

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 213 authorizes the governing body of a municipality to adopt a comprehensive plan for the long-range development of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Sections 1 and 5 of the City Charter authorizes the City Council to adopt a comprehensive plan and directs the City Council to establish comprehensive planning as a continuous and ongoing governmental function; and

WHEREAS, Article X, Sections 1 and 5 of the City Charter requires that Austin's land development regulations be consistent with the comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, on June 14, 2013 the City Council adopted the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan recommends revisions to the Austin Land Development Code in order to promote a compact and connected city, and protect and preserve existing neighborhoods and the natural environment; and

WHEREAS, CodeNEXT is the City of Austin initiative to revise the Land Development Code as recommended in Imagine Austin which will provide clear direction for determining appropriate and beneficial land use decisions for our City; and

WHEREAS, the CodeNEXT Diagnostic Report found that Austin's current Land Development Code suffers from a number of deficiencies including, but not limited to: outdated base zoning standards; competing and contradicting layers of regulation which facilitate confusion for land use applicants attempting to comply with all regulations; an ambiguous and complicated "opt-in, opt-out" system; lack of clarity regarding approach for expanding affordable housing; auto-centric regulations; misalignment with Imagine Austin; usability challenges; ineffective digital format; unfavorable to functional City departmental structures; and incomplete and complicated administrative guidelines and procedures; and

WHEREAS, the CodeNEXT Approach report presented three alternative approaches for amending the existing code ranging from Approach 1 to Approach 3; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2014, the City Council approved an approach that blended Approach 2 and Approach 3, and thus was dubbed "Approach 2.5" which: 1) provides for extensive rewrite of the code wherever appropriate; 2) includes as many by-right development opportunities as deemed appropriate; 3) applies form-based code to selected areas first; and 4) develops an implementation timeline for applying form-based code to other areas; and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2014, the City Council also approved Approach 2.5 with a focus on Green Infrastructure and Sustainable Water Management; and

WHEREAS, City Staff recommends the reaffirmation and endorsement of Approach 2.5; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council affirms the November 20, 2014 Council action regarding Approach 2.5.

ADOPTED: _____, 2015

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk