

ALAMO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
HELD AT
ALAMO FIRE DEPARTMENT
7840 N. 6TH ST.
KALAMAZOO, MI 49009
NOVEMEBER 3, 2015

Meeting Called To Order: Chairman Belden Smith called the meeting to order with the Pledge Of Allegiance at 7:00PM.

Roll Call Of Commissioners: Chairman Belden Smith, Vice Chair Pauline Keiser, Commissioner Dick Bennett Commissioner Don Porter, Commissioner John Kennedy, Commissioner David Veenstra, and Secretary Patrick Studabaker.

Others Present: Four (4) other citizens were present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Vice Chair Keiser wanted to add "Attachment 2 – 8.4(6)" on page 2 to further clarify the document of "short and sweet" version. In the Citizen Comment section, the word "add" in the first citizen comment was needed. In Commissioner Comment section "Commissioner John Kennedy spoke about lanterns throwing debris over a large area." was needed. In Approval of Meeting Minutes, the motion should have reflected that no changes were to be made.

Chairman Belden Smith made the motion for the approval to accept the meeting minutes with the suggested changes. Commissioner Dave Veenstra supported the motion. Motion carried without objection.

OLD BUSINESS

Section 8.1 - Parking

Chairman Smith had surveyed surrounding townships to compare languages in regards to parking. Several descriptions of hardened material types and/or descriptions could be found that could be implemented in the township's ordinance language.

Commissioner Studabaker believed that having the building inspector grant variances, which had been brought up in the October Township Board meeting, seemed ripe for abuse and corruption.

Chairman Smith charged the commissioners to work on specific language for improved material for the next Planning Commission Meeting.

Commissioner John Kennedy made a motion to table the discussion on Section 8.1 for now. Chairman Belden Smith supported the motion. Motion carried without objection.

Section 8.4 – Signs

Chairman Smith suggested that the Planning Commission should hold off on signs until such a time as the Michigan Township Association comes up with a proposed sign plan.

Commissioner Dick Bennett made a motion to wait for the MTA to come up with a proposed sign ordinance model for suggested adoption. Commissioner John Kennedy supported the motion. Motion carried without objection.

Chairman Smith moved a discussion by a citizen to this time in order to hear from the citizen. A citizen requested that the Planning Commission should try to better regulate the use of residential property by not requiring things like the

building of homes like a 200 foot maximum requirement from the roadway in Agriculture zoned areas. This ordinance is located in Section 5.2 – Permitted Used – Subsection (c). The citizen stated he would come back with suggested language changes or recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS

Chinese Lanterns

Vice Chair Keiser stated that she spoke with the Township Supervisor. She reported that he had spoken to the township lawyer who advised that the Supervisor can create a standalone police ordinance for luminaries at any time and the Planning Commission wouldn't need to address it.

Commissioner John Kennedy made a motion to table the discussion on Chinese Lanterns. Commissioner Don Porter supported the motion. Motion carried without objection.

CITIZEN COMMENT

A citizen brought up that the Planning Commission agenda wasn't on website as of 5PM. Commissioner Studabaker stated that the agenda was submitted to the township clerk on the Thursday before the meeting as described by law.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Kennedy suggested caution when driving due to the farming equipment on roads.

Vice Chair Keiser wanted to make a note on the September meeting minutes of the Planning Commission that another individual should have been added to the named people in attendance. Commissioner Studabaker advised that the individual was counted as an unnamed citizen under other attenders section.

Commissioner Porter announced that the race track will be running Fridays instead of Saturdays.

Commissioner Bennett announced that the 5th St. Bridge will be completed this year with the help of Supervisor Hyet.

Chairman Smith announced that he had attended the Bauckham Sparks Conference put on by township lawyer's law firm. FOIA, criminal prosecution, medical marijuana, and construction code library topics were covered.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Dave Veenstra. Commissioner John Kennedy supported the motion. The motion carried with no objection. Meeting adjourned at 8:37PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Patrick Studabaker, Secretary