**New Hanover County Commissioners Observer Corp, March 6, 2017**

The New Hanover County Commissioners held a regular meeting on March 6, 2017, beginning at 4 pm and ending at 7 pm in the old New Hanover County Courthouse on Third Street. Two public hearings were included on the prior posted agenda. All Commissioners were present as well as members from the Planning Commission, the County Manger and other staff members. Media coverage was present, local and government channels. Approximately 100 residents of the county attended to observe, and many spoke pro and con during the public hearings.

Main agenda topics were (1) Public Hearing on rezoning request on behalf of New Beginning Christian Church to rezone 8.57 acres located at the 3100 Block of Blue Clay Road to allow building of senior (55+) independent living homes. The Board passed the comprehensive rezoning plan.

(2) Revisions to Hew Hanover County Special Use Permit (SUP) were unanimously adopted by the Board despite efforts of two dozen resident’s concern about implications. League of Women Voters President Sheila Fellerath spoke against revisions especially the Table of Permitted Uses. The items for adoption included amendments to clarify the ordinance’s language to be more accessible and easy to understand, and an overhaul of the Table of Permitted Uses which is intended to allow manufacturers to easily determine what permit is needed for their business.

League of Women Voters should monitor Special Use Permit revisions, especially how the Table of Permitted Uses is implemented and the possible impact on the environment and well-being of New Hanover County residents. The League of Women Voters should be following this process in its implementation and would benefit from regularly observing the Planning Commission meetings as well as the Commissioners meetings.

Observer – Roselyn Upchurch Date report submitted – March 13, 2017