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 D-9/20 & 9/21	18	19	20
21	22 	23 	24 N-9/7 & 9/8	25 HPC	26	27
28	29	30	31			





SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					A-10/20 & 10/21	
4	5 HOLIDAY	6	7 N-9/20 & 9/21 D-10/4 & 10/5	8	9	10
11	12 	13 	14	15	16	17
18	19 A-10/4 & 10/5	20	21 D-10/18 & 10/19 N-10/4 & 10/5	22	23	24
25	26 	27 	28 HPC	29	30	




OCTOBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5 N-10/18 & 10/19 D-11/1 & 11/2	6	7	8
	A-10/18 & 10/19					
9	10 	11 	12	13	14	15
16	17 A- 11/1 & 11/2	18	19 N- 11/1 & 11/2 D-11/16 & 11/17	20	21	22
23	24 	25 	26 HPC	27	28	29
30	31 A-11/16 & 11/17					

NOVEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 N-11/16 & 11/17 D-12/6 & 12/7	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 	15 	16 D-12/20 & 12/21	17	18	19
20	21 A-12/6 & 12/7	22	23 N-12/6 & 12/7	24 HOLIDAY	25	26
27	28 	29 	30			

DECEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 HPC D-1/3 & 1/4 N- 12/20 & 12/21	8	9	10
	A-12/20 & 12/21					
11	12 	13 	14	15	16	17
18	19 A- 1/3 & 1/4	20	21 D-1/17 & 1/18 N- 1/3 & 1/4	22	23 HOLIDAY	24
25	26 HOLIDAY	27	28	29	30	31