

## LWV of East Alabama — Observer Corps Report

**Agency:** City of Auburn Planning Commission

**Date:** January 10, 2019

**Location:** 141 North Ross Street, Auburn

**Website:** <https://www.auburnalabama.org/pc/>; see also, [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=auburn+alabama+planning+commission+meeting+january+10+2019](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=auburn+alabama+planning+commission+meeting+january+10+2019)

Staff present (Approx. Number): Five (5) or more; Number in Audience: 40 plus

FEATURE EVALUATED	YES	NO	COMMENTS
Did meeting start on time?	X		Adjourned circa 9:00 p.m. CST
Were all members present?		X	One member missing
Were members attentive?	X		
Did the members appear to have done their “homework”?	X		
Were members courteous to each other and the public?	X		
Was the agenda online at least 24 hrs. before?	X		
Did agenda items clearly describe what was to be discussed?	X		
Was there adequate opportunity for public input?	X		
Was there the appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?		X	
Was background information available to public?	X		

**Were any topics on the agenda of interest or relevant to any LWVEA members or its friends?**

After the required Public Hearing, the Planning Commission reviewed and unanimously approved the attached (4 pp.) amendment to the Zoning Ordinance regarding *Academic Detached Dwelling Unit* (a/k/a the “ADDU”) as a *Permitted Use* in select Zoning Districts and as a *Conditional Use* in select others. The **Auburn City Council will now hear the proposed amendment at its next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019.**

Numerous citizens commented on the Proposal, expressing concern over its approval. These included, but not limited to, whether or not the use should be allowed as a Conditional or Permitted Use under a separate, distinct zoning classification; allowing the ADDU in certain residential districts; and enforceability (e.g., ensuring that *no more than five residents of academic institutions* occupy a Unit (see text). Adequate public notification of an impending decision by City Council of the merits of a proposal was raised (See 3 pages that outline process). Regarding Planning Commission action, for example, the following holds: In rezoning cases, **signs** are posted out of courtesy 15 days in advance of a hearing; in the case of Conditional Use application signs are required to be posted six (6) days in advance. In rezoning cases, **advertisement** is required and posted 15 days prior to a hearing; Conditional Use applications are advertised out of courtesy ten (10) days in advance. As to City Council actions, rezoning requires two (2) advertisements: one is mandated 22 days in advance of a hearing; the other 15 days prior to a hearing. With respect to Conditional Use applications, Councilmanic action does not require advertisement. Typical rezoning requires approximately 45 days of Councilmanic related action; Conditional Use proposals can go from the Planning Commission for Council’s action the next Council meeting.

**Recommendation:** Attend the January 22, 2019, Council meeting to express your concerns, if any, over the proposal.

Observer: BOU

Date Submitted: January 11, 2019