A. PROPOSAL/REQUEST/APPLICANT’S STATEMENT:

The applicant proposes to rezone a 0.39-acre site from C-3/R-4 to PCD to be utilized as a mixed-use development. The developer will construct one (1), two-story building that will be 12,960 square feet in total area. The applicant is also requesting C-3 permitted uses as alternate uses for the development.
B. EXISTING CONDITIONS:

The property is located on the northwest corner of E. 21st Street and S. Rock Street. The site is currently grass covered and undeveloped. The abutting property to the west is zoned R-4. Properties located east of S. Rock Street contain a mixture of zoning and uses.

C. NEIGHBORHOOD NOTIFICATIONS:

All owners of property located within 300 feet of the site and all neighborhood associations registered with The City of Little Rock were notified of the public hearing.

D. ENGINEERING COMMENTS:

1. Contact Planning and Development Dept., Engineering Division at 501-371-4817 or at 501-918-5348 for inspections of any work in the public right-of-way prior to placement of concrete or asphalt or for on-site clarification of requirements prior to commencing work. Failure to do so can result in removal of any improperly placed concrete or asphalt at the expense of the owner or contractor.

2. Any work involving one (1) or more acres of disturbed area requires a State of Arkansas NPDES permit. Contact the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, NPDES branch at 501-682-0744 for applications and information about General Stormwater Discharge Construction Permit #ARR150000.

3. The Department requires three (3) phase sediment and erosion control (SEC) plans to be submitted for all construction projects showing best management practices (BMPs) for mitigating sediment runoff and erosion along with vegetation specifications for temporary and permanent soil stabilization. Phase 1 SEC plans shall show SEC BMPs during the stripping, clearing, grubbing, and rough grading of the site. Phase 2 SEC plans shall show SEC BMPs during construction of utilities, buildings, roadway infrastructure and drainage infrastructure. Phase 3 SEC Plans shall show SEC BMPs for final grading, seeding, and landscaping of the site.

4. Sediment and Erosion Control plans shall also show the pertinent information as outlined in ADEQ ARR150000 Permit Part II section A-4-H (1-14) and Part II section A-4-I-2 (A-B).

5. Department engineering staff are required to perform a final inspection of all street and stormwater infrastructure construction within the public right of way. City maintenance of the street and stormwater drainage infrastructure within the public right of way cannot officially begin until final acceptance by Department engineering staff. This needs to be completed and accepted
by Department engineering staff prior to issuance of the final certificate of occupancy.

6. A drainage study showing all hydrologic calculations for the site and all hydraulic calculations for the proposed storm sewer pipe system, swales and ditches, detention ponds, outlet structures, and inlets is required per City’s stormwater management and drainage manual. For final drainage report, sign, date, and seal the report per AR State Board of Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors rules Article 12, Section B (1) (a). Provide engineer's certification statement saying this drainage report was conducted by yourself or directly under your supervision and attesting to the accuracy of the information within this report.

7. Street design standards shall comply with the latest version of the AASHTO A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, City’s Master Street Plan (2018), and City’s Standard Details for street and drainage facilities improvements (2015).

8. Street stormwater and detention infrastructure design standards shall comply with the City’s Stormwater Management and Drainage Manual (2016) including City Code Chapters 29, 30, and 31.

9. Street pavement, sidewalks, curb and gutter, curb inlets, junction boxes, accessible ramps, and storm sewer infrastructure shall comply with City’s specifications for construction as outlined in City Code Chapters 30.

10. Damage to public and private property due to hauling operations or operations of construction related equipment from a construction site shall be repaired by the responsible party prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

11. Per City Code 31-434, a 50% maintenance bond for all street and stormwater infrastructure constructed within the public right of way shall be submitted to Department engineering staff prior to issuance of the final certificate of occupancy. Before the 50% maintenance bond can be accepted, a contract unit bid price for every street and stormwater infrastructure construction item within the public right of way shall be submitted to Department engineering staff for review and approval.

12. Per City Code 31-117, as built stormwater drainage infrastructure information/data shall be submitted prior to recording of the final plat. This information shall include but not limited to: pipe inverts, length of pipe, size of pipe, type of pipe, and type of inlets.

E. UTILITIES/FIRE DEPARTMENT/PARKS/COUNTY PLANNING:

Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority:

1. Display northern and eastern sewer mains on site plans.
Entergy: No comments received.

Summit Utilities: No comments.

AT & T: No comments received.

Central Arkansas Water:

1. All Central Arkansas Water requirements in effect at the time of request for water service must be met.

2. Please submit plans for water facilities and/or fire protection system to Central Arkansas Water for review. Plan revisions may be required after additional review. Contact Central Arkansas Water regarding procedures for installation of water facilities and/or fire service. Approval of plans by the Arkansas Department of Health Engineering Division and Little Rock Fire Department is required.

3. The facilities on-site will be private. When meters are planned off private lines, private facilities shall be installed to Central Arkansas Water's material and construction specifications and installation will be inspected by an engineer, licensed to practice in the State of Arkansas. Execution of Customer Owned Line Agreement is required.

4. Due to the nature of this facility, installation of an approved reduced pressure zone backflow preventer assembly (RPZ) is required on the domestic water service. This assembly must be installed prior to the first point of use. Central Arkansas Water (CAW) requires that upon installation of the RPZA, successful tests of the assembly must be completed by a Certified Assembly Tester licensed by the State of Arkansas and approved by CAW. The test results must be sent to CAW's Cross Connection Section within ten days of installation and annually thereafter. Contact the Cross Connection Section at 377-1226 if you would like to discuss backflow prevention requirements for this project.

5. Fire sprinkler systems which do not contain additives such as antifreeze shall be isolated with a double detector check valve assembly. If additives are used, a reduced pressure zone backflow preventer shall be required.

6. All Central Arkansas Water requirements in effect at the time of request for water service must be met.

Fire Department:

Maintain Access:

Fire Hydrants.

Maintain fire apparatus access roads at fire hydrant locations as per Appendix D of the 2012 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D103.1 Access road
width with a hydrant. Where a fire hydrant is located on a fire apparatus access road, the minimum road width shall be 26 feet, exclusive of shoulders.

**Grade**

Maintain fire apparatus access roads as per Appendix D of the 2012 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D103.2 Grade. Fire apparatus access roads shall not exceed 10 percent in grade except as approved by the fire chief. If the grade exceeds 10 percent, approval will be denied, and the applicant must submit request to be reviewed by Fire Chief for Approval.

**Loading**

Maintain fire apparatus access road design as per Appendix D of the 2012 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D102.1 Access and loading. Facilities, buildings or portions of buildings hereafter constructed shall be accessible to fire department apparatus by way of an approved fire apparatus access road with an asphalt, concrete or other approved driving surface capable of supporting the imposed load of fire apparatus weighing at least 75,000 pounds.

**Commercial and Industrial Developments – 2 means of access.** - Maintain fire apparatus access roads as per Appendix D of the 2012 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1.

*Section D104.1 Buildings exceeding three stories or 30 feet in height.* Building or facilities exceeding 30 feet or three stories in height shall have at least two means of fire apparatus access for each structure.

*Section D104.2 Building exceeding 62,000 square feet in area.* Buildings or facilities having a gross building area of more than 62,000 square feet shall be provided with two separate and approved fire apparatus access roads.

**Exception:** Projects having a gross building area of up to 124,000 square feet that have a single approved fire apparatus access road when all buildings are equipped throughout with approved automatic sprinkler systems.

D104.3 Remoteness. Where two fire apparatus access roads are required, they shall be placed a distance apart equal to not less than one half of the length of the maximum overall diagonal dimension of the lot or area to be served, measured in a straight line between accesses.

*30’ Tall Buildings - Maintain aerial fire apparatus access roads as per Appendix D of the 2012 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D105.1 – D105.4*

**D105.1 Where Required.** Where the vertical distance between the grade plane and the highest roof surface exceeds 30’, approved aerial fire apparatus access roads shall be provided. For the purposes of this section the highest roof surfaces shall be determined by measurement to the eave of a pitched roof, the intersection of a roof to the exterior wall, or the top of the parapet walls, whichever is greater.
D105.2 Width. Aerial fire apparatus access roads shall have a minimum unobstructed width of 26’, exclusive of shoulders, in the immediate vicinity of the building or portion thereof.

D105.3 Proximity to building. At least one of the required access routes meeting this condition shall be located within a minimum of 15 feet and a maximum of 30 feet from the building and shall be positioned parallel to one entire side of the building. The side of the building on which the aerial fire apparatus access road is positioned shall be approved by the fire code official.

D105.4 Obstructions. Overhead utility and power lines shall not be located over the aerial fire apparatus access road or between the aerial fire apparatus road and the building. Other obstructions shall be permitted to be placed with the approval of the fire code official.

Dead Ends.
Maintain fire apparatus access roads at dead end locations as per Appendix D of the 2012 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D103.4 Dead Ends. Dead-end fire apparatus access roads in excess of 150 feet shall be provided with width and turnaround provisions in accordance with Table D103.4. Requirements for Dead-end fire apparatus access roads.

Gates
Maintain fire apparatus access road gates as per Appendix D of the 2012 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code Vol. 1 Section D103.5 Fire apparatus access road gates. Gates securing the fire apparatus access roads shall comply with all of the following criteria:

1. Minimum gate width shall be 20 feet.
2. Gates shall be of swinging or sliding type.
3. Construction of gates shall be of material that allows manual operation by one person.
4. Gate components shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times and replaced or repaired when defective.
5. Electric gates shall be equipped with a means of opening the gate by fire department personnel for emergency access. Emergency opening devices shall be approved by the fire code official.
6. Manual opening gates shall not be locked with a padlock or chain and padlock unless they are capable of being opened by means of forcible entry tools or when a key box containing the keys to the lock is installed at the gate location.
7. Locking device specifications shall be submitted for approval by the fire code official.
8. Electric gate operators, where provided, shall be listed in accordance with UL 325.
9. Gates, intended for automatic operation shall be designed, constructed, and installed to comply with requirements of ASTM F 2200.

**Fire Hydrants**

Locate Fire Hydrants as per Appendix C of the 2012 Arkansas Fire Prevention Code. Section C101 – C105, in conjunction with Central Arkansas Water (Daniel Tull 501-377-1245) and the Little Rock Fire Marshal’s Office (Capt. Tony Rhodes 501-918-3757, or Fire Marshal Derek N. Ingram 501-918-3756) Number and Distribution of Fire Hydrants as per Table C105.1.

If you have any additional questions, please contact our office. Contact Capt. Tony Rhodes at (501) 918-3757, or Fire Marshal Derek N. Ingram (501) 918-3756.

**Parks and Recreation:** No comments received.

**County Planning:** No comments received.

**BUILDING CODES/LANDSCAPE:**

**Building Code:** No comments received.

**Landscape:** No comments received.

**TRANSPORTATION/PLANNING:**

**Rock Region Metro:** No comments received.

**Planning Division:**

The request is in the Central City Planning District. The Land Use Plan shows Mixed Use (MX) for the requested area. This category provides for a mixture of residential, office and commercial uses to occur. A Planned Zoning District is required if the use is entirely office or commercial or if the use is a mixture of the three. The application is to rezone from C-3 to PCD. Mixed Use

Surrounding the application are mixed uses.

This site is not located in an Overlay District.

**Master Street Plan:**

E 21st St is a Commercial Street on the Master Street Plan. Commercial Streets are a Local public street which is abutted by non-residential or residential use which is more intense than duplex or two-unit residential. These streets have the same design standard as a Collector. The standard Right-of-way is 60 feet.
Sidewalks are required on both sides. This street may require dedication of right-of-way and may require street improvements.

Bicycle Plan:

E. 21st Street is not shown on the Master Bike Plan Map with existing or proposed facilities in this area.

Historic Preservation Plan:

This property is not located in a Historic District.

H. ANALYSIS:

The applicant proposes to rezone a 0.39-acre site from C-3/R-4 to PCD to be utilized as a mixed-use development. The developer will construct one (1), two-story building that will be 12,960 square feet in total area. The applicant is also requesting C-3 permitted uses as alternate uses for the development.

The property is located on the northwest corner of E. 21st Street and S. Rock Street. The site is currently grass covered and undeveloped. The abutting property to the west is zoned R-4. Properties located east of S. Rock Street contain a mixture of zoning and uses.

The site plan shows a two-story, urban-style building, located in the southern portion of the site that will contain a mixture of residential, commercial, office and retail uses.

Access to the site is provided by a single twenty-four (24) foot wide driveway apron extending from S. Rock Street.

The building will be setback five (5) feet from the front (south) property line, six (6) feet from the side (west) property line, one (1) foot from the east property line and more than twenty-five (25) feet from the rear (north) property line.

The hours of operation for the commercial, retail and office uses are intended to be from 7:00am to 8:00pm, Sunday-Thursday, from 7:00am to 10:00pm on Friday, Saturday, and holidays.

The applicant is proposing eighteen (18) parking spaces with one (1) handicap parking space for a total of nineteen (19) on-site parking spaces. The parking spaces are shown to be behind the building. Additional on-street parking is allowed along E. 21st Street and S. Rock Street. Staff feels the proposed parking is sufficient to serve the uses.
Screening along the north property line is provided by a six (6) foot opaque fence.

The applicant did not submit a signage plan with this application. All signage must comply with Section 36-555 of the City’s Zoning Ordinance (signs permitted in commercial zones).

The site plan shows one (1) dumpster located behind the building and at the west end of the parking lot. The dumpster area must be screened as per Section 36-523 of the City’s Zoning Ordinance.

All site lighting proposed must be low-level and directed away from adjacent properties.

Staff is supportive of the overall concept of the PCD rezoning. The applicant’s proposed uses will continue to revitalize and benefit the growth and development along the 21st Street Corridor. Staff feels the proposed uses will have no adverse impact on the surrounding properties.

I. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the requested PCD rezoning, subject to compliance with the comments and conditions outlined in paragraphs D, E and F, and the staff analysis, of the agenda staff report.

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: (MAY 9, 2024)

The applicant was present. There were no persons registered in opposition. Staff presented the item and a recommendation of approval as outlined in the “staff analysis” above. The item remained on the Consent Agenda for Approval. The vote was 8 ayes, 0 nays and 3 absent. The application was approved.