

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Regular Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2010
City Council Chambers, 1001 Bridge Street, Vernonia OR 97064

MINUTES

Call to Order – Dan Brown, Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Dan Brown, Sharon Parrow, Nancy Dailey, Don Wallace, Grant Williams, James Baraibar. Alan MacComb was absent

Staff Present: Carole Connell, Planning Consultant; Bob Young, City Administrator
Joann Glass, Secretary

Approval or Additions to Agenda

Add: Unfinished Business – Sign Code
New Business – Change of Occupancy

Grant Williams moved to accept the agenda as presented with the additions. The motion was seconded by Nancy Dailey. Motion passed.

Topics from the Floor

Helen Hudson reminded everyone that she was at the public hearing. She has heard the sign ordinance 21 times and chose not to attend the last three times. Everyone should be responsible for themselves. She supports the sign ordinance.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from January 7, 2010

Don Wallace moved to accept the consent agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Sharon Parrow. James Baraibar and Nancy Dailey abstained as they were not present at the January 7th meeting. The motion passed.

Unfinished Business

1. Sign Ordinance

Dan, Carole and Bob reported that the comments to City Council at the Public Hearing were similar comments made before the Planning Commission at the regular meeting on January 7, 2010.

The City Council listened to the comments about opposition to regulations, the design theme, permits, fees and internal illumination of signs.

This was a learning experience for everyone.

Council left the Public Hearing open and gave no direction to the Planning Commission. Council suggested that the public state how they want the sign ordinance to read.

The consensus of the Planning Commission:

- There is a sign ordinance in effect now
- The drop date for changes to non-conforming signs is 2014
- There are many other important decisions before planning commission
- There was lots of misinformation amount the proposed ordinance
- The Mill Town Theme was adopted years ago
- They need more direction from Council

New Business

Carole reviewed a list of issues that have been awaiting Commission attention and is interested in knowing which one they want to tackle first.

1. City GIS System

Ben Fouske is waiting for input. The elevation certificates, flood plain development permits and non remonstrance agreements may be something that can be added to the GIS system. The Commission said this was more of a staff project.

2. 2010 Transportation Plan Update

Starting next month the grant consultant will be chosen who will begin the mapping, an inventory of streets, bicycle and pedestrian routes. There will be extensive review of draft documents by the Commission, probably starting in 3 – 4 months plan, rezoning etc.

3. Commercial Zoning Project: The City is still waiting to see if they will be awarded a grant to help on this project. Staff will report back on the status of funding. Dan said if it is not funded we should start the work ourselves now since it will take longer without assistance.

3. Parking Study

This has been on the Planning Commission plate for years. It is possible that some of the lots that will be vacant after the buyouts could become possible public parking lots. The Commission asked staff to collect all the background work. We will start the discussion with developing parking goals, and an outline of tasks and implementation measures.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence

Planning Consultant Report

Bring to the February 4, 2010 meeting a look at “Change of Occupancy” permitting including whose responsibility this is, what triggers it, when does it require bringing buildings up to code, city liability and a definition of structural change.

Commissioners Report

James Baraibar questioned the fence ordinance and enforcement of it.

Sharon Parrow was pleased with the meeting she and Randy had with Paul Koch and the questions he asked.

Dan Brown said Ticor Title was chosen to do the acquisitions for the buyouts

Bob Young reminded the Commission they are here to get things moving.

Adjournment: The January 21, 2010 Planning Commission meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Planning Commission approved the January 21, 2010 minutes on February 4, 2010