

## ARTICLE II. VOLUSIA GROWTH MANAGEMENT COMMISSION CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION RULES AND ORGANIZATION

### DIVISION 1 – DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION OF ARTICLE

#### Sec. 90-31. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

*Adjacent jurisdiction* means a unit of local government whose territorial boundaries are physically contiguous to the land to be affected by a comprehensive plan or amendment thereto for which an applicant jurisdiction has applied to the commission for a certification or certificate. For purposes of these consistency certification rules, the School Board of Volusia County is considered an adjacent jurisdiction.

*Applicant jurisdiction* means a unit of local government which has applied to the commission for a certification or certificate regarding a comprehensive plan or amendment thereto.

*Area* and *area of jurisdiction* mean the total area qualifying under the provisions of F.S. § 163.3171, as amended from time to time, whether this be all of the lands lying within the limits of an incorporated municipality, lands in and adjacent to an incorporated municipality, unincorporated lands within the county, or areas comprising combinations of lands in incorporated municipalities and unincorporated areas of the county.

*Certification* and *certificate* mean a letter, resolution or other written document from the commission determining consistency or inconsistency of a comprehensive plan, element, plan amendment or portion thereof with other applicable plans.

*Charter* means the county Home Rule Charter, as amended.

*Commission* means the Volusia Growth Management Commission, a governmental entity created by the Charter. As used in these rules, the term commission is interpreted to include its staff.

*Comprehensive plan* means a plan that meets or is intended to meet the requirements of F.S. §§ 163.3177 and 163.3178.

*Large scale comprehensive plan amendment* means any plan amendment that requires a transmittal and adoption hearing and does not qualify for adoption pursuant to F.S. § 163.3187 (small-scale comprehensive plan amendments) as amended from time to time.

*Unit of local government* means Volusia County, each municipality within Volusia County and the School Board of Volusia County.

*Small scale comprehensive plan amendment* means any plan amendment that only requires an adoption hearing and qualifies for adoption pursuant to F.S. § 163.3187(1)(c) as amended from time to time.

*Written or in writing* means a piece of correspondence or document, as context dictates, that must be provided on paper and delivered by either hand delivery, U.S. Mail or courier service. Electronic transmissions are sufficient to be deemed “written” or “in writing” if followed up as soon as possible with a hard copy transmittal delivered by hand delivery, U.S. Mail or courier service.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 2, 7-23-87; Ord. No. 92-87, § 1, 10-8-92; Ord. No. 93-13, § 1, 5-20-93; Ord. No. 2007-05, § 1, 2-22-07; Ord. No. 2012-16, § 1, 10-4-12; Ord. No. 2016-10, § 1, 5-5-16)

**Sec. 90-32. Interpretation of article.**

In the interpretation and application of this article, all provisions shall be:

- (1) Considered as minimum requirements;
- (2) Liberally construed in favor of the commission;
- (3) Deemed not to limit or repeal any other powers granted by other state statutes, the Charter, county ordinances or commission resolutions; and
- (4) Interpreted in a manner consistent with Section 202.3 of the Volusia County Charter and the Community Planning Act (F.S. § 163.3161 et seq.).

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 14, 7-23-87; Ord. No. 2012-16, § 1, 10-4-12)

**DIVISION 2 – Volusia Growth Management Commission  
Consistency Certification Rules**

**Sec. 90-33. Findings, purpose and intent.**

In adopting this article, the county council makes and expresses the following findings, purpose and intent:

- (1) In accordance with section 1303 of the county Charter, the 1985-1986 county Charter review commission was formed to prepare necessary amendments to the Charter.

(2) In consideration of the rapid growth of the county in recent years and the adoption of landmark comprehensive planning legislation in the state, the Charter review commission determined that growth management was a top priority among its objectives.

(3) As a result of information, evidence and testimony received at numerous public meetings and hearings, the Charter review commission proposed the creation of the Volusia Growth Management Commission to determine the consistency of the municipalities' and the county's comprehensive plans and any amendments thereto with each other.

(4) The citizens of the county voted at a referendum held on November 4, 1986, to adopt Charter amendments creating the commission and granting certain powers to the commission.

(5) The purpose of the commission is to provide an effective means for coordinating the plans of municipalities and the county, in order to provide a forum for the units of local government in the county to cooperate with each other in coordinating the provision of public services to and improvements for the citizens of the county, and create incentives to foster intergovernmental cooperation and coordination.

(6) The commission held an organizational meeting on February 25, 1987, and then, through its committee on growth management related issues, duly noticed and held further public hearings on May 18, 1987, and May 21, 1987, and held commission hearings on June 10, 1987, and June 24, 1987, to develop rules of procedure for and enforcement of the commission's consistency review within the time provided for under the Charter amendment.

(7) On June 24, 1987, the commission adopted Resolution No. 87-5, which recommended that county council adopt this article, which contains the rules of procedure for consistency review and enforcement as required by the Charter amendment.

(8) Since the Volusia County Council adoption of Ordinance No. 87-24, the commission has undertaken a diligent process with numerous public hearings to consider amendments to the commission's certification rules as codified in Volusia County Code Chapter 90, Article II. The commission has addressed revisions to the procedures for submitting and processing applications and has acknowledged advances in technology recognizing the use of electronic communications in defined circumstances.

(9) For clarification of the statement in the Volusia County Charter Section 202.3 which, in part, reads "The commission may perform such other directly related duties as the commission from time to time deems necessary", the commission

has recommended to the council and the council hereby agrees that “other directly related duties” is limited to the following:

- (a) Analysis and studies needed for the commission or commission staff to determine consistency or inconsistency of a comprehensive plan, element of a comprehensive plan, or amendment.
- (b) Administrative duties for the operation of the commission.
- (c) The commission acting as a mediator when requested by two or more units of local government to address an issue between such units of local government.
- (d) Those duties necessary to meet the requirements of F.S. § 163.3177(6)(h).

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 1, 7-23-87; Ord. No. 2012-16, § 1, 10-4-12; Ord. No. 2016-10, § 1, 5-5-16)

**Sec. 90-34. Certificate of plan consistency required.** A certificate of consistency is hereby established. No comprehensive plan, element of a comprehensive plan or amendment of a comprehensive plan adopted after November 4, 1986, shall be valid or effective unless and until such comprehensive plan, element of a comprehensive plan or amendment has been reviewed by the commission and has been certified consistent in accordance with this article. This certificate of consistency will be required in addition to any other necessary licenses, permits and/or approvals applicable to land development.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 3, 7-23-87)

**Sec. 90-341. Application for certificate under the “streamlined” review process; procedure for issuance; public hearing requirements.**

(a) For applications received after May 5, 2016, commission staff shall utilize a “streamlined” review process for the following types of comprehensive plan amendments:

- (1) a small scale comprehensive plan amendment (upon adoption), and
- (2) comprehensive plan amendments subject to one of the following types of agreements entered into among the applicant jurisdiction and adjacent jurisdiction(s):
  - i. a joint agreement pursuant to F.S. § 163.3171, or
  - ii. other similar type of interlocal agreement which addresses land use and/or the provision of public services.

(b) An application as prescribed by the commission shall be forwarded to the commission and units of local government by the applicant jurisdiction. When the commission receives the application its administrative staff shall date-stamp the

application. Within two days after which the VGMC office is open for business, the administrative staff shall conduct a completeness review of the application to ensure that the application is completely filled out and all information required by the application is included. If any of the application information is incomplete, the administrative staff shall contact the applicant jurisdiction to obtain the necessary information. If the application is deemed incomplete, the applicant jurisdiction shall provide any missing information to the administrative staff and adjacent jurisdictions. An application shall be deemed complete once all information is provided in electronic format, either at the initial submission of the application or after receipt of all of the minimum requirements described in the application based upon the determination of the administrative staff (the “complete application”). The administrative staff shall thereafter send an electronic version of the complete application to the commission’s professional planning staff.

(c) Within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the complete application, planning staff shall prepare a written report which shall be transmitted in electronic format to the VGMC administrative staff concerning whether, based on the information provided in the application, the proposed amendment meets the criteria in Section 90-37(c) and 90-37(d), below. In the event the information provided in the application is not sufficient for the planner to make a determination on some or all of the factors, the written report shall provide a statement to this effect.

(d) The administrative staff shall thereafter send an electronic version of the written report prepared by the planner to the applicant jurisdiction and units of local government. Such comprehensive plan amendment shall be deemed to be consistent twenty-one (21) days after receipt of the complete application by the commission, unless a written objection is filed by a unit of local government. Notice of the comprehensive plan application shall be provided in accordance with Section 90-35(c), below, with the dates modified in accordance with this Section 90-341.

(e) If an objection is filed by a unit of local government within twenty-one (21) days of the date of the complete application, a hearing shall be held in accordance with Sections 90-35 and 90-37. The hearing shall be limited to the subject matter of the objection that was filed. If an objection is filed but withdrawn prior to the hearing, the application shall be deemed consistent as of the date the objection is withdrawn, or twenty-one (21) days after receipt of the complete application, whichever comes later. If no objection is filed, the commission shall issue a certificate of consistency, effective twenty-one (21) days after receipt of the complete application by the commission.

(Ord. No. 2016-10, § 1, 5-5-16)

**Sec. 90-35. Application for certificate for large-scale comprehensive plan amendments; procedure for issuance; public hearing requirements.**

(a) After November 4, 1986, all units of local government who desire to adopt or amend a comprehensive plan or element or amendment thereof, in accordance with this article, shall submit an application on forms as the commission may prescribe, and shall submit such information as the commission may require for the proper evaluation of the application.

(b) An applicant jurisdiction shall, at a minimum, submit the following information and documents with any application filed under this section with the commission:

(1) Information required by rule or order of the commission, which shall include, at a minimum, a detailed inquiry into:

a. The extent to which any plan, element, or plan amendment submitted proposes to create adjacent, incompatible land uses and the manner in which the adverse impact of these incompatible uses may be eliminated or mitigated; and

b. The extent to which any plan, element, or plan amendment proposes policies and/or physical improvements which may adversely impact the objective of promoting the coordination of infrastructure affecting more than one unit of local government.

(2) An application shall, at a minimum, contain the following information in addition to that required in subsection (b)(1) of this section:

a. The application shall contain a list of all adjacent jurisdictions and units of local government.

b. For each entity listed in subsection (b)(2)a of this section, the application shall indicate the following:

1. Existing coordination mechanisms used in preparation of the plan, element, or plan amendment being submitted.

2. Any recommendations contained in the proposed plan, element, or plan amendment which affect the plans for land use or infrastructure contained in the plans of a unit of local government.

3. The facts supporting the recommendations contained in subsection (b)(2)b.2 of this section and the identification of recommended measures which may be used to mitigate or eliminate any adverse impacts resulting from these recommendations.

4. Identification of specific problems and needs within the comprehensive plans of said adjacent jurisdictions which would benefit from improved or additional intergovernmental coordination, and

recommended solutions for resolving these potential problems and needs.

(c) The applicant jurisdiction shall submit one original and five copies of each application. The original application and two copies of each application and all supporting documents filed with the commission's administrative staff must be a hard copy in writing; the remaining copies may be in either hard copy or electronic format. The commission shall process all applications and shall cause public notice of receipt of all applications to be given as provided in this article. When the commission receives an application for approval of a comprehensive plan or amendment thereto, its administrative staff shall date-stamp the application. Within two days on which the VGMC office is open for business, the administrative staff shall conduct a completeness review of the application to ensure: the application is completely filled out; required signatures are present and notarized; required number of copies are included; notification to required jurisdictions and agencies as indicated on application has been accomplished; summary of amendment(s) is provided; verification of the acreage and location for map amendments; verification that staff reports, and current and proposed land use maps, where applicable, are included. If any of the foregoing information is incomplete, the administrative staff shall contact the applicant jurisdiction to obtain the necessary information. An application shall be deemed complete once all information is provided, either at the initial submission of the application or after receipt of all of the minimum requirements described in this subsection (c) based upon the determination of the administrative staff and such application shall have placed upon the written application an additional date designating such application as a complete application (the "complete application"). The administrative staff shall thereafter send a dated cover letter and a notice of the complete application to the applicant jurisdiction and direct that electronic versions of the complete application be sent by the applicant jurisdiction to all units of local government. The administrative staff shall also send a copy of the complete application to the commission's professional staff. Notice of the complete application shall be provided by commission administrative staff by US Mail to each unit of local government and posted on the commission's website. Such notice shall be in substantially the form provided below:

VOLUSIA COUNTY  
VOLUSIA GROWTH MANAGEMENT  
COMMISSION  
Notice of Application

- (1) The type of application (e.g., adoption of or amendment to a comprehensive plan);
- (2) A description and location of the subject matter or activity covered by the action, and the commission's case number, and the name and address of any person at the applicant jurisdiction to whom comments should be directed;
- (3) A copy of the complete application and accompanying material are available for public inspection at the commission's offices at (commission's address);

(4) The notice shall contain paragraphs which read substantially as follows:

a. Any unit of local government shall have a right pursuant to the Volusia Growth Management Commission Comprehensive Plan Consistency Certification Rules to petition for a public hearing on the application. The petition must contain the information set forth below and must be received by the commission at the address set forth above within 28 days of the receipt of the complete application with such date being [insert date]. A copy of the petition must also be mailed at the time of filing with the commission to (the named contact person at the address indicated to whom comments should be directed at the applicant jurisdiction).

b. Failure to file a petition within 28 days of the receipt of the complete application, that date being [insert date], constitutes a waiver of any right any unit of local government may have to a public hearing pursuant to the Volusia Growth Management Commission Comprehensive Plan Consistency Certification Rules.

c. The petition shall contain the following information:

i. The name, address and telephone number of the petitioning unit of local government; the commission's case number and the location of the proposed activity;

ii. A statement of how and when each petitioning unit of local government received notice of the application;

iii. A statement of how the petitioning unit of local government's substantial interests are affected by the proposed application;

iv. A statement of the material facts disputed by the petitioning unit of local government, if any;

v. A detailed statement outlining the reasons why the proposed amendment violates the criteria for evaluating compatibility in Sec. 90-37; and

vi. A statement of relief sought by the petitioning unit of local government, stating precisely the action the petitioning unit of local government wants the commission to take with respect to the pending application.

d. Any person who believes the unit of local government in which they reside could be substantially affected or aggrieved by the application is directed to address that concern with the elected governing body of the unit of local government in which they reside. Nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit or prevent members of the public from being heard at the public hearing required by section 90-35 pursuant to § 286.011 of the Florida Statutes.

(d) Applications received by the commission under this section shall be processed and all determinations of consistency shall be made as provided in this subsection unless a public hearing is held on an application. If the commission holds a public hearing on an application as allowed pursuant to this subsection, the commission shall determine consistency pursuant to the criteria provided in section 90-37.

(1) Review by commission.

a. Within 30 days after the date of the complete application, the commission's professional staff shall examine the complete application; determine whether any adjacent jurisdiction or any other unit of local government has commented or requested a public hearing; notify the applicant jurisdiction of any apparent errors or omissions; request any additional information pertinent to the application; and determine whether the applicant jurisdiction has addressed the conditions of approval of past commission resolutions and whether the application meets the consistency test as set forth in this article.

b. If the commission's professional staff needs additional information to review the application, a request for additional information (RAI) shall be forwarded in writing to the applicant jurisdiction. Such RAI shall be forwarded within 14 days after the date of the complete application. The written request for additional information shall toll the running of the time provided by this article for the commission to act on the application until either: (i) the RAI response is deemed complete by the commission's professional staff; or (ii) the applicant jurisdiction provides written notice that no further information in response to the RAI will be provided.

c. The commission's professional staff shall prepare a written report regarding the application, which may include information regarding whether the applicant jurisdiction has (i) provided a complete application, (ii) complied with one or more RAIs, if applicable, and (iii) addressed the commission's professional staff's conditions of approval, if any. Further, the written report shall set forth the commission's professional staff's determination regarding whether an application may be inconsistent under the test set forth in section 90-37. Such written report shall be sent electronically to all units of local government.

(2) Units of local government.

a. Within 28 days after the date of the complete application any unit of local government may:

(i) Submit written comments regarding the merits or the sufficiency to the commission regarding the complete application; or

(ii) Request a public hearing in accordance with Section 90-35(c).

b. If the unit of local government requesting the hearing is an adjacent jurisdiction then the unit of local government shall participate as a party and is deemed to be substantially affected and aggrieved upon requesting a public hearing.

(3) When a public hearing is requested by the applicant jurisdiction pursuant to subsection (d)(1)a. of this section or by a unit of local government, the commission shall hold a public hearing on the complete application within 60 days after the public hearing is requested but in no event more than 90 days from the date of the complete application (less any tolled time), unless the commission shall not have a regular meeting scheduled or a quorum of the members of the commission shall not be obtained for the regular meeting, which shall by necessity extend the date of the public hearing beyond 90 days. At any public hearing held by the commission to determine whether the adoption of a comprehensive plan or amendment thereto is or can be made to be consistent through conditions, the commission shall comply with the criteria of section 90-37.

(4) Unless a public hearing is otherwise required pursuant to this article, no public hearing shall be held on any complete application received by the commission unless timely requested by a unit of local government. If no public hearing is requested, it shall be presumed that all units of local government approved the adoption of or amendment to the comprehensive plan of the applicant jurisdiction.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the submission of relevant evidence to the commission at any time up to and including a public hearing called by the commission pursuant to this article.

(e) Nothing contained in this article shall preclude the concurrent processing of applications for certification and the state's related review pursuant to the Community Planning Act (F.S. § 163.3161 et seq.), as amended from time to time. For large scale comprehensive plan amendments the application for certification by the commission shall be submitted to the commission simultaneously with, or prior to, transmittal of a proposed plan amendment to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity ("DEO"). The commission shall have 30 days from receipt of any large scale comprehensive plan application to make comments to the DEO. The commission shall have 30 days from the date of the complete application to make comments to the applicant jurisdiction. For all comprehensive plan amendments other than those listed in Sec. 90-341, the commission certification shall be a prerequisite to any final public hearing on a comprehensive plan amendment by the applicant jurisdiction. The applicant jurisdiction's response shall be to both the commission and DEO and shall occur simultaneous with or prior to the applicant local government's response to the objections, recommendations and comments report by the DEO for the comprehensive plan amendment, if applicable.

(f) Every application under this section shall be approved, conditionally approved, or denied within 90 days after the date of the complete application by the commission unless either: (i) the 90-day time period on a complete application has been tolled pursuant to subsection (d)(1) of this section in which case the 90-day time period does not include that period from the date of commencement of the tolling until the tolling is stopped; or (ii) if anytime on or after 60 days from the date of the complete application there occurs a force majeure event/emergency/natural disaster which disrupts normal governmental functions within any part of the county then there shall be an automatic extension of the 90-day time period for an additional 30 days. The chairman of the commission shall provide written notice to the applicant of implementation of an automatic extension under subsection (ii) above. Within 15 days after the conclusion of a public hearing held on the complete application, the applicant jurisdiction shall be notified if the complete application is approved, conditionally approved or denied. Failure of the commission to approve, conditionally approve or deny an application within the time period set forth in this subsection shall be deemed an approval of the application. For every conditional approval, the applicant jurisdiction shall comply with the requirements set forth in the conditional approval including, but not limited to, incorporating into the proposed comprehensive plan amendment referenced in the application those changes recommended by the commission. Failure to incorporate the commission's recommended changes shall result in automatic revocation of the certificate thereby rendering both the complete application and the proposed comprehensive plan amendment of the applicant jurisdiction invalid and ineffective. For those conditional approvals granted prior to the effective date of this ordinance, revocation where provided shall occur in accordance with the terms of the resolution of certification. Continuances of hearings may be granted upon a request for a waiver by the applicant jurisdiction of the 90-day period referred to in this subsection, for up to an additional 90-day period as determined by the chairman of the commission. Any requests for continuances totaling longer than 90 days may only be granted by the commission at a noticed hearing.

(g) Within 30 days after final adoption pursuant to state law of any plan, element, or plan amendment previously certified by the commission, the local government adopting said plan, element, or plan amendment shall transmit a true and correct copy of said plan, element, or plan amendment to the commission.

(h) For any unit of local government, other than an adjacent jurisdiction, asserting that it is a substantially affected or aggrieved party pursuant to section 90-35(c) as the first item of business at the public hearing pertaining to the certificate of consistency of a comprehensive plan or element or amendment thereof, the commission shall render a determination of such unit of local government's status as a party to the public hearing based upon the contents of the required petition under section 90-35(c) as applicable and testimony and evidence presented at the hearing. In the event party status is denied by the commission, the unit of local government denied party status shall be entitled to be heard at the public hearing as a member of the public. In the event there are (1) no units of local government with party status, and (2) the commission does not have the ability to hold the public hearing as set forth in Sec. 90-38, the hearing will not proceed. As used in this section, the term "substantially affected or aggrieved party" means any unit of local

government that will suffer an adverse effect to an interest protected or furthered by its comprehensive plan when compared to the applicant jurisdiction's local government comprehensive plan, element or amendment thereof based on the review criteria set forth in Section 90-37(c).

(Ord. No. 87-24, §4,7-23-87; Ord. No. 89-39, § 1,9-7-89; Ord. No. 91-39, § 1,11-21-91; Ord. No. 92-87, § 2, 10-8-92; Ord. No. 93-13, § 2, 5-20-93; Ord. No. 98-17, § 1, 9-3-98; Ord. No. 99-16, §§ 1--3, 5-13-99; Ord. No. 2007-05, § 2, 2-22-07; Ord. No. 2012-16, § 1, 10-4-12; Ord. No. 2016-10, § 1, 5-5-16)

**Sec. 90-36. Consultation with commission regarding application for certificate.**

The applicant or his representative may consult with the staff of the commission concerning the application for certificate under this article. However, any representation by the staff of the commission shall not relieve any person of any requirement of applicable special acts, general laws, articles, the Charter, this article or any other commission rules, regulations or standards, or constitute approval, express or implied.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 5, 7-23-87)

**Sec. 90-37. Criteria for issuance of certificate.**

(a) Consistency shall be determined and a certificate shall be issued to the applicant, upon such conditions as the commission may direct, if the applicant jurisdiction affirmatively provides the commission with reasonable assurance based upon competent, substantial evidence that the proposed plan, element, or plan amendment is consistent with the comprehensive plans of all other units of local government.

(b) For the purpose of subsection (a) of this section, a plan, element, or plan amendment shall be consistent if it is compatible with and in furtherance of such adjacent and substantially affected comprehensive plans when all such plans are construed as a whole. For purposes of this section, the phrase "compatible with" means that the plan, element, or plan amendment is not in conflict with such adjacent and substantially affected comprehensive plans. The phrase "in furtherance of" means to take action in the direction of realizing the goals or policies of such adjacent and substantially affected comprehensive plans. In addition to such requirements, consistency shall not be deemed to exist if the commission affirmatively determines that the plan, element, or plan amendment adversely affects intergovernmental cooperation and coordination.

(c) In determining whether a plan, element, or plan amendment adversely affects intergovernmental cooperation and coordination, the commission may, in its sole discretion, consider one or more of the following factors:

- (1) The extent to which the plan, element, or plan amendment provides for areawide or central utility service solutions;

- (2) The extent to which the plan, element, or plan amendment provides for areawide or regional transportation solutions;
  - (3) The extent to which the plan, element, or plan amendment causes or may reasonably be anticipated to cause significant adverse impacts on infrastructure beyond the boundaries of one jurisdiction;
  - (4) The extent to which the plan, element, or plan amendment causes or may reasonably be anticipated to cause significant adverse impacts on natural resources which extend beyond the boundaries of one jurisdiction;
  - (5) The extent to which the plan, element, or plan amendment provides for the coordination of the timing and location of capital improvements in a manner to reduce duplication and competition; and
  - (6) The existence of an agreement among all substantially affected units of local government and the applicant jurisdiction which provides for all said governments' consent to the application. If the commission determines that such an agreement exists for any given application, then it shall be rebuttably presumed that said application does not adversely affect intergovernmental cooperation and coordination.
- (c) In determining whether a plan, element, or plan amendment adversely affects intergovernmental cooperation and coordination, the School Board of Volusia County shall consider if adequate public schools can be timely planned and constructed to serve the proposed increase in student population, as set forth in Sec. 206 of the Charter.
- (e) For purposes of determining consistency under this section, the plan, element, or plan amendment and the comprehensive plans against which it is compared and analyzed shall be construed as a whole and no specific goal and policy shall be construed or applied in isolation from the other goals and policies in the plans. The commission and its professional staff shall not evaluate or make consistency determinations on whether a proposed comprehensive plan amendment is internally consistent with the comprehensive plan of the applicant jurisdiction.
- (f) The commission may deny certification where a preponderance of the evidence, as determined by the commission, establishes that the proposed plan, element or plan amendment is not consistent with other comprehensive plans and adversely affects intergovernmental cooperation and coordination based on the criteria contained in Section 90-37(c) above.
- (g) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this article, for any comprehensive plan amendment the failure to file a written objection to any such comprehensive plan amendment shall be deemed a waiver of any right to object.

(h) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this article, any modifications to the capital improvements element of a comprehensive plan done pursuant to F.S. § 163.3177(3)(b), which would otherwise be reviewable by the commission, and are not deemed to be amendments to the comprehensive plan pursuant to that statute, shall be exempt from further review by the commission.

(i) Each applicant has a continuing affirmative duty to submit the objections, recommendations and comments (ORC) report and any and all additional correspondence, notices, documentation, orders, proposed orders, agreements or other information except adversarial administrative pleadings in formal F.S. § 120.57(1) proceedings (collectively referred to in this section as “additional information”) prepared by, transmitted by, received from or agreed to by either the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity or the applicant, related to any comprehensive plan, element, or amendment previously certified as consistent by the commission. The commission shall have the right, power and authority to reopen and reconsider its decision to certify consistency and change or modify its conditions of certification applicable to any such plan, element, or amendment should the commission determine in its sole discretion that the additional information changes the facts and circumstances related to its prior certification until a final determination as to the validity of the plan, element of a plan, or plan amendment is made pursuant to the Community Planning Act (F.S. § 163.3161 et seq.), as amended from time to time. Should the applicant fail to submit to the commission a copy of any and all additional information within 30 days after receipt, transmittal, execution or creation (as applicable) by the applicant, the commission shall likewise have the right, power and authority to reopen and reconsider said certificate of consistency. The commission may initiate any such reconsideration proceeding by sending written notice to the applicant/certificate holder and all units of local government. If an objection is filed by a unit of local government within 14 days, the commission shall schedule and advertise such reconsideration proceeding as a public hearing no less than 60 days after the date of said notice, and may consider any issue and receive such evidence in said public hearing and its subsequent decision that it deems relevant. The commission shall render a written decision by resolution within 30 days from the date of said public hearing. Appeal from said decision shall be in the manner provided in this article for appeal of certifications of consistency.

(j) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, an application for a certificate of plan consistency shall not be reviewed at a public hearing except as provided in section 90-35(d). When no public hearing is held, the chairman of the commission, based upon the recommendation of the professional staff of the commission, shall issue by letter a certificate of plan consistency as provided in section 90-35(d). This issuance of the certificate of plan consistency by letter is the final administrative action by the commission on the application. However, if a public hearing is held pursuant to the request of a unit of local government, the commission shall determine consistency pursuant to the criteria contained in this section and based upon a preponderance of competent, substantial evidence presented at the hearing to determine whether the application meets the criteria specified in this section.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 6, 7-23-87; Ord. No. 90-46, § I, 12-20-90; Ord. No. 91-39, § 2, 11-21-91; Ord. No. 92-87, § 3, 10-8-92; Ord. No. 93-13, § 3, 5-20-93; Ord. No. 2007-05, § 3, 2-22-07; Ord. No. 2012-16, § 1, 10-4-12; Ord. No. 2016-10, § 1, 5-5-16)

**Sec. 90-38. Application for certificate subject to a resolution of the commission.**

The commission's staff may request a public hearing in the event an application is received by the commission and the comprehensive plan element, amendment, or portion thereof (i) is subject to a resolution adopted by the commission, and (ii) the proposed plan element, amendment, or portion thereof is inconsistent with some or all of the conditions in the resolution adopted by the commission.

(Ord. No. 2016-10, § 1, 5-5-16)

**Sec. 90-39. Revocation of certificate.**

If the commission's professional staff advises the commission that the applicant jurisdiction or its agent submitted false or inaccurate material information in its complete application or at a public hearing, the commission shall hold a public hearing and if the commission shall vote to revoke a certificate of plan consistency such action shall invalidate the plan, element, or plan amendment certified thereby.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 8, 7-23-87; Ord. No. 2012-16, § 1, 10-4-12)

**Sec. 90-40. Appeals.**

(a) Any unit of local government which is either the applicant jurisdiction or unit of local government which has requested a public hearing pursuant to section 90-35(d)(2)(a)(ii), may contest the issuance, denial or revocation of a certificate of consistency by filing a petition for writ of certiorari along with a complete record of the proceeding(s) from which said certificate emanated so certified by the commission's records custodians, in the manner prescribed by the state appellate rules to the circuit court of the county, within 30 days after the date the commission's decision is filed with its secretary. The court shall not conduct a trial de novo. The proceedings before the commission, including the testimony of witnesses, and any exhibits, photographs, maps or other documents filed before them, shall be subject to review by the circuit court. The petition for writ of certiorari shall state how the commission erred and shall include all of the documents, papers, photographs, exhibits and transcripts constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken, or properly certified copies thereof in lieu of originals. The petition, along with the record, shall be filed in the circuit court within 30 days after the filing of the decision by the commission to which such petition is addressed. The court may extend the time for filing the record, including the transcript and exhibits, for good cause shown. The unit of local government filing the petition for certiorari shall be responsible for filing a true and correct transcript of the complete testimony of the witnesses.

(b) The petition for writ of certiorari shall be furnished to the original applicant, the owner of record of the subject property, to each attorney at law appearing for any person at the hearing before the Volusia Growth Management Commission, and to the Volusia Growth Management Commission. The commission shall suspend the issuance of its permit until the court has ruled upon the petition.

(c) The Volusia Growth Management Commission shall be a necessary and indispensable party to any appeal of its decisions. Any unit of local government may intervene, pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.230, as a respondent in the certiorari proceeding authorized by this section.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 9, 7-23-87; Ord. No. 99-16, § 4, 5-13-99; Ord. No. 2016-10, § 1, 5-5-16)

#### **Sec. 90-41. Enforcement.**

The commission may institute a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction to seek injunctive relief to enforce compliance with this article or any certificate issued pursuant to this article.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 10, 7-23-87)

#### **Sec. 90-42. Waiting period for reapplication for certificate.**

No unit of local government shall have the right to file an application for certification pursuant to section 90-35 if the same plan, element, or plan amendment for which certification is applied has been the subject of an application before the commission within a period of six (6) months prior to the filing of the application. However, the applicant jurisdiction has the right to withdraw, without the penalty of the six (6) month waiting period, an application at any time up to fifteen (15) days before either (i) the issuance of a letter of certificate of plan consistency pursuant to section 90-37(j) or (ii) the date of the scheduled public hearing on the application pursuant to section 90-35(e). Such withdrawal of the application shall be made either electronically or in writing and delivered by hand delivery, U.S. Mail or courier service to the commission. Electronic transmissions must be followed up by the applicant jurisdiction with a hard copy transmittal delivered to the commission as soon as possible.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 11, 7-23-87; Ord. No. 2012-16, § 1, 10-4-12; Ord. No. 2016-10, § 1, 5-5-16)

#### **Sec. 90-43. Article not to affect preexisting rights.**

Nothing in this article shall alter or affect rights previously vested or plans, elements, or plan amendments previously, finally and completely adopted in accordance with applicable state law prior to November 4, 1986.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 12, 7-23-87; Ord. No. 2012-16, § 1, 10-4-12)

**Sec. 90-44. Ratification of past agreements.**

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this article, the following agreements are hereby ratified and confirmed and the plans, elements, and plan amendments involved therein are certified consistent for purposes of this article:

- (1) Agreement between the City of Daytona Beach, Florida, and Gerald Berson dated March 1987.
- (2) Agreement between the City of Port Orange, Florida, DSC of Newark Enterprises, Inc., and the County dated January 8, 1987.
- (3) Agreement between the City of Port Orange, Florida, S.C.B. Development Inc., and the County dated January 8, 1987.
- (4) Agreement between the City of Edgewater, Florida, Radnor/Edgewater, Inc., and the County dated January 12, 1987.
- (5) Agreement between the City of Port Orange, Sandalwood Inc., and the County dated January 5, 1987.
- (6) Agreement between the City of Port Orange, Jennie M. Krol and the County dated January 5, 1987.
- (7) County Council Ordinance No. 87-19, approving, among other things, amending the County comprehensive plan amendments related to Mosquito Lagoon, Hontoon Island and the North Peninsula.

(Ord. No. 87-24, § 13, 7-23-87)

Secs. 90-45 thru 90-50 – Reserved

**DIVISION 3 – VOLUSIA GROWTH MANAGEMENT COMMISSION  
ORGANIZATION**

**Sec. 90-51. Member Appointments**

There shall be one voting member from each municipality within the county and five voting members from the unincorporated area of the county. The appointment of each voting representative shall be made by the governing body of each respective jurisdiction. A voting member of the commission may be appointed to the commission so long as the voting member at such time of the appointment: (i) is not a candidate for elective office

and does not hold elective office with respect to any municipality in Volusia County or Volusia County; (ii) would not violate the dual-office holding provision of the Florida Constitution, and (iii) maintains a residence within the boundary of the appointing jurisdiction or the unincorporated area of Volusia County. In the event clause (i) or (ii) shall apply to a voting member during the term of appointment, there shall be declared an immediate vacancy on the date such voting member officially files the paperwork as a candidate for elective office or the date the voting member assumes the position creating the dual-office. The Volusia County School Board and the St. Johns River Water Management District shall each designate one nonvoting member to serve on the commission. All members will serve until successors are appointed and qualified. Nonvoting members shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authorities. Any voting or nonvoting member may be reappointed.

### **Sec. 90-52. Membership Term**

All terms of the current members appointed by a municipality and Volusia County shall expire based upon the original three year term of appointment previously designated by the commission. For the period July 1, 2013, to and including July 1, 2015, the term for members of the commission appointed by a municipality and Volusia County shall be transitioned so that the terms shall expire on a bi-annual basis and the approximately one-half of the current weighted vote shall be subject to appointment on a bi-annual basis. Members appointed by a municipality to a term beginning on July 1, 2012, shall be appointed to a three year term expiring on June 30, 2015. Members that are appointed by a municipality, other than the City of Deltona, for a term beginning July 1, 2013, shall be appointed for a four year term, expiring on June 30, 2017. The member appointed by the City of Deltona for a term beginning July 1, 2013, shall be appointed for a two year term expiring on June 30, 2015. Members that are appointed by a municipality for a term beginning July 1, 2014, shall be appointed for a three year term expiring on June 30, 2017. All members that are appointed by a municipality for a term beginning on and after July 1, 2015 shall be appointed to a four year term. The current terms for the two Volusia County members expiring on June 30, 2013, shall initially be for two years expiring on June 30, 2015, and thereafter shall for a four year term. The current terms for the three Volusia County members expiring on June 30, 2014, shall initially be for three years expiring on June 30, 2017, and thereafter shall be for a four year term.

### **Sec. 90-53. Member Removal, Attendance and Vacancies**

(1) Action by the commission.

- a. A member or officer may be removed by a weighted vote of two-thirds of the commission for the intentional failure to disclose a voting conflict of interest as required by the Florida Statutes or for misfeasance or malfeasance. Misfeasance shall be any lawful action which is performed on behalf of or in connection with the commission which is found to have been done in an illegal or improper manner. Malfeasance shall be any action which is performed on behalf of or in connection with the

commission which is found to be an act of wrongdoing or intentional misconduct.

- b. Attendance at all regular meetings of the commission is mandatory. If any member fails to attend three regularly scheduled commission meetings during any calendar year ending December 31, the member's seat shall be deemed vacant. The chairman of the commission shall notify the member and appointing jurisdiction after two missed regular meetings. A vacancy on the commission shall also occur upon the death of the commission member, upon the member's resignation, upon the refusal of an appointee to accept a position as a member of the commission, upon conviction of a felony, or upon adjudication of the member by a court to be mentally incompetent.
- c. Upon such removal or vacancy, the member's seat shall be deemed vacant and the chairman of the commission shall send written notification of the vacancy to the member and their appointing jurisdiction. A member may be reappointed by their respective jurisdiction if the seat is deemed vacant due to the failure to attend meetings of the commission. Appointments to fill any vacancy shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term. The weighted vote apportioned to a vacant seat shall not be counted in determining whether or not a majority of the weighted vote is present and voting at a meeting of the commission.

(2) Action by the Appointing Unit of local government.

The appointing governing body of each jurisdiction of a voting representative shall retain those rights, if any, to remove the appointed voting representative as contained in the appointing governing body's code of ordinances. If the appointing governing body's code of ordinances does not provide for removal of an appointed voting representative from office then such appointee shall have the right to carry out his or her full term. In the event an appointed voting representative is removed from office, then the replacement appointed voting representative shall serve for the remainder of the prior appointed voting representative's term.

(Ord. No. 2012-16, § 1, 10-4-12; Ord. No. 2016-10, § 1, 5-5-16)

**Sec. 90-54. Staff.**

The commission may retain attorneys, planners and other experts only as independent contractors. The commission with the approval of the county manager may employ administrative staff who shall be employees of the county; otherwise any administrative staff of the commission shall be leased employees. Any such county employee shall serve at the direction and pleasure of the commission; shall be unclassified under the

provisions of the merit system; shall be paid according to the county compensation and classification plan in a range designated by the county personnel director; shall receive only those pay increases to which other county employees would be entitled or eligible; shall accrue leave and benefits otherwise applicable to a county employee; and shall comply with all rules and policies applicable to county employees not inconsistent with the direction of the commission. The commission shall select any such county employee under a competitive application process administered by the county personnel director who shall approve the starting salary of the employee. The commission shall adhere to the advice of the personnel director regarding the law governing the county as an employer and rules and policies applicable to county employees.

(Ord. No. 2014-02, § 1, 2-20-14)

**Secs. 90-55 – 90-70. – Reserved.**