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Saugatuck Township Regular Planning Commission Meeting July 24, 2017

AMENDED APPROVED MINUTES

The Saugatuck Township Planning Commission met on July 24, 2017 at the township hall on Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, Michigan,

Present: Rudich, Prietz, Conklin, Welk, Lozano, Miller Cook, Rowe
Also Present : ZA Kushion

At 7:01 pm Vice Chairperson Conklin called the meeting to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Review and Adopt July 24, 2017 Meeting Agenda: Rowe motioned to adopt the agenda as written, Rudich seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Election of Planning Commission Officers: Rowe nominated Conklin as chairperson, Prietz as vice-chairperson and Lozano as secretary, Rudich seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Review of June 26, 2017 meeting minutes: Change the period to a comma in the date of the prior meeting minutes review. Rudich motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Welk seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

Deputy Chief Chris Mantels, 2454 58th Street, Mr. Mantels asks that the Planning Commission approve the request for an LED/LCD sign that is agenda item #8. Mr. Mantels stated that the fire department has been budgeting for this sign since 2013 but sometime in 2015, the ordinance was changed to restrict these kinds of signs. He explained that the sign would be a very useful for the fire department. They could put up to date messages on it pertaining to traffic alerts, weather issues and any other messages that the three municipalities would like to get out along the Blue Star corridor.

Fire Chief Greg Janik, 3208 Silver Acres Drive, Mr. Janik stated that along with the reasons explained by Deputy Chief Mantels, the LED/LCD sign would also be used to recruit new firefighters. He asks that the Planning Commission consider approving the zoning ordinance amendment.

AMENDED APPROVED MINUTES

Public Hearing to amend zoning ordinance Section 40-634 (e) Signs and Billboards pertaining to LED/LCD signs used in conjunction with public safety entities within the Township.

Conklin opened the Public Hearing.

ZA Kushion explained that current township ordinances do not allow any LED/LCD signs at all. He said that the fire district applied for a variance to allow the message board but it was tabled and now the ordinance has been sent to the Planning Commission for revision. Discussion on limiting the LED/LCD signs to specific entities. Discussion on the issue of LED lights in signs increasing in the future because of the decreasing use of incandescent bulbs.

Conklin closed the Public Hearing.

Rowe motioned to adopt the ordinance as amended, Rudich seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Public Hearing to amend zoning ordinance Sections 40-623 and 40-658 of the Township of Saugatuck Code and create a new section 40-663 to regulate fire apparatus access on private roads and driveways.

Conklin opened the Public Hearing

ZA Kushion explained that the current zoning ordinance did not address a variety of issues regarding private roads including vertical clearances, grades of approach, grade of the road and minimum width. ZA Kushion stated that the IFC code will be amended so that lot splits of four or less, single family homes and driveways would be completely regulated by the Township Zoning Administrator.

Fire Chief Greg Janik, Chief Janik stated that Zoning Administrator Kushion has done a great job incorporating fire code requirements into these ordinance changes. Chief Janik stated that these changes are needed to make sure that private roads and driveways are built to allow fire trucks and equipment access to residences.

Rowe stated that he appreciates the need for these changes. Miller Cook is grateful that compromise was made. Chief Janik stated that the Saugatuck Township fire department has the highest amount of calls in Allegan County mostly because of an aging population and car accidents on the roads.

Conklin closed the Public Hearing.

Rowe motioned to accept the ordinance with the change recommended by the Zoning Administrator which will be included in Section 40-663 pertaining to driveways required to be a minimum of 16 feet in width, Welk seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

AMENDED APPROVED MINUTES

Board Discussion: No discussion

Township Board Updates and Planning Commission Comments: Rudich stated that the Township Board will be talking about the IFC and cost recovery at their meeting on August 2, 2017.

Rowe motioned to adjourn at 7:31, Miller Cook seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Next Planning Commission Meeting: The next Planning Commission meeting will be on August 28, 2017.

Janna Rudich, Recording Secretary

1. Motion to approve the agenda of the July 24, 2017 Planning Commission meeting. Rowe motioned, Rudich seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Motion to nominate Conklin as chairperson, Prietz as vice-chairperson and Lozano as secretary. Rowe motioned, Rudich seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
3. Motion to approve the amended minutes of the June 26, 2017 Planning Commission meeting. Rudich motioned, Welk seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
4. Motion to amend zoning ordinance Section 40-634 (e) Signs and Billboards pertaining to LED/LCD signs used in conjunction with public safety entities within the Township. Rowe motioned, Rudich seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
5. Motion to amend zoning ordinance Sections 40-623 and 40-658 of the Township of Saugatuck Code and create a new section 40-663 to regulate fire apparatus access on private roads and driveways including the change recommended by the Zoning Administrator which will be included in Section 40-663 pertaining to driveways required to be a minimum of 16 feet in width. Rowe motioned, Welk seconded. Motion approved unanimously.
6. Motion to adjourn at 7:31. Rowe motioned, Miller Cook seconded.