

CITY OF IONIA
Planning Commission
November 9, 2016
Meeting Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER** The Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for November 9, 2016 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 present. Commissioners Mark Jennings, Gordon Kelley and Evonne Ulmer were excused.
- City Manager Jason Eppler, DDA Director Linda Curtis, Public Safety Officer Doug DeVries and Planning Consultant Jan Johnson were also present.
- Members of the public present included Bob VanPutten, Steve Jara, Scott DeRuischer, Dale Parus, Gregg and Gale Yeomans, Stephanie Fox, Linda Ciangi, Barb Ehlert, Jan Powell, Derrick and Jack Elliott.
- 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 November 9, 2016 meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** The Commission reviewed the minutes of the October 12, 2016 Regular Meeting. After review it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Lee to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2016 Commission meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- PUBLIC HEARING** Chairperson Young opened the Public Hearing to receive comments regarding proposed Ordinance no. 528 which, if approved, amends Chapter 1234 (Signs) revising the City's current sign standards and amends Chapters 1256 (B-1 Neighborhood Business District), 1258 (B-2 Community Business District), Chapter 1260 (B-3 General Business District), and Chapter 1269 (East Main Preservation District) of the City Code permitting barber poles as an accessory structure.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS** None.

OLD BUSINESS

Proposed Ordinance No. 528: The Commission reviewed the latest draft of the proposed sign ordinance updates as prepared by Planning Consultant Johnson and the City Manager. Both highlighted the changes that were made since the last review conducted by the Planning Commission.

After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough to recommend to the City Council the adoption of proposed Ordinance No. 528 revising Chapters 1234, 1256, 1258, 1260 and 1269 of the City Code. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS

County Facility Project/Library Street: Representatives of Ionia County and their consultants were present to provide an update regarding their proposed facilities improvements scheduled to begin during 2017. Specifically, Stephanie Fox, County Administrator, stated that the County intends to raze the old jail, replace it with a new building which will be connected to the current Court House and remove the Friend of the Court building located on the north side of Washington Street. She also stated that long-term, the County may relocate Central Dispatch to the current District Court building and sell the building located on Apple Tree Drive.

Consultants for the County from Landmark Design Group reviewed draft site plans for the project. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the design and location of the addition to the Court House, project phasing, security, parking and the future use of Library Street.

Derrick Elliott raised concerns regarding widening Library Street to accommodate additional parking for the county facilities and the library and the possible loss of two or three trees located at the edge of the street right-of-way. He also expressed concern regarding security for both employees and the public utilizing an expanded facility.

The City Manager reviewed with the Commission proposed improvement options for Library Street which could involve parallel parking along the east side of the street or angled parking. He acknowledged that angled parking would result in tree removal and suggested that an arborist be retained to assess the condition of the three trees (one apple, one Ginkgo and one Walnut) located close the street right-of-way line.

Jack Elliott expressed concern over the loss of the Friend of the Court building which, in his opinion, has historical significance.

Chairperson Young stated that the Commission would continue its review of the Library Street plans and updated site plans for the County project at its December meeting.

2107 Planning Commission Meeting Schedule: The City Manager reviewed the proposed Planning Commission meeting schedule for 2017. The schedule proposes that meetings of the Commission remain the second Wednesday of each month at 4:30 PM at City Hall, more specifically as follows:

January 11, 2017	July 12, 2017
February 8, 2017	August 9, 2017
March 8, 2017	September 13, 2017
April 12, 2017	October 11, 2017
May 10, 2017	November 8, 2017
June 14, 2017	December 13, 2017

After review, it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Lee to approve the 2017 Planning Commission Meeting Schedule. MOTION CARRIED.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS None.

ADJOURNMENT It was moved by Commissioner Hoppough seconded by Commissioner Lee to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler
City Manager
Recording Secretary for Dave Cook, Secretary