

MINUTES
REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
October 13, 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 October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Present: John Bautch, Michelle Koch, and Gloria Murphy. Excused Absence: Ron Thorson. Also present: John Hughes, City Councilmember; Bill Petracek, City Administrator; Kurt Glaser, City Attorney.

2. CITIZENS FORUM

No citizens were present to address the Planning Commission on items not on the agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

Bautch made a motion to approve the agenda as typewritten. Koch seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

4. LETTERS AND COMMUNICATION

- A. Building Permits for September 2020

Bautch asked about the roofing permit issued at 9016 Jackson Ave. and why there wasn't a valuation placed on it. Petracek wasn't sure, but would check into it. Discussion ensued.

5. APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

- B. September 8, 2020

Bautch made a motion to approve the September 8, 2020 minutes as typewritten. Koch seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

6. DISCUSSION ITEM:

- A. Discuss Draft Tree Ordinance

Attorney Glaser explained the draft tree ordinance. Petracek explained he appreciated that the ordinance is not lengthy and wordy. Discussion ensued.

Glaser explained the ordinance has flexibility to have the city forester and building inspector enforce the ordinance. Petracek provided an overview of the process to

enforce the ordinance by utilizing an outside tree management company as our appointed city forester and the arborist on their staff would work with the building inspector to enforce the ordinance. Discussion ensued.

The Planning Commission discussed the requirements for providing a notice to the property owner to abate the nuisance dead tree. Glaser explained that Subdivision 4 (e)(1) addresses the notification requirements for abatement of nuisance trees. Discussion ensued.

The Planning Commission discussed the removal of the tree when the property owner doesn't comply and what happens to the tree and the potential for use as firewood. Attorney Glaser discussed the laws that govern transporting firewood in Minnesota. Discussion ensued.

Attorney Glaser will redraft the ordinance with some edits for the next P & Z meeting and add verbiage about the nuisance or diseased tree not being allowed for firewood. Discussion ensued. Not action was taken.

B. Discuss Chapter 11 Section 11.60 Subd. 22 Parking

Petracek explained that Commissioner Koch has been receiving complaints from her neighbors about the enforcement of Chapter 11 Section 11.60 Subd. 22 Parking ordinance on them and parking their vehicles on their lawns in the front yard and not on the driveway.

Koch stated that her neighbors are feeling that the warnings and enforcement by the police department are being heavy handed and wanted to discuss with P & Z if that was the intent of the ordinance and wanted to get their perspective. She added that her neighbors told her that they only had been parking on their lawns for a brief period of time and only off to the side of their driveway. Discussion ensued.

No action was taken.

7. NOTE COUNCIL MINUTES:

- A. September 3, 2020
- B. September 17, 2020

Some discussion was had on the approval of the O'Reilly's development agreement.

8. PLANNING COMMISSION INPUT

Bautch stated he talked to Conrad Koffler about his intent to move back into his house. Discussion ensued.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Koch made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. Bautch seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.