

# Lane Parke Yes

## City Council approves amended plan



By Jennifer Gray and Dan Starnes

On Monday, June 28 the City Council voted 4-1 to approve the proposed development known as Lane Parke.

The vote came after a year long process that involved multiple hearings, hundreds of emails to council members, and yard signs both for and against the project around the city.

After the meeting John Evans said, "We're grateful that the City is giving us the opportunity to do this project after three years of planning."

The ordinance passed with

councilmen Billy Pritchard, Jack Carl, Jesse Vogtle and City Council President Virginia Smith voting in favor. Councilman Bob Moody was the only "no" vote. In his statement before the vote, Moody said, "This is the most important decision the City Council will or has ever made."

Others making statements prior to the vote were City Council President Smith, councilmen Vogtle and Pritchard. All emphasized their appreciation for the public's involvement in the process. "The design has changed and evolved for the

The City Council voted by a show of hands better because of your comments," Smith said.

Immediately following the meeting, Mayor Terry Oden addressed the crowd still present, speaking most directly to those who fought against the Lane Parke plan. "I know exactly how you feel," he said, referring to his own disappointing loss in his fight against the Cahaba Village project that culminated in a failed lawsuit. "Learn from my mistakes," he said. "Get on board or let it go."