

CITY OF IONIA
Planning Commission
June 10, 2015
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for June 10, 2015 was called to order by Chairperson Chris Young at 4:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call revealed Commissioners Dave Cook, Boomer Hoppough, Mark Jennings, Gordon Kelley (arrived at 4:45 PM), Tim Lee, Evonne Ulmer, and Chris Young present.

City Manager Jason Eppler and Planning Consultant Tim Johnson were also present.

Public present included Amanda Ondersma, 604 North Jackson Street.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Young reviewed the agenda with the Commission. After review, it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough to approve the agenda for the June 10, 2015 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the May 13, 2015 Regular Meeting. After review it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2015 Commission meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Reuse of Current Sparrow Ionia Hospital Facility – Public Workshop: Mr. Johnson reviewed with the Commission the plans for the June 16th work shop regarding options for the re-use of the Sparrow Ionia Hospital buildings/properties. He stated that the five concepts developed with input from the Commission will be reviewed by the public with an opportunity for the public to share thoughts on each concept. He also stated that the input provided at the work shop will be condensed/categorized by him and then provided to the Commission at a follow-up meeting at which time the Commission can analyze the input. Likely, the input will be

used by the Commission to prepare a sub-area plan for this area of the City.

Request from Resident – Consideration of City Code Amendment – Chickens: Mr. Johnson reviewed with the Commission a proposed amendment to the animals ordinance which, if approved, would permit chickens in the City. In reviewing the amendment Mr. Johnson stated that there are several items that the Commission needs to consider before a final draft can be prepared. These items range from whether to require a permitting process in order to keep chickens to the maximum number permitted to setback requirements for coops, etc.

Several comments were offered by Commissioners. Commissioner Hoppough stated that he was not supportive of permitting chickens in the City for a variety of reasons including concerns over neighborly discourse; negative impact on property values; if chickens are permitted what may be next?

Chairperson Young stated that based on the comments offered, it appeared that a majority of the Commissioners were supportive of permitting chickens in the City, subject to conditions. He suggested that before the Commission spends too much time debating the various aspects of an amendment, City Council input should first be sought. He stated that ultimately if Council is not supportive of urban chickens then resources should not be spent in developing a complete amendment.

The City Manager stated that Council input would be solicited at the July Council Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioners Jennings stated that at some point in the future he would like to have the Commission analyze the current zoning ordinance with an eye towards revising standards that are not supportive of small business.

Commissioner Cook expressed his displeasure with some of the comments offered at the May City Council meeting regarding the proposed Restore Church project.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by Commissioner Ulmer to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 PM.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler
City Manager
Recording Secretary for Dave Cook, Secretary