

HERMITAGE

City planners prefer new facade for Chipotle

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By Joe Pinchot, *Herald Staff Writer*

A month after calling the proposed Chipotle Mexican Grill building “ugly,” Hermitage Planning Commission Chairman Charles E. Rogers was much more reserved in his comments about a revised facade. “It appears to meet our requirements,” Rogers said

Monday after he and the rest the other members of Hermitage Planning Commission recommended approval of a land development plan. Rogers said he would not comment on the look of the building. The restaurant is planning to build on the former Hermitage Middle School property on North Hermitage Road, in the lot to the south of where Tim Hortons and Cold Stone Creamery are planning to build.

Last month, developers presented a plan for a twotone gray building that would be made of corrugated metal panels, the company’s latest prototype. Rogers, saying the building looked like a “temporary” one, and other commission members tabled action on the plan, even though they were told by city officials that it met all of the city’s requirements. Chipotle quickly changed the proposed exterior material to brick. Commission members have pushed for new commercial buildings to be built with brick, and gotten their wish from several companies, including Wal-Mart and McDonalds, which will build on the other side of Hortons and Cold Stone.

Later last month, Hermitage Zoning Hearing Board approved a variance for a 20-foot side yard setback instead of 30 feet. The plan goes to city commissioners, who likely will act Jan. 25.



At top is the original design of the proposed Chipotle Mexican Grill restaurant with corrugated metal exterior that was rejected by the Hermitage Planning Commission. Below it is the newly proposed design with a brick exterior which is getting a more favorable response from the commission. The restaurant is planning to build on the former Hermitage Middle School property on North Hermitage Road.