

CITY OF IONIA
Planning Commission
March 8, 2023
Regular Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hoppough called the Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for March 8, 2023, to order at 4:30 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Logan Bailey, Boomer Hoppough, Keturah Kelley, Tim Lee, and Judy Swartz.

Absent: Commissioners Mike Donaldson and Ryan Gregory.

Also Present: City Manager Precia Garland, Planning Consultant Bradley Kotrba, Parks and Recreation Director Matt Painter, news representatives, and representatives from TowerCo and AT&T Mobility.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Hoppough introduced the agenda and proposed moving new business before Old Business to accommodate the applicant of the preliminary site plan and special land use review. It was moved by Commissioner Lee and seconded by Commissioner Bailey to approve the agenda with Chairperson Hoppough's proposed amendment. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the regular meeting of February 8, 2023, were reviewed. It was moved by Lee, seconded by Bailey to approve the minutes from February 8. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Preliminary Site Plan and Special Land Use Review – Telecommunications Tower at 603 W. Adams Street

City Manager Garland introduced the agenda item and Planning Consultant Kotrba presented a staff report.

David Hockey, 5000 Valley Stone Drive, Cary, North Carolina 27519, from TowerCo represented the applicant and provided additional information on the submitted application. TowerCo is a national company and will be partnering with AT&T on this tower. The indicated purpose of the tower is to expand coverage to the south side and into downtown because a gap exists.

City Manager Garland asked a question to the applicant on if the telecommunications tower would cause any radio frequency interference with municipal channels such as the Public Utilities Department's metering system. Mr. Hockey responded that the carriers operate on their own unique frequencies that should not interfere with the City's operations.

Commissioner Swartz asked if additional towers would be needed in the future for use by other carriers besides AT&T. Mr. Hockey explained that the proposed tower would accommodate multiple tenants in addition to AT&T if needed in the future. The capacity would be available for other providers to utilize.

It was moved by Commissioner Bailey and seconded by Commissioner Kelley to schedule a public hearing and final review of the application for the next Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, April 12 at 4:30 PM. MOTION CARRIED

Joint Meeting with City Council

City Manager Garland informed the Planning Commission that there will be a special joint meeting between City Council and the Planning Commission scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss long-term planning and future development opportunities for the City.

OLD BUSINESS

Parks and Recreation Plan – Community Input Survey

Consultant Kotrba presented a draft Community Input Survey to the Commission for the Parks and Recreation Plan and discussed the proposed rollout of the survey.

The Commission reviewed the survey and commented on each question style, length, and phrasing. Proposed changes were suggested. It was decided that additional feedback could be provided to City staff until March 24, 2023, after which staff will open the survey for responses.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Swartz and seconded by Commissioner Kelley to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 PM. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Precia Garland, Recording Secretary,
for Judy Swartz, Secretary