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**Section:** News

### Grocer withdraws plan

City Manager Jim O'Connor confirmed that Aldi Inc. has withdrawn its proposal to build a 17,000 square foot discount store in east Oak Ridge.

The site for the project had been at the corner of the Oak Ridge Turnpike and Florida Avenue .

“We have been told that Aldi is pulling that plan for the site,” O'Connor said.

On June 28, city planning commissioners voted 6-1 to approve the Aldi site plan. However, they had to vote twice to get it approved.

In the first vote, five commissioners voted for the plan, which was not enough for the measure to pass the 10-member body. So, Commission Chairman Terry Domm allowed a re-vote.

On the re-vote, Commissioner Marty Cole, who had first voted against the project, voted for it. Commissioner Jane Shelton voted against it both times.

Shelton said she objected to a proposed loading dock that would face south toward the Turnpike — something not allowed under city design standards.

When asked if Aldi had given a reason for withdrawing its proposal, O'Connor said, “No, although there was some discussion about a site-preparation issue.

“They just wanted to be community friendly.”

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