

# Citizens concerned about land development rules

**BY DAVID S. RODOCK**  
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VALDOSTA — Since the passage of Valdosta's Land Development Regulations (LDR) approximately 18 months ago, a number of citizens have expressed concerns, particularly that the regulations hurt local business by the creation of too many ordinances.

"Part of the reason behind creating this document was to consolidate all of the various ordinances and development documents into one," said Larry Hanson, city manager. "All of these documents existed before the LDR and that's where some of the misunderstanding about the size of the document comes in, but we wanted to help make it more efficient for the community."

The LDR governs all signage, setbacks, landscaping, etc. for businesses. It does not cover permitting and inspection, although those areas have also been tweaked to make them more business friendly, according to assistant city manager, Mark Barber.

According to Hanson, approximately two years of planning and public outreach went into the creation of the LDR before it was passed.

"Most of the changes we've made since the inception of the document

have been to relax some of the standards," said Matt Martin, Interim Planning and Zoning Administrator. "It's a big book, but not as big as some of the numbers that have been thrown around: The main body is 503 pages and if you add in the table of contents and the appendix, it reaches 650 pages."

Martin admits that a lot of the reduction in size has been a result of margin and font adjustments.

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"We were able to trim the pages by about thirty percent," said Martin.

"We haven't made any of the ordinances more restrictive."

Martin admitted that with any new local government ordinance,

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