

CITY OF OSKALOOSA
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 6, 2016

A regularly-scheduled meeting of the Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Commission for the City of Oskaloosa was called to order at 4:35 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2016, by Vice Chair Andrew Jensen, at 220 South Market Street, Oskaloosa, Iowa.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Pamela Blomgren, Wyndell Campbell (at 4:45 p.m.), Andrew Jensen, Stephen Tews and Gabriel Wagner. COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: R. D. Keep and Sarah Tarbell. CITY STAFF PRESENT: Akhilesh Pal and Marilyn Johannes. OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Hoeksema and Gary Mitchell.

Minutes from the June 7, 2016 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting.

It was moved by Blomgren, seconded by Wagner to approve the June 7, 2016 Planning and Zoning Commission minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Consider the vacation and sale of an unused section of public right-of-way lying between 1002 South E Street and 602 9th Avenue West.

Pal explained the property is unused right-of-way and it is maintained by the adjacent property owners. Pal stated easement rights would need to be retained for access to utilities that exist within this public right-of-way.

Steve Hoeksema from Iowa State Bank representing Alyssa Williams, owner of an adjacent property, and Gary Mitchell owner of the other adjacent property, addressed the commission.

It was moved by Blomgren, seconded by Wagner to approve the vacation and sale of the unused section of public right-of-way lying between 1102 South E Street and 602 9th Avenue West with the retention of easement rights.

Campbell entered the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Jensen brought Campbell up-to-date on the meeting proceedings and called for a roll call vote on the motion to approve the vacation and sale of the unused section of public right-of-way lying between 1002 South E Street and 602 9th Avenue West with the retention of easement rights. The vote was: YES – Blomgren, Campbell, Jensen, Tews and Wagner. NAYS – None. Motion carried.

Campbell took over as chair of the meeting.

Consider changes to the Oskaloosa Municipal Code that would require sidewalk for new developments.

Pal explained the information provided for this item was the result of discussion by the commission and noted stipulation No. 3 was added as requested by the commission at the last meeting.

Campbell indicated he would like No. 3 reworded to indicate the Planning and Zoning Commission not just City Council. Jensen said the requirements (No. 3) may be waived by the City Council but

based on recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Pal noted the code needs to be consistent.

The commission discussed the wording of stipulation No. 2 and No. 3 at length, recommending various ways to word the requirements.

Tews indicated if we want walkability need to eliminate the exceptions and require sidewalks in all development even redevelopment of existing residential properties.

Jensen said he is in favor of sidewalks but do not want to create a barrier to property owners who want to reinvest in their homes.

Blomgren said need to pass what is best for the community and it makes sense to keep continuity.

Campbell suggested increasing the percentage in item No. 2 pertaining to when redevelopments, enlargements, or extensions to property should require installation of public sidewalk. Jensen said he was in favor of adding a new item instead. Blomgren agreed.

It was moved by Tews, seconded by Campbell to table action on changes to the Oskaloosa Municipal Code that would require sidewalk for new developments to the August meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Pal announced that Andrew Jensen will become a city staff member before the next Planning and Zoning Commission meeting so he will need to resign from the commission so he will not be on the commission in August.

The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Minutes by Marilyn Johannes