

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
JULY 25, 2017**

**PRESENT AND ACTING:**

**DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN  
GENE BAILEY, VICE-CHAIRMAN  
DARRELL MCDUGALD  
DENNIS JONES  
JERAL HALL**

**MATT FUQUA, ATTORNEY  
CARLA A. HAND, CLERK OF COURT AND COUNTY COMPTROLLER  
SARAH WILLIAMS, CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wise at 5:00 p.m., CT.

Mr. Frank Snowden stated Mr. Jason Bryant, who lives on Lamont Road in the northwest corner of the county, is asking for a conditional use permit to construct AR-15's on his property in a small-scale volume.

Mr. Bryant stated he works as a machinist for a company in Jackson County that fabricates competition rifles and AR-15's. Mr. Bryant stated he has worked for the company for about four (4) years, and he has had many inquiries from individuals asking if he could build them a gun. Mr. Bryant stated he had to decline to build guns for anyone, as he was not legally licensed to do so. Mr. Bryant stated after he began to get calls more frequently asking about building guns, he decided he should pursue being legally licensed to build guns and be able to turn what he loves to do into a business. Mr. Bryant stated this is more of a hobby at this time, but he hopes to one day turn his hobby into a business and have a storefront. Mr. Bryant stated until he has the money to purchase a store, he would be constructing the guns in his home. Mr. Bryant stated he does not expect to make more than a few guns per month, and his goal at this time is to get his name out for making the guns and enjoy what he does. Chairman Wise asked if Mr. Bryant has a firearms license. Mr. Bryant stated he must first obtain the conditional use permit before he can receive the firearms license. Mr. Bryant stated this is the last step in obtaining a Federal Firearms License (FFL). Mr. Snowden stated he received a call about the Federal Firearms License, and told them Mr. Bryant would need to go through the Planning Department since selling the guns would be considered commercial activity. Mr. Snowden asked what would happen if Mr. Bryant were fortunate, and begins to make a higher volume of guns per month. Mr. Bryant stated if the county sees any problems in the future, he would be willing to work with the county in any way. Mr. Bryant stated he has always wanted to start his own business and this seems like a great opportunity for him to do so. Mr. Bryant stated the conditional use permit is the last step toward a firearms license. Commissioner McDougald asked if Mr. Bryant would be doing assembly and repairs. Mr. Bryant stated he would be focusing on assembling custom AR-15 rifles. Mr. Bryant stated there is no one in the area that builds custom style AR-15 rifles. Mr. Bryant stated he will not be selling ammo, and will not have

high volume gun sales at this time. Commissioner McDougald asked if Mr. Bryant would be sighting the guns. Mr. Bryant stated he would not do any of the sighting in on the rifles; the guns he sells will not have optics on them unless they specify for him to order optics for the gun. Mr. Bryant stated the individual who purchases the gun would likely put the sights on the gun themselves. Mr. Bryant stated the customer would not be allowed to shoot the gun on his property after it has been purchased. Mr. Bryant stated he would only be testing the function of the gun after it is built by firing two (2) rounds into a mound of dirt on the ground in front of him. Mr. Bryant stated if he were blessed with a lot of business, he would be pursuing a storefront somewhere to continue to sell his guns. Chairman Wise asked if Mr. Bryant was coming before the Board tonight to fulfil the requirements of receiving his firearms license. Chairman Wise stated no one would ever know Mr. Bryant was building guns in his home if he had not come before the Board. Mr. Bryant stated they would not have known, but he wanted to be able to legally build guns and sell them, which is why he is before the Board tonight. Commissioner McDougald asked if there was certified mail sent to the surrounding property owners. Mr. Snowden stated 30 certified letters were sent to all property owners within a quarter mile radius, and there were six (6) that have not been returned. Commissioner McDougald noted there have been two (2) letters of objection sent to the Board. Attorney Fuqua stated the property owners objected to the building of guns because they were planning to build homes there one day and did not want guns being shot around their homes. Mr. Bryant stated he had one individual from New York State send him a letter asking if he would contact him to discuss the matter. Mr. Bryant stated the gentleman stated he owned property in the area and wanted to make sure there would be no firing range and big guns being shot. Commissioner McDougald asked if the conditional use permit could be passed with restrictions placed as far as firing guns. Attorney Fuqua stated there would be the restriction there will not be a firing range and Mr. Bryant will have to have a Federal Firearms License. Mr. Bryant stated he has no problem with the restrictions. Several of Mr. Bryant's neighbors attended the meeting in support of Mr. Bryant's conditional use permit request. There was further discussion about the conditional use permit.

- ❖ Commissioner Hall made a motion to recommend the Board grant Mr. Bryant a conditional use permit to construct AR-15 rifles on his property, with the conditions there will be no firing range and Mr. Bryant must obtain a Federal Firearms License. Commissioner McDougald seconded the motion. Commissioner Bailey inquired about the two (2) property owners who wrote letters objecting to the conditional use permit. Commissioner Bailey stated the property owners claim they are adjacent to Mr. Bryant's property. Mr. Snowden provided a map of the area, and showed the Commissioner Bailey the parcels belonging to the property owners in objection are not contiguous with Mr. Bryant's property. The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m., CT.

Danny Ray Wise  
DANNY RAY WISE, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

Carla A. Hand  
CARLA A. HAND, CLERK