

Panel OKs Tower

PROPOSAL NOW GOES TO COUNCIL

By Steve Caraway

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SPRINGDALE — A prospective tower on Emma Avenue drew the approval of the Springdale Planning Commission on Tuesday despite opposition to the project.

The tower, 66 feet tall, would be used by Ozark Electric Cooperative for a duplicate dispatch center at 406 E. Emma Ave. The utility planned an office at the address but added the backup dispatch site, said David Reynolds. Reynolds works for Smith Two-Way Radio, the company hired by the utility to build the tower.

After problems dealing with widespread power outages during the ice storm a year ago, the utility decided to create a separate dispatch center, Reynolds said.

The tower would not be in harmony with the businesses nor the residences in the area, said Chad Atwell, who lives north of the site at Purcell Street and Johnson Avenue.

“Is a tower on Emma Avenue what you want to portray?” Atwell asked.

Ted Schneider, the owner of the property to the west, supported building the tower, he said. He rents the property to a business which also has a tower, about 45 feet tall, he said.

The cooperative tower would be similar to the tower on Schneider’s property, Reynolds said.

The commission approved the conditional use of the property for a tower, 9-0. The City Council will have to vote on the tower at its March 23 meeting, said Patsy Christie, director of planning.

In other action, the commission:

Approved rezoning 0.5 acres at 2125 W. Sunset Ave., owned by Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar, from general commercial to large-product retail sales for an Enterprise car rental business

Denied the rezoning of 0.5 acres at 403 N. Campbell Drive, owned by Legacy National Bank, from neighborhood commercial to general commercial.