

CITY OF IONIA
Planning Commission
October 14, 2015
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for October 14, 2015 was called to order by Chairperson Chris Young at 4:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call revealed Commissioners Dave Cook, Boomer Hoppough, Tim Lee, and Chris Young. Commissioners Mark Jennings, Gordon Kelley, and Evonne Ulmer, were absent.

City Manager Jason Eppler, Public Safety Officer Doug DeVries, Aaron Caitlin, Fleis & Vandenbrink and Katherine Henry were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Young reviewed the agenda with the Commission. After review it was moved by Commissioner Hoppough, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to approve the agenda for the October 14, 2015 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the September 9, 2015 Regular Meeting. After review it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2015 Commission meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Katherine Henry, Belding, introduced herself as a candidate for State Representative for the 86th District.

OLD BUSINESS

Reuse of Old Hospital Site: The City Manager reported that at the Planning Commission's request, the City Council did review the proposed Lafayette/West Washington Sub-Area Master Plan amendment regarding the former Sparrow Ionia Hospital property. After discussion, the City Council did authorize the distribution of the proposed Sub-Area Master Plan amendment to the four contiguous townships and Ionia County. Based on the forty-two day review period, the Commission will conduct the Public Hearing on the proposed amendment at its December meeting.

Demolition of Former Sparrow Ionia Hospital Building: The City Manager introduced representatives of Sparrow Ionia Hospital to discuss the demolition of the former hospital building. Mr. Aaron Catlin, Fleis & Vandenbrink, stated that his firm has been hired by Sparrow to handle the engineering/project management associated with the demolition project. He reviewed with the Commission a conceptual plan for the demolition work which shows the removal of the old hospital and the construction of a 53 space parking lot west of the Balice Clinic to address parking needs at the site. He shared the following information with the Commission:

- Bid specifications will soon be completed and distributed to interested project bidders.
- Demolition work will begin with the asbestos abatement process, likely beginning in mid to late November with actual demolition work beginning around mid-December.
- Demolition work will take until the end of January. Final site grading, seeding, etc., will be completed once the weather warms up in the spring.
- No immediate plans for the existing parking lot on the south side of Washington Street. This area may be used for staging equipment associated with the demolition project.

Commissioners shared their thoughts with Mr. Catlin regarding work hours, noise, semi-truck haul routes, etc. More information will be shared once the bid specifications are finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

House Bill No. 4862: The City Manager reviewed with the Commission House Bill No. 4862 which, if passed into law, establishes State level regulations pertaining to local regulation of donation drop boxes. He stated that currently, through the zoning ordinance, the City prohibits donation drop boxes in the City. If House Bill No. 4862 becomes law, the City will no longer be permitted to prohibit donation drop boxes and the Commission will be tasked with re-writing the current zoning ordinance provisions so that they are consistent with State law.

COMMENTS:

Commissioners discussed the status of this year's infrastructure projects. The City Manager provided updates and also shared an overview of projects planned for the 2016 construction season.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by
Commissioner Hoppough to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 PM.
MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler, Recording Secretary
for Dave Cook, Secretary