

CITY OF IONIA
Planning Commission
July 11, 2012 - Regular Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER The Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for July 11, 2012 was called to order by Chairperson Mark Jennings at 4:03 PM.

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

City Manager Jason Eppler and Public Safety Officer Doug DeVries were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Chairperson Mark Jennings reviewed the agenda with the Commission. After review, it was moved by Commissioner Ulmer, seconded by Commissioner Cook to approve the agenda for the July 11, 2012 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The Commission reviewed the minutes of the May 9, 2012 Regular Meeting. After review it was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2012 Commission meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS Master Plan Update: The City Manager reported that the City Council reviewed the proposed Master Plan, as recommended by the Planning Commission, at their June 5, 2012 meeting. After review, the Council voted to authorize the distribution of the plan to the neighboring townships and county for comment. Commissioner Kelley provided an overview of the comments offered by Council. He stated that the Council believes the plan to be very comprehensive and aggressive. The City Manager further reported that the Commission will conduct the Public Hearing and act on the plan at the September 4, 2012 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS Parks and Recreation Plan Update: The City Manager reported that the Parks and Recreation Plan Advisory Committee recently completed work on developing the City's new five year parks and recreation master plan. A copy of the proposed plan was provided for the Commission for review. The City Manager reported that the 30 day public comment period on the plan opened July 1st. He further stated that the City Council will be asked to conduct the

Public Hearing and act on the plan at its August 7, 2012 meeting.

Commissioners discussed the proposed master plan. Several Commissioners commented on how this plan tracts nicely with the proposed master land use plan which will be approved later this year.

After further discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Ulmer, seconded by Commissioner Young to recommend to the City Council that the proposed City of Ionia Five-Year Community Parks and Recreation Plan (2012-2017) be adopted as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Jones Street – Sidewalk – Morse to Johnson Streets: The City Manager reported that the FY12-13 Local Street Fund budget includes funds to resurface Jones Street from Morse Street east to its end. The section of Jones Street between Morse and Johnson Streets (which is curbed) is proposed to be milled and resurfaced. The section of Jones Street from Johnson Street east to its end is proposed to be crushed/shaped and resurfaced with a turn-around constructed at its east end. This section of Jones Street is not curbed. The City Manager further reported that staff plans to complete the improvements as part of a fall street paving bid.

Consistent with the Commission's Sidewalk System Priorities Policy (adopted by the Commission at its July 22, 2009 meeting), the City Manager asked the Commission if it desired to have a sidewalk constructed along the north side of Jones Street between Morse and Johnson Streets. There is currently a sidewalk along the south side. The City Manager stated since the section of Jones Street east of Johnson Street is not curbed it is not practical to consider the installation of a sidewalk along either side of this section.

The City Manager reported that Priority #4 contained in the Commission's policy states "as part of the planning process for reconstructing the City's street and utilities systems, the Commission recommends that on those streets with a sidewalk on only one side of the street an engineering analysis be completed to determine if a sidewalk should be placed on both sides of the street as part of the project." The City Manager stated that he recently had the City Engineer complete a survey of Jones Street and analyze the practicality of installing a sidewalk along the north side of the street. Comments received from the City Engineer were provided to the Commission. The City Engineer recommended that if a

sidewalk is installed, it should be placed in a location that permits many of the mature trees in this area to be preserved. Additionally, he noted that some plant material located within the street right-of-way at 628 Jones Street will need to be moved and a small tree located within the street right-of-way at 630 Jones Street relocated.

The City Manager further reported that if the sidewalk is installed, it will be paid for by the project budget rather than by assessing contiguous property owners. Once installed, the City's sidewalk maintenance and snow removal policies will apply.

The Commission discussed the information provided by the City Engineer. Several Commissioners noted the number of apartment complexes located in this area of the City and the need to improve connectivity in the City's sidewalk system to accommodate walking residents.

It was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Ulmer to instruct the City Manager to proceed with installing a sidewalk along the north side of Jones Street (Morse to Johnson Streets) consistent with recommendations offered by the City Engineer. MOTION CARRIED.

Commissioner Hoppough arrived at 4:40 PM.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hoppough introduced discussion regarding fireworks use in the City. The City Manager updated the Commission on action taken by the City Council at its July 10th meeting regarding a proposed ordinance addressing the use of fireworks in the City.

Commissioner Kelley introduced discussion regarding trees/brush encroaching on/over public sidewalks and the need for residents to keep vegetation trimmed. The City Manager requested that Commissioners forward to him any locations of concern so that he can follow-up with property owners. The City's ordinance which applies to these types of situations was briefly discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason Eppler, Rec. Sec. for Boomer Hoppough, Secretary

