City makes way for new AU student housing

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City officials agreed Monday to rezone property off Old Williamston Road to potentially make way for new student housing at Anderson University.

Back in 2006, the 6.5-acre site was part of a development called Cheswych Subdivision, which was proposed by developers to include a collection of duplexes and triplexes when finished. The property was annexed into the city of Anderson, but its development stopped short. City manager John Moore said Monday that some prep work was done, a portion of a road was installed, and only one triplex was finished before the project went cold years ago.

The Anderson City Council agreed unanimously Monday to change the zoning classification of the property from that of a planned development district to a classification that will allow for dozens of “apartment suites.”

All told, the original Cheswych Subdivision project from years ago was intended to encompass at least 24 acres.

The latest development proposal for the Old Williamston Road property now calls for 27 new buildings on the site, including 88 four-bedroom apartment suites. The existing triplex will remain in place, but will be used for other purposes, most likely for management offices and amenities.

Those property details were disclosed in city-prepared paperwork that was given to the council before Monday’s meeting.

Moore said that the university is in discussions with a developer about providing housing at the site that would cater to students, but that no official agreements have been made.

Anderson University spokesman Barry Ray told the Independent Mail after the meeting that he could not disclose further details about the housing proposal.

“We are in discussions,” Ray said late Monday night. “Obviously, this zoning is a step in that process. When those discussions are done and decisions are made, we’ll be happy to announce anything we can.”

Anderson University President Evans Whitaker said back in July that the school’s long-term plans include new buildings on the athletic campus and surrounding property on Williamston Road, Old Williamston Road and Gossett Street.

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