

**MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
&
REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
July 11, 2023 - 7:00 P.M.
9180 Lexington Avenue, Lexington, MN**

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Chairperson Bautch called to order the Public Hearing on July 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Present: Gloria Murphy, Ron Thorson and Chuck Ogden. Excused Absence: Michelle Koch. Also present: Brandon Winge, City Councilmember; Bill Petracek, City Administrator; Kurt Glaser, City Attorney.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP)

Petracek explained the need to hold a public hearing to allow citizens to provide feedback on how our stormwater prevention program.

No citizens were present to address the Planning Commission.

3. ADJOURNMENT PUBLIC HEARING

Murphy made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 7:02 PM. Thorson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING

4. CALL TO ORDER

B. Roll Call: Chairperson Bautch, Commissioners Thorson, Koch, Murphy and Ogden

Chairperson Bautch called to order the Regular Planning Commission meeting on July 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Present: Gloria Murphy, Ron Thorson and Chuck Ogden. Excused Absence: Michelle Koch. Also present: Brandon Winge, City Councilmember; Bill Petracek, City Administrator; Kurt Glaser, City Attorney.

5. CITIZENS FORUM

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

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS

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

7. LETTERS AND COMMUNICATION

A. Building Permits for June 2023 – none were issued

No discussion on Letters and Communication.

8. APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES

A. June 13, 2023

Ogden made a motion to approve the June 13, 2023 Planning Commission Minutes as typewritten. Thorson seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

9. DISCUSSION ITEM:

A. Discuss Moratorium and Zoning on Healthcare Clinics

Attorney Glaser provided an overview of the current moratorium of new healthcare facilities – specifically methadone clinics. He stated that the State of Minnesota has 16 methadone clinics, with the City of Duluth having one facility that serves most of Northern Minnesota to the Canadian border.

Glaser further explained that you cannot have a zoning code that bans methadone clinics; it is considered discrimination and a City could be sued. He explained we need to determine the proper zoning district to allow this type of facility and place conditions or restrictions on the healthcare business. Discussion ensued.

Ogden asked about “Free Zones.” Glaser explained that Minneapolis does have a couple of free zones where people can go and shoot-up with heroin without law enforcement interference. Discussion ensued.

Glaser also explained that the leasing agent for Northway Mall still wants to lease to a methadone clinic and wants an opportunity to address the Planning Commission and City Council on the benefits of this type of facility. Discussion ensued.

Bautch asked about the distance this type of facility could be from a daycare, church, or school, and if it would be possible to show the distances from Northway Mall. Discussion ensued.

The consensus of the Commission was to have Glaser draft some conditions to be applied in the ordinance to a methadone clinic or dosing clinic for discussion at the next meeting. Staff would also provide GIS maps of various distances to daycare, churches, etc.

Glaser added that we should wrap this ordinance amendment up for a September public hearing. He strongly suggested that Planning Commission and City Councilmembers be present at each of the meetings for the adoption of the ordinance, as a super majority is needed to pass this type of legislation. Discussion ensued.

10. NOTE COUNCIL MINUTES:

- A. June 1, 2023
- B. June 15, 2023

No discussion was had on Council minutes.

11. PLANNING COMMISSION INPUT

Thorson stated he spoke with Sergeant Goetzke about the parked semi on South Highway Drive. He had the vehicle towed.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Thorson made a motion to adjourn at 8:16 p.m. Murphy seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.