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ORDINANCE NO. 2024-__

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AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO LAND USE IN ORANGE COUNTY; AMENDING CHAPTER 34 OF THE ORANGE COUNTY CODE (“SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS”) TO COMPLY WITH SECTION 177.073, FLORIDA STATUTES (“EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS BEFORE A FINAL PLAT IS RECORDED”); BY AMENDING SECTION 34-5 (“DEFINITIONS”); CREATING SECTION 34-75 (“EXPEDITED PROCESS FOR ISSUING RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS BEFORE A FINAL PLAT IS RECORDED”); CREATING SECTION 34-76 (“QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS”) TO ESTABLISH A REGISTRY OF QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1(g), Florida Constitution; Section 125.01, Florida Statutes; and the Orange County Charter, the Orange County Board of County Commissioners (the “Board”) is authorized to enact ordinances not inconsistent with general law and to establish development and zoning regulations as are necessary for the protection of the public; and

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WHEREAS, well-designed subdivisions of land protect the most important investment the average home-buyer will make in their lifetime, and for the community assures attractive residential and commercial areas that will prove enduring assets, and developments that can be economically and easily serviced; and

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WHEREAS, subdivisions of land for residential and commercial purposes generally will remain in existence as long as the community itself, and if they are wisely designed, will continue to enhance the community; and

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WHEREAS, on May 29, 2024, Governor DeSantis executed Senate Bill 812, which created Section 177.073, Florida Statutes, and requires counties with 75,000 residents or more to establish an expedited process for issuing building permits for residential subdivisions or planned communities before a final plat is recorded; and

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WHEREAS, the legislation also requires counties with 75,000 residents or more to establish a registry of qualified contractors whom the county can use to help process and expedite the review of applications for preliminary plats; and

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WHEREAS, Chapter 34 of the Orange County Code regulates the development of all residential, commercial, and industrial subdivisions in the unincorporated areas of Orange County; and

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WHEREAS, the Board finds that it is in the public’s interest to amend Chapter 34 of the Orange County Code to comply with the new requirements of Section 177.073, Florida Statutes.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF ORANGE COUNTY:

Section 1. Amendment to Section 34-5 (“Definitions”). Section 34-5 is amended to read as follows with additions being shown by underlines and deletions being shown with strike-throughs:

Sec. 34-5. Definitions.

Final plat shall mean the final tracing, map, or site plan presented by the subdivider to a governing body for final approval, and, upon approval by the appropriate governing body, as recorded in the official records of Orange County, Florida.

Master Building Permit Plan shall mean a site plan indicating not more than seventy-five (75) percent of the lots proposed for vertical permitting depicting the proposed structure, footprint, setbacks, and proposed easements encumbering the respective lots.

Preliminary plat shall mean a map or delineated representation of the subdivision of lands that is a complete and exact representation of the residential subdivision or planned community and contains any additional information needed to be in compliance with the requirements of part I, chapter 177, Florida Statutes.

Qualified contractor shall mean an engineer or engineering firm licensed under chapter 471, Florida Statutes; a surveyor or mapper or a surveyor’s or mapper’s firm licensed under chapter 472, Florida Statutes; an architect or architecture firm licensed under part I, chapter 481, Florida Statutes; a landscape architect or landscape architecture firm registered under part II, chapter 481, Florida

88 Statutes; or any other qualified professional who is certified in urban
90 planning or environmental management.

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92 *Section 2. Creation of Section 34-75 of Chapter 34.* Section 34-75, presently
“Reserved” under Article III, Division 2 of Chapter 34, is created to read as follows:

94 **Sec. 34-75. Expedited process for issuing residential building**
96 **permits before a final plat is recorded.**

98 (a) The county engineer, or authorized representative,
shall review the preliminary subdivision plan for compliance
100 with section 34-67. If pertinent information is missing on the
102 preliminary subdivision plan, the county engineer shall contact the
104 developer or project engineer. The developer may be required to
106 submit a revised preliminary subdivision plan. If the review by the
108 county engineer determines that the plan is sufficient, then the
preliminary subdivision plan shall be forwarded to DRC for further
review. As part of the Sufficiency Review under this section and
application, a Master Site Permit Plan must also be submitted and
evaluated by Orange County.

110 (b) Upon completion of sufficiency review, as required
112 by section 34-67, the developer shall submit to the DRC a digital
114 Portable Document Format (“PDF”) file in 24” x 36” format of the
116 sufficient preliminary subdivision plan pursuant to section 30-84
and the receipt for the required fee. The developer must include an
application to identify the percentage of planned homes, not to
exceed seventy-five (75) percent of planned residential subdivision,
or the number of building permits that the governing body must
issue across all phases of the residential subdivision.

118 (c) Upon completion of the PSP review, the developer
120 shall submit to the development engineering division a digital PDF
122 file in 24” x 36” format of subdivision construction plans prepared
124 as specified in section 34-132. Review of the construction plans
shall be completed by the county engineer or by a qualified
contractor under the direction of the county engineer.

126 (d) Associated off-site infrastructure including, but not
128 limited to, connecting roadways, roadway improvements, and public
utilities or any other proposed improvements within a county
130 roadway, must be submitted to development engineering as an
engineering plan for review and approval by the county engineer in

132 accordance with section 21-196 of the code. The submittal of a
134 surety, pursuant to section 21-202, and warranty, pursuant to section
136 21-208, are also required prior to the issuance a certificate of
completion prior to the final plat being recorded in the official
records of Orange County, Florida.

138 (e) All construction plans shall meet the floodplain
140 management provisions of chapter 19 of the Orange County Code
142 including, but not limited to, obtaining any necessary Letters of Map
144 Change as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency
146 (“FEMA”). All construction plans shall meet the provisions of
Chapter 15, Article X of the Orange County Code including, but not
limited to, obtaining any Board of County Commissioners approval
for mitigation of adverse development under this section prior to
initiating any construction activities.

148 (f) A construction cost estimate shall be submitted upon
150 acceptance and stamping of the subdivision construction plan(s) and
152 any related engineering plan(s), which provides the estimated cost
of installing all improvements. Such estimates shall be prepared by
the project engineer and shall be based upon recent bid information.

154 (g) Upon the acceptance and stamping of the subdivision
156 construction plans by the county engineer, the developer shall
158 submit the preliminary plat to the county engineer for processing, as
160 provided in section 34-48. The review of the preliminary plat for
162 compliance with chapter 177 of the Florida Statutes may be by the
164 county surveyor or by a qualified contractor under the direction of
the county engineer. The processing of the preliminary plat
including, but not limited to, compliance with chapter 177 of the
Florida Statutes, will be at the direction of the county engineer and
may include other reviewing agencies not governed by section
177.073(1)(f), Florida Statutes.

166 (h) Street names shall be provided on the preliminary
168 plat, in compliance with section 34-178, and must be approved by
the managers of the 911 system and zoning division.

170 (i) The applicant must provide proof that the applicant
172 has provided a copy of the approved preliminary plat, approved
174 subdivision construction plans, and approved engineering plans to
the relevant electric, gas, water, reclaimed water, and wastewater
utility providers.

176 (j) The project landowner must provide a properly
executed indemnification and hold harmless agreement to the

178 county in form and substance acceptable to the county pursuant to
section 30-83(c)(3).

180 (k) Upon completion of processing the reviews of
182 preliminary subdivision plan, subdivision construction plan(s) and
engineering plan(s) and respective cost estimates for each,
184 preliminary plat, along with evidence of no objections by the utility
providers as outlined in paragraph (g) above, then a meeting shall
186 be scheduled by the DRC and the developer to review the
preliminary subdivision plan, subdivision construction plans,
188 engineering plans, hold harmless indemnification agreement, and
preliminary plat for consistency with the provisions of the Orange
County Code. Upon review and approval, along with the
190 recommended conditions of approval, by the DRC the public
hearing scheduling shall proceed per section 34-69. All subsequent
192 sections of chapter 34 shall apply.

194 (l) The subdivider shall submit to the county either a
cash deposit, or an irrevocable letter of credit. The above form of
196 surety shall cover the cost of all improvements. One or more of the
following two alternatives may be used upon approval by the board
198 of county commissioners:

200 (1) A cash deposit in an escrow account in an
amount equal to one hundred thirty (130) percent of the estimated
202 cost of construction, as described in section 34-75(f) above.

204 (2) An irrevocable letter of credit per section
34-203 in the penal sum of one hundred and thirty (130) percent of
206 the estimated cost of construction, as described in section 34-75(f)
above.

208 (m) Contract for sale and certificate of occupancy.

210 (1) An applicant may contract to sell, but shall
not transfer ownership of, a residential structure or building located
212 in the residential subdivision or planned community until the final
plat is approved by the governing body and recorded in the official
214 records of Orange County.

216 (2) No temporary or final certificate of
occupancy shall be issued until the final plat is recorded in the
218 official records of Orange County.

220 (n) All required improvements must comply with
article VI of chapter 34, Subdivision Regulations.

222 (o) Final plat approval and recording shall occur
224 pursuant to section 34-48(c) after the certificate of completion has
been issued pursuant to section 34-204.

226 **Section 3. Creation of Section 34-76 of Chapter 34.** Section 34-76, presently
“Reserved” under Article III, Division 2 of Chapter 34, is created to read as follows:

228 **Sec. 34-76. Qualified Contractors.**

230 (a) The county shall establish a registry of at least three
232 (3) qualified contractors to supplement staff resources in ways
234 determined by the county for processing and expediting the review
of an application for a preliminary plat or any plans related to such
236 application. A qualified contractor on the registry who is hired
pursuant to this section to review an application, or any part thereof,
238 for a preliminary plat, or any part thereof, may not have a conflict
of interest with the applicant. For purposes of this paragraph, the
term “conflict of interest” has the same meaning as in section
112.312, Florida Statutes.

240 (b) County shall establish a registry of contractors that
242 are qualified to provide a cost estimate of the construction project in
accordance with section 34-75(f).

244 **Section 4. Effective date.** This ordinance shall take effect on October 1, 2024.

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ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2024.

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ORANGE COUNTY, FLORIDA
By: Board of County Commissioners

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By: _____
Jerry L. Demings
Orange County Mayor

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ATTEST: Phil Diamond, CPA, County Comptroller
As Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

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By: _____
Deputy Clerk

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