

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OWOSSO PLANNING COMMISSION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2018 – 6:30 P.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Wascher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

ROLL CALL: City Clerk Amy K. Kirkland

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Wascher, Secretary Janae Fear, Commissioners Adams, Jenkins, Kirkland, Lafferty, Law and Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Livingston

OTHERS PRESENT: Assistant City Manager Amy Cyphert, City Attorney Scott Gould

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER FEAR, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 26, 2018.

YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER TAYLOR, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER FEAR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 22, 2018 MEETING.

YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Review of Proposed Amendments to Chapter 26 – Sign Ordinance and provide edits and/or schedule a public hearing for January meeting**

Ms. Cyphert presented the board with a “red-lined” version of the Sign Ordinance to show the changes as directed from the board at the last meeting. Also, notes and questions were added for the commission.

The following was discussed regarding the proposed changes to the Sign Ordinance:

- Is the list of exempt signs too long? Section 26-17 lists out all the exempt signs and a permit is not required for these types of signs. Temporary signs do not need permits, but this makes them hard to regulate/track for the 60 day time period they are allowed. The board may want to remove some type of signs from the exempt list.
- There is not enough time between this meeting and December’s meeting to schedule a public hearing. The commission will have the opportunity to discuss changes at the December meeting, and then possibly hold the public hearing at the January meeting.
- Discussion regarding temporary signs, permits for and how many times in a year a permit could be pulled for a temporary sign.
- Council wants to permit flutter flags. Does the commission want to allow

- festoons/streamers on a permanent basis?
- A downtown building owner had approached Ms. Cyphert regarding allowing advertising on the side of the building. Commission agrees that the ordinance should continue to prohibit such “billboards.”
- Suggested making the ground sign size 40 square feet instead of the 80 square feet.
- Suggested making the billboards 100 square feet instead of the 200 square feet.

Ms. Cyphert will present the revisions at the December meeting

2. Review of Proposed Amendments to Chapter 38 – Zoning Ordinance buffer zone requirements for medical marihuana businesses Sec. 38-197, Sec. 38-217, Sec. 38-242, Sec. 38-267, Sec. 38-292 and provide edits and/or schedule a public hearing for January meeting

Ms. Cyphert clarified the buffer zones and the changes to the residential measurements in the draft ordinance and created an intersection using set-backs for vacant properties. The other addition is to keep the provisioning centers at least 100 feet from another provisioning center. Also, the language for provisional centers in industrials areas didn’t contain any of the same language as the other districts; Ms. Cyphert made the change to the ordinance.

Discussion about buffer zones in the industrial district occurred since there currently are none set. The commission will review the zoning map at the next meeting.

3. Review of Proposed Amendments to Chapter 38 - Zoning Ordinance industrial outdoor storage screening Sec. 38-292, Sec. 38-312, Sec. 38-393 and 38-389 and provide edits and/or schedule a public hearing for January meeting

The proposed changes require exterior storage to have fences one foot above the items stored. Ms. Cyphert stated this has to do with industrial properties that are adjacent to residential areas.

Additional review of the ordinance amendments will occur at the December meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

4. Review of Proposed Amendments to Chapter 38 – Zoning Ordinance amateur radio antenna regulations Sec. 97-379 and provide edits and/or schedule a public hearing for January meeting

Ms. Cyphert stated we can govern amateur radio antennas but we cannot prohibit them per the Zoning Enabling Act. Recently received a call from a resident that wanted to install an antenna. Currently, our ordinance does not include regulations for antennas. The proposed ordinance specifically allows them and regulates them. This should have been included after the Zoning Enabling Act was enacted. The proposed ordinance also requires the antennas follow building code and would be reviewed by the building official.

Additional review of the ordinance amendments will occur at the December meeting.

OTHER BOARD BUSINESS:

5. Appointment of a Fourth Planning Commissioner to the Mater Plan-Sub-committee

Ms. Cyphert stated the consultants are on target and we should receive the draft community profile in December. Focus groups are projected to occur in February.

The consultants were contacted to have them include the addition of a train depot to the community for the proposed line from Ann Arbor to Traverse City.

The Committee will probably meet a couple more times during the process.

Commissioner Adams stated he would be willing to serve.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Commission Law stated that Rick Morris organized a meet and greet for December 5th at 6:30 p.m. for Westown businesses.

Commissioner Fear has heard of lame duck legislation that is being talked about regarding tree and vegetation removal ordinance. Many communities regulate the removal of trees to prevent clear-cutting an area. These are used by communities that have large tracts of land that are vacant and could be developed. There are concerns that the proposed legislation would preempt local control. This type of ordinance is not something the City currently has.

ADJOURNMENT:

**MOTION BY COMMISSION TAYLOR, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER ADAMS TO ADJOURN AT 8:05 P.M. UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING ON DECEMBER 10, 2018.
YEAS ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

Janae L. Fear, Secretary