

MINUTES
REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
August 10, 2020 - 7:00 P.M.
9180 Lexington Avenue, Lexington, MN

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Roll Call: Chairperson VanderBloomer, Commissioners Bautch, Thorson, Koch and Murphy

Chairperson Vanderbloomer called to order the Regular Planning Commission meeting on August 10, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Present: John Bautch, Michelle Koch, Gloria Murphy, and Ron Thorson. Also present: John Hughes, City Councilmember; Bill Petracek, City Administrator; Kurt Glaser, City Attorney

2. CITIZENS FORUM

No citizens were present to discuss items not on the agenda

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

Bautch made a motion to approve the agenda as typewritten. Thorson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

4. LETTERS AND COMMUNICATION

- A. Building Permits for
- March 2020
 - April 2020
 - May 2020
 - June 2020
 - July 2020

Vanderbloomer asked about the building permits to be issued for the new homes in Parkview. Discussion ensued.

5. APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

- B. March 10, 2020

Koch made a motion to approve the March 10, 2020 minutes with corrections. Koch seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

6. DISCUSSION ITEM:

- A. Discuss Developing an Ordinance for Tree Management

Petracek explained that the discussion of developing a tree management ordinance began with the City Council before the Covid-19 shutdown. Councilmember Hughes had brought the idea of adopting an ordinance that allows the City to enforce on dead or dying trees on private property. The City Council voted to have the Planning Commission develop an ordinance and make a recommendation to them. Discussion ensued.

Councilmember Hughes explained that the reason he asked for this ordinance development is due to a neighbor of his had had a tree fall on his garage from his adjacent neighbor's yard, and there was nothing that he could do about it nor was there anything that the City could do about the dead trees removal prior to it falling over. Discussion ensued.

Attorney Glaser provided an overview of the current ordinance dealing with diseased trees and our ability to manage dead and diseased trees. Discussion ensued.

Vanderbloomer asked if there is a process that could be put in place for the tree removal by having a letter sent to the property owner and then he/she would need to hire an arborist to take it down. If that person didn't agree with taking it down, he/she could appeal it to the City Council to either prove or disprove that the tree needs to be removed. Discussion ensued.

Vanderbloomer asked Councilmember Hughes what he would like to see in the ordinance. Councilmember Hughes stated that he wants the City to be able to tell you to remove a dead tree or the City will do it at the property owner's expense, and make the ordinance simple. Discussion ensued.

Bautch made a motion to direct the city attorney to draft an ordinance that manages dead and diseased trees on private property and make it simple. Thorson seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

7. NOTE COUNCIL MINUTES:

- A. March 5, 2020
- B. March 19, 2020
- C. April 2, 2020
- D. April 16, 2020
- E. May 7, 2020
- F. May 21, 2020
- G. June 4, 2020
- H. June 18, 2020
- I. July 2, 2020
- J. July 16, 2020

No discussion on Council minutes

8. PLANNING COMMISSION INPUT

Murphy asked about the Memorial Park asphaltting project. Petracek explained that the engineer is in the process of designing the project. He added that due to the cost of the project and the fact that a stormwater retention pond may need to be built due to the amount of asphalt being installed, it will cost more than the amount budgeted. Petracek stated as the design phase is complete and we know more about the final estimated costs, we may need to do the project in phases. Discussion ensued.

Vanderbloomer asked about where the money was coming from to pay for the Parkview settlement. Petracek stated that the City's insurance will cover 60% of the settlement and the other 40% -\$175,000 – will come from fees collected from the new developer's construction fees.

Thorson wanted to thank public works for getting rid of the graffiti on North Highway Drive.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Bautch made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 p.m. Vanderbloomer seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.