

MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
JANUARY 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS / CITY HALL

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 6:10 p.m. by Chairperson Newman.

ROLL CALL was taken by Recording Secretary Marty Stinson.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Scott Newman; Commissioners James Eaton, Matthew Van Epps, and Gary Wilson.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chairperson Vincent Gonyou; Secretary Philip Hathaway; and Commissioner Lance Omer.

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Sarah Warren-Riley, Housing Program Manager; Ms. Susan Montenegro, Assistant City Manager and Director of Community Development; Mr. Don Crawford, City Manager; Mr. Charles Rau, Building Official; Mr. Mark Hanna for 220 W Main Street.

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion by Commissioner Wilson, supported by Commissioner Van Epps to approve the agenda for January 15, 2014.

Yeas: All. Motion was passed.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Motion by Commissioner Wilson, supported by Commissioner Van Epps to approve the minutes for the meeting of September 18, 2013.

Yeas: All. Motion was passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1) Staff Memorandum
- 2) Meeting minutes of September 18, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

1) 220 W. Main Street – Sign Installation Application

Mark Hanna, owner of the building at 220 W. Main Street, explained his application for the steel frame with three panels of alumicore sign on the west side of his building facing the east bound traffic on W. Main Street. It would be 12 x 8 feet; open at one end so the four by eight corrugated aluminum panels can slide in with vinyl signage and be changed from time to time. It would be more traditional with no lights. They might possibly read Owosso Farmers Market; law firm, Mark Hanna; or advertise his antique store. It would not be back lit; it would be dark at night. It would be layered with plastic corrugation between two metal panels with the art and lettering on vinyl.

Chairman Newman asked how thick is the frame and how much damage would it do to the brick. Mr. Hanna responded that it is about 1-1/2 to 2 inches thick – just enough for the steel channel. The frame would be held up by masonry screws every 24 inches.

Chairman Newman noted that the Commission is guided by the Secretary of Interior Guidelines. Commissioner Van Epps checked the guidelines and said the signs should match the character of the building, but there was nothing particular mentioned. We're not here to comment on the content of the sign. The Commission doesn't want to see the sign as rented out for another business down the street.

Discussion continued regarding: the size of 8 x 12 feet being consistent with the Secretary of Interior Standards; the sign material is not historically accurate; the banner at Gilberts doesn't have historically

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accurate materials; glass coverage of the proposed sign; the standard of painting on the wall; and Guideline # 19 from the Secretary of Interiors Guidelines.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VAN EPPS, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER EATON THAT THE OWOSSO DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, FINDING THAT THE PROPOSED SIGN AT 220 W. MAIN STREET DOES NOT MEET THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR STANDARDS, AND IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE DISTRICT, BUT RECOGNIZING THAT THE FOLLOWING CONDITION(S) PREVAIL:

TO REQUIRE A HISTORICALLY CONSISTENT SIGN WOULD BE COST PROHIBITIVE (SIGN PANELS BEING REPAINTED FOR CHANGEABLE COPY WOULD COST TOO MUCH).

HEREBY DIRECTS STAFF TO ISSUE A NOTICE TO PROCEED FOR THE WORK AND BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION AS APPLIED FOR AND ILLUSTRATED.

YEAS: ALL. MOTION WAS PASSED.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER EATON; SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER VAN EPPS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 6:59 P.M.

YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

Phil Hathaway, Secretary

mms

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