

Harrisville City Planning Commission Meeting
Held at Harrisville City Hall
7:00 p.m., April 14, 2010

Conducting: Chairman Pearce

Secretary: Shanna C. Edwards

Attendance: Jeff Pearce
Ed Saunders
Roger Shuman
Bob Howard
Paula Knighton
Mike Norseth
Bill Morris (City Administrator)
Grover Wilhelmsen (City Council)

Visitors: Ruth Pearce
Kristine Godfrey
Wes Godfrey

Commissioners Weiss and Hohosh were not in attendance. Chairman Pearce called meeting to order.

1. PUBLIC HEARINGS / Review / Recommendation on the following proposed ordinances:

(1). Add Chapter 10.21 - Historical Preservation

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Commissioner Norseth motioned and Commissioner Howard seconded with unanimous approval to open the public hearing to add chapter 10.21 Historical Preservation to the municipal code.

PRESENTATION: Bill Morris gave an overview of the ordinance. Chairman Pearce suggested that something be included in the ordinance to prohibit historical items collected from being sold. He felt that there should be some way to protect items or return them to the original donor.
(Commissioner Shuman arrived 7:12 p.m.)

Public comments: none.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Commissioner Knighton motioned and Commissioner Shuman seconded with unanimous approval to close the public hearing.

REVIEW: Bill Morris led a review of the proposed ordinance and noted any suggested amendments. The city is looking at the old part of the city on North Harrisville Road for possible historic district designation. This ordinance does not impact the city financially at this time. It could when a museum is involved.
(Commissioner Saunders arrived 7:22 p.m.)

MOTION: Commissioner Norseth motioned to recommend that the city council adopt Chapter 10.21 Historical Preservation as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Knighton. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

(2). Add Chapter 10.20 - Community Forestry and Gardening

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Commissioner Knighton motioned and

Commissioner Saunders seconded with unanimous approval to open the public hearing to consider recommending Chapter 10.20 - Community Forestry and Gardening to the municipal code.

PRESENTATION: Bill Morris gave an overview of the ordinance and pointed out that changes from the last planning commission review of this ordinance have been incorporated. The purpose of the ordinance is to help protect, preserve, and promote community trees and garden.

Public comments: none.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Commissioner Shuman motioned and Commissioner Howard seconded with unanimous approval to close the public hearing.

DISCUSSION: The position of Community Gardner and the position of Community Forester are volunteer positions or they may be public works employees assigned to fill that position in addition to their other duties with no pay increase. Best Management Practices referred to in the ordinance are in the state code.

MOTION: Commissioner Shuman motioned to recommend that the city council approve adding Chapter 10.20 Community Forestry and Gardening to the municipal code as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Howard. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Also additions or amendments to the Land Use Ordinance as follows:

(3). Add Chapter 11.24 Architecture, Landscaping and Screening

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Commissioner Norseth motioned and Commissioner Howard seconded with unanimous approval to open the public hearing to receive comment on adding Chapter 11.24, Architecture, Landscaping and Screening.

PRESENTATION: Bill Morris explained the purpose of the ordinance and gave an overview of what it contains.

Public comments: none.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Commissioner Knighton motioned and Commissioner Norseth seconded with unanimous approval to close the public hearing.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Norseth suggested the first growing season with reference to installation time be changed to the first “full” growing season. Bill Morris explained that the ordinance does not mandate LEEDS (Leadership Energy Efficient Design) but with this ordinance, it will now allow that type of design. Commissioners agreed to add “a fully LEED compliant building and site plan is deemed consistent with this chapter” as item 8 of paragraph 11.24.060. Four feet maximum fence height in front yards and corner visibility was discussed. Commissioners agreed to add that the fence height should be measured from the surface of the road. The four-foot height should apply to all uses in the municipal code including residential.

MOTION: Commissioner Shuman motioned to recommend the city council adopt Chapter 11.24 Architecture, Landscaping and Screening as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Saunders. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

(4). Amend Chapter 11.08. to include “Animals for family food production including bees”and 11.10.020 to accommodate bees, and change the minimum distance for keeping animals behind the rear dwelling from 30 to 25 feet.

INFORMATION: Bill Morris presented an overview of the proposed changes.

MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: Commissioner Knighton motioned and Commissioner Norseth seconded with unanimous approval to open the public hearing.

Public comments:

Kristine Godfrey (246 West 2350 North): She stated that she favors allowing chickens in residential zones with a restriction on the number allowed and including that they must be contained and not free roaming.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: Commissioner Saunders motioned and Commissioner Howard seconded with unanimous approval to close the public hearing.

DISCUSSION: Bill Morris pointed out that ordinance will allow keeping of bees in R-1-10, RE-15, R-1-20, and A-1 Zones. The second part concerns keeping of chickens, excluding roosters, in those same zones and changes the distance of the allowed set back. It was pointed out that this would ban keeping roosters in the A-1 zone which is not the intent. Coop setback requirements were discussed, and Commissioner Norseth said that coops should have to meet the same setback requirements as other buildings. Commissioners agreed that they would accept the concept of allowing chickens in residential zones, but in principle they should allow a certain number. He felt they need to study the whole municipal ordinance further because there appears to be problem understanding what is already there as far as number of animals allowed. Commissioners agreed that they would accept keeping bees as long as they are kept in the rear yard.

MOTION: Commissioner Saunders motioned to table discussion on this amendment to Chapter 11.08 for further study and review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Norseth. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

2. Approval of Minutes of meeting held March 10, 2010.

MOTION: Commissioner Saunders motioned and Commissioner Howard seconded to approve minutes of the Planning Commission meeting held March 10, 2010, as written. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

3. Public Comments

None

4. Adjournment.

At 8:17 p.m., the meeting adjourned. The next regular Planning Commission meeting will be held May 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the city hall.

Shanna C. Edwards
Secretary

Jeff Pearce
Chairman