

City of Blue Ridge

480 West First Street

• Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513

• (706) 632 - 2091

July 6, 2021

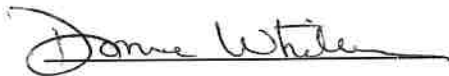
Veto of Ordinance Amendment BR2021-06

Zoning regulations can be a tough decision for elected officials. Both the positive and negatives impact on the area must be taken into consideration with a careful review. It is important that the decisions made will protect the integrity and minimize the potential liability to the City and their Council Members.

From 1993 to 2016 the Zoning Ordinance has been amended 10 times. And in my eleven plus years on the Council, two different Zoning Administrators have proposed numerous times to reduce the height on buildings in the CBD area to 45 ft. All council members, from three different terms, decided to leave the ordinance height at 60 ft. While I am not in favor of the 60 ft height, it is my opinion the 35 ft suggestion might not be adequate either.

When you look at the history of Blue Ridge there are many Old and New Buildings that are over the 35 ft recommended height and getting this ordinance right for all is imperative. Council members and Planning Commission members have expressed an interest in additional in-depth training in order to become more knowledgeable and informed. Reaching out to the Regional Commission, Carl Vinson Institute or one of the other agencies that provide training and planning services will help assist the City to make the right decision that affect so many.

Therefore, my recommendation to the Council is to Veto Ordinance Amendment BR2021-06 at this time until training and research has been completed.



Donna Whitener
Mayor of Blue Ridge