

STAFF REPORT
October 23, 2008

No. 08RZ035 - Rezoning from General Agriculture District to Office Commercial District

ITEM 32

GENERAL INFORMATION:

APPLICANT	Jim Mattern for Black Hills Corporation
AGENT	Robert A. Morcom for TSP Three, Inc.
PROPERTY OWNER	Black Hills Corporation
REQUEST	No. 08RZ035 - Rezoning from General Agriculture District to Office Commercial District
EXISTING LEGAL DESCRIPTION	The SW1/4 of the SW1/4, and that part of the NW1/4 of the SW1/4 lying south of Highway Right-of-way, less Lot H1, all located in Section 24, T1N, R7E, BHM, Rapid City, Pennington County, South Dakota
PARCEL ACREAGE	Approximately 47.04 acres
LOCATION	South of Catron Boulevard and east of Tartan Court
EXISTING ZONING	General Agriculture District
SURROUNDING ZONING	
North:	General Agriculture District
South:	General Agriculture District (Pennington County)
East:	Highway Services District (Pennington County) - Suburban Residential District (Pennington County)
West:	General Agriculture District
PUBLIC UTILITIES	City sewer and water
DATE OF APPLICATION	9/26/2008
REVIEWED BY	Vicki L. Fisher / Ted Johnson

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Rezoning from General Agriculture District to Office Commercial District be continued to the November 6, 2008 Planning Commission meeting to allow the applicant to submit a Traffic Impact Study for review and approval.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

The applicant has submitted a Rezoning request to change the zoning designation of the property from General Agriculture District to Office Commercial District. In addition, the applicant has submitted a Comprehensive Plan Amendment to the Future Land Use Plan (File #08CA037) to change the land use designation from a Planned Residential

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Development with a maximum density of 6.7 dwelling units per acre to Office Commercial with a Planned Commercial Development.

The applicant has also submitted an Initial Commercial Development Plan to construct a customer call center, office campus, a day care facility and a recreational area on the property. The applicant has indicated that the development will be constructed in three phases and will be known as the "Black Hills Power Customer Call Center and Office Campus".

The property is located south of Catron Boulevard and east of Tartan Court. Currently, a utility substation, owned and operated by Black Hills Power, is located in the southeast corner of the property.

STAFF REVIEW:

Staff has reviewed the Rezoning request and has noted the following considerations:

Traffic Impact Study: The adopted Future Land Use Plan currently identifies the appropriate use of the 47 acres as a Planned Residential Development with a maximum density of 6.7 dwelling units per acre. Developing the 47 acre parcel with commercial use(s) will result in a significant increase in traffic. Staff had previously met with the applicant and indicated that a Traffic Impact Study must be submitted in conjunction with the proposed change in land use designation and with the Initial Planned Commercial Development applications to determine if commercial use(s) are appropriate at this location. Of particular concern is the traffic associated with the proposed use and the access onto U.S. Highway 16B (Catron Boulevard). This portion of U.S. Highway 16B is a high speed arterial highway and a designated truck route. Access to the site from U.S. Highway 16B is located on a steep hill. Several serious injury accidents including fatalities have occurred on the segment of U.S. Highway 16B between U.S. Highway 16B and South Dakota Highway 79. Due to the volume of traffic carried on this roadway and the existing accident history, significant care and consideration must be used in considering any proposed changes to the land use in the area. The Rapid City 2000 Plan for the Truck Route Area adopted in 1987 identified the future land use of the property as a Planned Residential Development. It also identified the need to limit access onto the truck route where ever possible.

To date, a Traffic Impact Study has not been submitted for review and approval. The applicant has indicated that a study is currently being completed and will be submitted in the near future. Staff is recommending that this item be continued to allow the applicant to submit the Traffic Impact Study for review and approval. This will ensure that all the information is available for the Planning Commission to make an informal recommendation to the City Council.

Notification Requirement: As of this writing, the receipts from the certified mailings have not been returned nor has the sign been posted on the property. Staff will notify the Planning Commission at the October 23, 2008 Planning Commission meeting if these requirements have not been met.