Colquitt County recently faced an unprecedented growth, as new businesses and residents were moving into the region. In this time of growth, the traditionally agriculture-heavy county lacked a land-use plan, and regional leadership determined that developing such a comprehensive guide was a major priority for the community in order to sustain the rapid growth.

After prior attempts to develop a set of ordinances that met the needs of the community failed, the assistance of the Archway Partnership was requested to help facilitate a process to utilize local citizens to develop ordinances that they felt appropriate for their community.

During a period of several months, the local Archway Professional facilitated meetings of a citizens’ work group appointed by local officials to draft a land-use plan that could also help the community improve its dated wastewater treatment facility and expand its wastewater treatment capacity.

Local citizens met and worked to craft a set of draft ordinances during a five month period, foster relationships and develop drafts for how the new set of ordinances would be implemented. At the conclusion of this process, the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners adopted the comprehensive community-based zoning ordinances.

Advancing Community Priorities: With an unprecedented period of growth in Colquitt County, planning for future growth has been marked as a key community priority. Assisting the community in implementing an expanded and updated set of zoning ordinances worked to advance this priority by utilizing community input to create a solid infrastructure that reflected the priorities of both the community and its leaders.