

Rome Township Planning Commission - Special Meeting Minutes - 5 March 2020

- Regular 27 Feb Meeting was cancelled due to parking lot not being cleared of snow

I. Call to order:

Mike Griffith, Chairman called the Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 7pm at the Rome

Township Hall – 9344 Forrister Road - Adrian, MI 49221. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

II. Roll call:

Present: Sheri Wilt, Leo Oswald, Mike Griffith, Jeff Elwell, Pat Bournes, Kevin Fisher, and Jack Griffes

Absent: none

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Motion to approve 23 Jan 2020 minutes by Kevin, 2nd by Pat, motion passed.

IV. Additions/Changes to Agenda: none

Motion to approve agenda by Kevin, 2nd by Jeff . Motion carried.

V. Reports:

-Township Board – approval of election workers and resolution to pay, looked over fire department fees but didn't approve as they want a \$5,000/yr increase on an ongoing basis, salary increases proposed for officers of board

-Zoning Officer – permit for a barn, in regards to blight issues inspected 4 properties and reported on some looking like they will eventually go to court - one on Forrister she wonders if a Special Use Permit is required because of quantity of commercial vehicles coming and going for cable business -- Chairman gave opinion that owner needs a Special Use Permit and suggests that if he is running a commercial business on Ag property he should come in to Planning Commission and discuss the matter -- she needs the "tickets" she had turned in to a township official to be returned to her or to be replaced with new ones so she can completely do her job.

-Zoning Board of Appeals – none

-Planning Board Commission - none

VI. Order of Business:

- Budget for 2020
 - Chairman read off suggested budget. (attached to minutes)
 - Kevin moved to accept budget as read, Pat seconded, Motion passed
- Review application for Special Use by Clayton W. Adkins - who was in attendance
 - Running a Heating and Plumbing business in an Ag district
 - Asked to bring in a legal description and basic business plan to next meeting.
 - Needs to get with Clerk and pay fee
 - Public Hearing would be next step after that if Commission approves moving forward after review of legal description and basic business plan
- Continue with Review of Ordinances from where we left off last month - Mike as reader
 - Reviewed Article Four - Agricultural Estates District, AE. which starts on pg 13
 - Correction to Section 4.15 paragraph one last sentence end of sentence should be "...and having frontage on a public or private road."
 - Discussion about "kennels" and Brenda is going to look into State law or regulations regarding kennels.

- Next up for review is Article Five - Residential Districts, R pg 16
- Marijuana Ordinance - Resident, Chris Bayles, appeared and handed out a Sample ordinance he had drafted based on ordinances from several communities in which he had inserted Rome Township, etc.. Members of Planning Commission (PC) asked an array of questions. General consensus was that PC needs to present a Recreational Marijuana Ordinance to the Board which has currently opted out - so that they may either adopt, request amendment or deny the ordinance. Leo pointed out that there is nothing in the Sample Ordinance which spells out that having a permit from Township to be in compliance with State law would not waive permit holder from Federal Law - that such needed to be added along with language absolving Township of liability. Leo pointed out that Licensing Fees are not to be profit making - simply to cover costs of licensing per the State Law. Leo pointed out that the municipality is better off with small Recreational Marijuana businesses than large ones because State sharing with municipality is per facility and not based upon size. Chris Bayles gave a flash drive with Sample Ordinance file on it to Secretary, Jack Griffes.
- Reminder - Election of Planning Commission Officers at Regular Meeting 26 March 2020
- Planning Commission didn't see new pages at Township Hall (sorry if we missed them) so we postponed Reviewing Corrections made by Township Clerk and inserting corrected pages into 2018 Ordinance binders until those pages come to us.
 - Errors noted in 2018 Zoning Ordinance book which Clerk has corrected;
 - 1. Article Two Section 2.10 third sentence "highwaymen" needs to be corrected to "highways"
 - 2. Article Three Section 3.10 B 15 end of sentence "15.05" needs to be corrected to "15.55"
 - 3. Article Three Section 3.10 B 18 we suggest it should read "Communication Towers as defined in Section 11.75"

VII. Public Comment: Jeff Elwell notified PC that he will be moving out of Township in a few months so that a new member could begin to be identified. It was noted that legally one person is allowed to be a non-elect on Planning Commission. So it is up to Jeff to choose if he wishes to remain on PC as a non-elect.

VIII. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn @ 8:37pm by Pat , 2nd by Sheri - motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned

Meeting to be held 4th Thursday 26 March 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jack Griffes, Secretary of the Planning Commission

Minutes approved by: Mike Griffith, Chairman

