

**BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT  
MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 4, 2026  
DOTHAN, ALABAMA**

The Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) met on **Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**, in the City Commission Chambers, 126 North St. Andrews Street, Room 203, of the Roy L. Driggers Municipal Building (Civic Center).

Chair, Grant called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1. **Invocation:** Dr. Pettway
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Dr. Pettway led everyone in the Pledge.
3. **Members Present:** Chair, Gina Grant, Vice-Chair, Brandy Bass-Dempsey, Debora Pettway, PhD., Becky Shipes, Richard Price, Steve Sherrill, Alex Culbreth (SUP) sitting, and JaMar Walton (SUP) not sitting.  
**Members Absent:** Lori Wilcoxon.

**Others Present:** Todd McDonald, AICP, Planning & Development Director; Yvette Thomas, Principal Planner; Connie Quinto, Sr. Planner; Melissa Herring, Planning Assistant; Virginia Lynn McInnes, Assistant City Attorney, Shawn Talley, Neighborhood Enhancement Officer, and Shanika Gilbert, Secretary.

4. **Approval of the Agenda**  
Chair, Grant asked if there were any changes to the agenda and upon hearing none, asked for a motion. ***Dr. Pettway made a motion to approve the agenda, Ms. Bass-Dempsey seconded, and the motion carried.***
5. **Approval of January 7, 2026, Meeting Minutes**  
Chair, Grant asked for a motion on the meeting minutes as written. ***Ms. Shipes made a motion to approve the meeting minutes, Dr. Pettway seconded, and the motion carried.***
6. **Disclosure of ex-parte contact:** Chair Grant and Becky Shipes item no. 9, SE-2026-0003.
7. **Oath**

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

8. **SE-2026-0002: Request for a Special Exception for a home occupation to operate an in-home daycare at 1000 Selkirk Drive – Residential Single-Family, Low Density (R-1) – Ebony Brady.** Ebony Brady, 1000 Selkirk Drive, addressed the board. Ms. Brady stated that she wants to open an in-home daycare. Ms. Brady states that she would service children ages 15 months to 5 years of age. Chair Grant asked Ms. Brady what her hours of operation are. Ms. Brady stated from 7:00 am until 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. Chair Grant asked Ms. Brady if she knew that she could only have five (5) children in the home. Ms. Brady affirmed and stated that her 18-year-old is going to college and her 5-year-old is going to kindergarten. Dr. Pettway asked Ms. Brady if she would have another staff member. Ms. Brady stated that she would be the only employee unless she has an appointment and her husband would substitute in her absence. Chair Grant asked Ms. Brady if she had read and could abide by the staff conditions. Ms. Brady affirmed with no questions. Chair Grant asked if there was anyone in the audience who had questions or comments with no response. Mr. Culbreth asked Ms. Brady what made her want to open an in-home daycare. Ms. Brady stated she has been working in childcare for four years. Ms. Brady stated that she is currently a Director at Kiddie Care Learning Center in Abbeville, Alabama. Ms. Brady stated that she started that process three years ago and never completed the process. Dr. Pettway asked Ms. Brady, is she currently operating a daycare from her home. Ms. Brady stated no. Ms. Shipes asked

Ms. Brady how many children she planned to have in her home. Ms. Brady stated five (5). Yvette Thomas, Principal Planner stated that this is the normal process when applying for an in-home daycare. Ms. Thomas stated that the applicant has to come to the Board of Zoning Adjustment first for approval. Ms. Thomas stated that the State of Alabama does not allow the applicant to have employees when operating an in-home daycare. Mr. Culbreth asked staff are there any other in-home daycares in the City of Dothan. Ms. Thomas affirmed. Ms. Thomas stated that Ms. Brady was approved by the Board of Zoning Adjustment three years ago. Chair Grant asked if the staff or the board members had any questions or comments with no response. Chair Grant then asked for a motion. ***Mr. Culbreth made a motion to approve with staff recommendations, Dr. Pettway seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.***

1. The Special Exception is contingent on approval of the facility by the Dothan City Fire Marshal before it is licensed by the Department of Human Resources;
2. The applicant obtains a City of Dothan Privilege License before the in-home daycare begins operation;
3. The Special Exception shall only allow up to five (5) children;
4. The Department of Human Resources licenses the in-home daycare;
5. The Special Exception is good only for the applicant and this location;
6. The Special Exception Violation is subject to all necessary local and state regulations and policies;
7. The Special Exception is valid only as long as the applicant has a valid State license or permit;
8. The Special Exception is invalid if the applicant's State license or permit is revoked or if the applicant violates any State or local regulations or policies;
9. There shall be no on-street parking or queuing of traffic into the street right-of-way;
10. The applicant signs an affidavit acknowledging the preceding conditions, and the affidavit is displayed with all other licenses and permits.

**9. SE-2026-0003: Request for a Special Exception for a home occupation to operate a dog daycare and boarding business at 801 Pepperridge Road – Residential Single-Family, High Density (R-3) – Ashley Murphy.** The applicant did not appear before the Board. Chair Grant asked staff if Ms. Murphy made a request to withdraw her application. Connie Quinto, Sr. Planner, stated no and that staff has corresponded with the applicant via email and is aware of the time and date of the Board of Zoning Adjustment meeting. Chair Grant asked if there was anyone in the audience who had questions or comments. Beth Thornton, 803 Pepperridge Road, addressed the board. Ms. Thornton stated that she had noticed for several months that dogs were being dropped off at Ms. Murphy's home. Ms. Thornton stated that she found Ms. Murphy on the Rover.com platform advertising that she offers overnight boarding and dog sitting at her home. Ms. Thornton stated that she has experienced dogs barking and growling at her and is afraid to go into her backyard. Wanda Dale, 120 Bluffton Road, addressed the board. Ms. Dale stated that Ms. Murphy has an untraditional fence that is about three feet high and large spaces. Ms. Dale stated that there are several breeds of dogs (she keeps) that have a predisposition to be aggressive and dangerous. Ms. Dale stated that it would be detrimental if a dog got out of Ms. Murphy's home and attacked a child or adult in the neighborhood. Chair Grant asked staff if the board could vote today. Ms. Quinto affirmed. Mr. Culbreth asked staff if Ms. Murphy could apply again. Ms. Quinto affirmed and stated that Ms. Murphy must wait 6 months before she can reapply. Virginia Lynn McInnes, Assistant City Attorney, asked staff if Ms. Murphy was notified of the meeting. Melissa Herring, Planning Assistant stated that she assisted Ms. Murphy in completing her application and processing her payment. Ms. Herring stated that Ms. Murphy was advised of the time and date of the meeting. Shanika Gilbert, Secretary stated that a Board of Zoning Adjustment meeting packet was sent to the applicant. Dr. Pettway asked staff what the process is if Ms. Murphy continues to operate the dog-kennel business. Shawn Talley, Neighborhood Enhancement Officer, stated that he will investigate to see if Ms. Murphy is still operating the business. Mr. Talley stated that Ms. Murphy will be

notified by mail and will be given the chance to respond to the complaint. Ms. McInnes stated that if Ms. Murphy continues to operate her business without approval, she will be asked to appear in court for doing business without a license. Larry Devore, 601 Pepperridge Road, addressed the board. Mr. Devore stated he owns the vacant lot next to Ms. Murphy. Mr. Devore stated that he worried about his real-estate investment. Mr. Devore stated that if a dog kennel is next door to his lot, he cannot develop the property. Mr. Devore stated that no one wants to live next door to a dog kennel. Charles Thornton, 803 Pepperidge Road, addressed that board. Mr. Thornton stated that Ms. Murphy has been operating the business for almost a year. Mr. Thornton stated that his wife is allergic to dogs. Mr. Thornton stated that the dogs are loud and her backyard is unmaintained. Chair Grant asked for a motion. **Mr. Culbreth made a motion to deny, Ms. Shipes seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.**

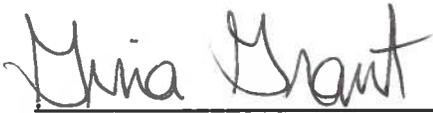
**10. Discussion – Dr. Pettway nominated Shanika Gilbert for Secretary. Mr. Shipes made a motion to approve the nomination of Shanika Gilbert for Secretary; Ms. Bass-Dempsey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. McDonald relayed information regarding CAPZO Recertification training opportunities.

**11. Adjourn.**

**Ms. Bass-Dempsey made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Sherrill seconded, and the motion carried.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m. The next meeting is on March 4, 2026.



Gina Grant, Chair



Shanika Gilbert, Secretary