

CITY OF IONIA
Planning Commission
July 11, 2018
Regular Meeting Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER** The Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for July 11, 2018 was called to order by Chairperson Lee at 4:30 PM.
- ROLL CALL** Roll Call revealed Commissioners Boomer Hoppough, Gordon Kelley, Mark Jennings, Tim Lee and Judy Swartz present. Commissioner Dave Cook and Mike Donaldson were excused. Others in attendance included Planning Consultant Jan Johnson, City Manager Jason Eppler, DDA Director Linda Curtis, Randi Hermiz, Ryan Welsh, Kyle Miller and Jeffrey Hank.
- APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Chairperson Lee reviewed the agenda with the Commission. After review, it was moved by Commissioner Hoppough, seconded by Commissioner Jennings to approve the agenda for the July 11, 2018 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES** The Commission reviewed the minutes of the May 9, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting. After review it was moved by Commissioner Jennings, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough to approve the minutes of the meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS** None.
- OLD BUSINESS**
Medical Marijuana Discussion: The City Manager reported that based on the recommendation provided by the Planning Commission regarding “opting in”, the City Council held a discussion at its July 3, 2018 meeting regarding the pros and cons of taking such action. Council will resume its discussion on the topic at its August 7, 2018 meeting.
- Randi Hermiz provided an update on the Michigan Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act (MMMFLA) in terms of action at the State level in issuing permits.
- Jeffrey Hank offered his comments regarding the MMMFLA and encouraged the City to “opt in” in order to promote local economic development.
- Commissioner Kelley stated that he expected Council to act on the Commission’s recommendation to “opt in” at the August meeting.

Master Plan/Recreation Plan Update: Planning Commission Johnson reviewed with the Commission the proposed updated Master Plan Goals and Action Plan (Chapter 3) dated June 13, 2018. Commissioners provided several recommendations for revising certain Goals/Actions contained in the proposed Chapter 3. Mrs. Johnson stated that the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will be reviewing the “downtown section” of Chapter 3 at its July 18, 2018 meeting. Changes proposed by the DDA will be shared with the Commission at its August 8, 2018 meeting.

Looking ahead, Mrs. Johnson stated that she would like the Commission to spend the majority of its August meeting on discussing updates to the Steele Street Corridor Plan.

2018 Street Resurfacing Project – Sidewalk Network: The City Manager reported that the project is currently out for bid and involves resurfacing certain streets in the north west area of the City and improving the sidewalk network along the subject streets. He stated that there are difficulties in extending the sidewalk network to M-66 north by Robinson Park due to grade/topography so mid-block crossings will be necessary. The City Council will review the bids received at its August 7, 2018 meeting with the goal of starting the project shortly after Labor Day, budget permitting.

Commissioner Jennings exited the meeting at 5:55 PM.

NEW BUSINESS None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS Commissioner Hoppough inquired about long-term coordinated planning efforts between the City, neighboring Townships and the School System. Commissioner Kelley provided a history of collaborative efforts. All Commissioners agreed that greater coordination through a number of mechanisms should be pursued in the future.

ADJOURNMENT It was moved by Commissioner Hoppough, seconded by Commissioner Swartz to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 PM.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler, City Manager
Recording Secretary for Dave Cook, Secretary