

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
PLANNING-CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMISSION  
CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN

For the Regular Meeting of the Planning-Citizen Advisory Commission on Monday, January 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Doug Folsom and the City Clerk called the Roll.

Present: Commissioners Jim Hall, Clark Jahnke, Maryalene LaPonsie and Chair Folsom.

Absent: Commissioners Don Green and Laurie Noall.

Also Present: City Manager David Pasquale, City Clerk Betty Morlock, DPW Director Dan DesJarden, Building Inspector Doug Hopkins, Mayor Jim Hodges, Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Ellison, Councilmember Andrew Schrauben and Water Distribution Supervisor Bob Robinson.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSIE and seconded by HALL to excuse the absences of Commissioners Green and Noall.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSIE and HALL to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 23, 2009 as corrected.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Folsom opened the floor for nomination for Chair.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSIE and supported by HALL to nominate Doug Folsom for Chair of the Planning Commission.

Folsom stated he could not accept the nomination because of moving out of the City in the very near future.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and supported by JAHNKE to nominate Laurie Noall for Chair of the Planning Commission.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL and seconded by LAPONSIE to nominate Clark Jahnke as Vice Chair of the Planning Commission.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #1. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA.** Vice Chair Jahnke requested items 7-C (Outdoor Lighting Ordinance) and 7-D (Joint Signage Ordinance with Lowell Charter Township) be moved to the February meeting.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSIE and supported by HALL to approve the agenda as modified.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #2. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS/ON GOING BUSINESS.**

**A. UPDATE ON GRAVEL PIT – NORTH OF GRAND RIVER DRIVE – O.E. BIERI & SONS.**

City Manager Pasquale stated at its October 26, 1992 meeting, the Planning Commission reviewed and approved a site plan and a special use permit for O.E. Bieri & Sons to initiate gravel mining on the north side of Grand River Drive adjacent to the east City Limits. As requested from the Planning Commission, Dale Bieri of O.E. Bieri and Sons presented a sketch of the gravel pit and gave an update.

Bieri stated business has been very slow so the company has not been mining much. In 2009, only approximately 6,000 yards of road gravel has been processed and most of this was in the Lowell Township area. The processing is taking place on the City side of the pit. Basically, they are digging deeper in the pond and not expanding the excavation. They have seven (7) to eight (8) acres and it is 50% in the Township and 50% in the City.

Commissioner Hall asked if there have been any complaints. City Manager Pasquale stated to the best of his knowledge, there have been no complaints for the past 18 years.

Commissioner Hall commented the frontage of the property is being maintained at a certain depth back from the road for future home sites. Hall also noted he was on the Planning Commission when this was approved and it was a criteria that this be reviewed annually. He feels it is a good operation and has no complaints and thanked Bieri for his time.

**B. ORDINANCE TO INCLUDE TEMPORARY SOFT SIDED GARAGES IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS – CONTINUED REVIEW.**

Commissioner LaPonsie stated she is content with the notes that former Commissioner Schrauben had assembled from various meetings and comments from the Commission. LaPonsie would like Schrauben's notes be included in the proposed ordinance and schedule a public hearing and either vote for it or against it. It is time to be done with it. This is as close to a consensus the Commission is going to get.

IT WAS MOVED BY LAPONSIE and supported FOLSOM to set a public hearing for Monday, February 22, 2010 to consider an ordinance to include temporary soft sided garages in Residential Districts.

YEA: 4. NAY: 0 ABSENT: 2. MOTION CARRIED.

Item #3. **BUILDING INSPECTORS REPORT.** No comments were received.

Item #4. **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA.** No comments were received.

Item #5. **COMMISSIONERS REMARKS.** Commissioner Hall said the only thing he said in regard to temporary garages is three years ago the Planning Commission completed a Master Plan for the City. Hall asked the Commissioners go back and review this document because it talks about historic neighborhoods, a quaint city and those types of items in which the proposed temporary structures do not add to that at all. To him, it is a huge distraction.

Commissioner Folsom thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve as Chair for the past year and enjoyed it most of the time, not all the time, but it was okay overall.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL to adjourn at 7:20 p.m.

DATE:

APPROVED:

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Laurie L. Noall, Chair

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Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk