

TO: Planning Commission Members
Honorable Mayor and City Council members
FROM: Angie Boettcher, Administrative Assistant
DATE: July 8, 2020
RE: Meeting Minutes from July 7, 2020

The Planning Commission met at 5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 in the City Council Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chair Ludwigson.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.021 and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the Planning Commission and City Staff were given the option to attend the meeting by telephone. The following members were present: Jason Ludwigson, Dave Hanifl (via telephone), Patti Dockendorff, Jerry Steffes, Anna Stoecklein (via telephone), Mike Welch, Linda Larson (via telephone). City Council member Teresa O'Donnell-Ebner, Building/Zoning Official Shawn Wetterlin, and City Administrative Assistant Angie Boettcher were also in attendance.

Also in attendance was Don Thesing from the La Crescent Historical Society.

1. Chair Ludwigson asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2020 meeting.

Following discussion Member Dockendorff made a motion, seconded by Steffes to approve the minutes.

Upon a roll call vote, taken and tallied by the Building Official, all members present voted in favor.

Dockendorff – Yes
Steffes – Yes
Welch – Yes
Stoecklein – Yes
Hanifl – Yes
Larson – Yes
Ludwigson – Yes

2. At 5:35 the Planning Commission held a public meeting to consider the application for a variance to allow for a new free-standing sign to be five feet from the property line when the sign ordinance states free-standing signs shall not be placed closer than ten feet from the property line. The request concerns certain premises situated in said City described as follows, to wit: Parcel number 25.0469.000 Houston County, MN better known as 328 South 3rd St., La Crescent, MN

Chair Ludwigson opened the meeting.

Zoning Official, Shawn Wetterlin briefed the Commission members on the request. The Applicant,

Don Thesing, was invited to speak and answer questions.

Chair Ludwigson closed the meeting.

Following discussion Member Steffes made a motion seconded by Welch to recommend approval of the Sign variance with the following conditions and findings:

Conditions:

1. The Applicant will abide by all representations made by the Applicant or their agents made during the permitting process, to the extent those representations were not negated by the Planning Commission or City Council and to the extent they are not inconsistent with the spirit of letter explicit conditions of the conditional use permit.
2. The Applicant complies with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

Findings of fact:

1. The variance request is in harmony with the general purposes and intent of the ordinance.
2. The variance is consistent with the comprehensive plan and sign ordinance.
3. The property owner proposes to use the property in a reasonable manner.
4. The La Crescent Historical Society is adjacent to the county highway with highway visibility.
5. This is a reasonable request since the property abuts the highway.
6. The existing 1900's structure was built close to the property line, limiting placement for a freestanding sign along with neighboring trees.

Appeal to the City Council:

Upon approval or denial of a variance request by the Board of Adjustment, an applicant or other aggrieved party may file an appeal in writing to the City Council within (10) days of the decision, otherwise the decision by the Board of Adjustment becomes final

Steffes – Yes

Welch – Yes

Larson – Yes

Stoecklein – Yes

Hanifl- Yes

Dockendorff - Yes

Ludwigson – Yes

3. The Planning Commission members had discussion regarding the development of a Windwall system zoning ordinance. This was informational only and no action was taken.

Motion by Welch, seconded by Dockendorff to adjourn the meeting. All members in attendance voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

