

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE OWOSSO PLANNING COMMISSION  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2019 – 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:** Amy Kirkland, City Clerk

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Wascher, Vice-Chair Livingston, Secretary Janae Fear, Commissioners Adams, Kirkland, Lafferty, Law and Taylor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Jenkins and Taylor

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Assistant City Manager Amy Cyphert

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY SECRETARY FEAR TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2019 WITH THE ADDITION OF #6 RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IN OTHER BOARD BUSINESS.**

**YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LAW TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 10, 2018 MEETING.**

**YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

- 1. Public hearing and action on 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**

Ken Spindler is closing on 1370 E. South Street shortly and wanted to know the timeline for the lottery. Ms. Cyphert stated the amendments need to be approved by Council and become effective then Council will determine the date of the lottery and the 30 day window prior to lottery. Commissioner Adams asked for the possibility of further amendments or adjustments. Ms. Cyphert stated we've tried to give you everything we know at this point, but marijuana is a bouncing ball at this point, you do what you can when you have sufficient information. The board may want to reopen medical marihuana when you talk about recreational, depends on what you want as this will be constantly evolving.

Commissioner Adams asked what have other communities decided to do. Ms. Cyphert stated medical marihuana is a work in progress but most communities are holding off on recreational until the State finalizes the rules. Ms. Cyphert advised to hold off on recreational until the State issues the final rules (not temporary).

**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY SECRETARY FEAR TO FORWARD THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MEDICAL MARIHUANA ORDINANCE TO COUNCIL FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL.**

**RCV**

**YEAS: COMMISSIONER ADAMS, SECRETARY FEAR, COMMISSIONERS KIRKLAND, LAFFERTY, LAW, VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON AND CHAIRMAN WASCHER**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**2. Public hearing and action on Proposed Amendments to Chapter 38 – Zoning Ordinance industrial outdoor storage screening Sec. 38-292, Sec. 38-312, Sec. 38-393 and 38-389**

No citizen comments

**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LAFFERTY TO FORWARD THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE INDUSTRIAL OUTDOOR STORAGE SCREENING ORDINANCE TO COUNCIL FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL.**

**RCV**

**YEAS: SECRETARY FEAR, COMMISSIONERS KIRKLAND, LAFFERTY, LAW, VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, COMMISSIONER ADAMS AND CHAIRMAN WASCHER**

**NAYS: NONE**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

Ms. Cyphert stated that she worked with the City Attorney and contacted other communities and believes what is proposed will serve the city's purposes. Ms. Cyphert also requested the board postpone the Sign Ordinance amendments, until a new Planning Consultant is hired.

Discussion held on some possible changes to the draft. In particular, festoons on buildings and the look of festoons. Flutter signs should be enough without festoons. Separate lights from festoons in the wording.

**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LAW TO POSTPONE AMENDMENTS TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE UNTIL A NEW PLANNING CONSULTANT IS HIRED.**

**YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**4. Presentation and action of the City of Owosso 2019-25 Capital Improvements Plan**

Ms. Cyphert stated the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) is required by Redevelopment Ready and it is also a good tool for managing your budget and projects. The CIP is helpful for Council so they have an idea of what the budget needs are in the next few years. Also helpful when applying for grants, project coordination and projects by outside entities so that they can coordinate their projects with the City. Many projects are drawn from other plans and ultimately the document is just a proposal as Council will determine what projects move forward to funding.

**MOTION BY SECRETARY FEAR, SUPPORTED BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON TO ADOPT THE CITY OF OWOSSO 2019-25 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN (CIP) AND RECOMMENDS COUNCIL ADOPTION.**

**YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.**

**5. 2018 Planning Commission Annual Report per 125.319 (2) of the Michigan Planning Enabling Act 33 of 2008**

RRC requires the annual Planning Commission report. Ms. Cyphert stated this will be given to Council as a report. The City's RRC certification is still a couple of years out.

**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LAFFERTY TO ADOPT THE 2018 PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT WITH VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE RECORDS AND RECOMMEND SENDING TO COUNCIL.**

**YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.**

**OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**

**6. Recreational Marijuana**

Secretary Fear doesn't want to find that we are behind the ball when the State comes out with rules. Do we want to start now or wait?

Vice-Chair Livingston stated we can start when the State starts leaking out the rules, doesn't want to wait until the last minute.

Secretary Fear stated we need to get a feel for what residents want in the meantime.

Commissioner Kirkland stated he would like to avoid re-working everything like we did with medical marihuana.

Commissioner Livingston stated that hopefully it will be easier for the state since they've tackled medical marihuana.

Commissioner Adams agrees and doesn't want to wait too long. Do we want to revisit the subject every time the state releases some information?

Ms. Cyphert responded with see how the big cities write their ordinances; they have lots of advisors, input, and resources. Ms. Cyphert cautioned against placing recreational marijuana on every meeting as an agenda item. It will give the public the impression that you are actively working on an ordinance amendment; cautioned against being the first community to put an ordinance out there.

7. Ms. Cyphert stated that March 8th is her last day. She has enjoyed her time here. You are on your way to getting a lot of things done and she will not be leaving you in bad hands. She thinks a Planning Consultant or full time Planning Advisor will be hired.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Tony Goff, 1370 E. South Street - about 95% of communities that have allowed medical marihuana have opted out of recreational marijuana, he feels it's a good strategy to wait until the state has released their rules.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LAW TO ADJOURN AT 7:20 P.M. UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING ON MARCH 25, 2019.  
YEAS ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

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Janae L. Fear, Secretary