

Mount Vernon Planning and Zoning Commission
Minutes
December 14, 2011
City Hall Council Chambers, 6:30 PM

Meeting was called to order by Rich Hileman at 6:35 p.m. Members present: Rich Hileman, Trude Elliott, Carol Chamberlain and Dick Peterson. Absent: Truman Jordan, Jerry Keleher and Dave Davis. Also in attendance: Zoning Administrator, Perry Gruver and City Engineer, Dan Boggs.

1. Approval of Agenda and November 9, 2011 minutes. These documents stand approved unless otherwise indicated by Commission members. No objections to the minutes or agenda. Approved.
2. Open Forum: each citizen limited to 5 minutes per discussion item.
3. Presentation of proposed landscape plan for new fire station. Discussion and possible action. City Engineer Dan Boggs said that City Council had asked that Planning and Zoning review the proposed landscape plan for the new fire station. A question was asked about runoff and Boggs stated that the proposed plan should help with those issues. Boggs also stated that there are provisions for irrigation but he isn't sure if it will be put in or not. Hileman stated that the Mount Vernon Code of Ordinances indicates that the Zoning Administrator shall review landscape plans for compliance. All members were in agreement that the proposed plan looked good and has left it with the Zoning Administrator to do his duty under the ordinance.
4. Discussion and possible action on how to proceed with possible lighting ordinance. Peterson said that last week there was a discussion about the Alliant ownership of street lights and asked Dan Boggs about whether they had specifications on how close they could be. Boggs explained that in regards to the subdivision ordinance, the developer gives him a street light layout and Alliant puts in where the street lights will go. Alliant owns the street lights and the City has a street light utility agreement with them. New street lights in existing areas will not be put in by Alliant until approved by resolution by City Council. If the City decided to require a different type of street lighting, they would be required to pick up the cost of the difference of what Alliant would normally supply. Elliott asked Boggs exactly what the definition was of a "dark sky" ordinance. Boggs said that basically it is limiting the amount of light that can leak out onto your neighbor and how much light can leak out above. Peterson said that he attended the December 5th Council meeting to discuss the proposed lighting ordinance and his feeling was that Council wanted a lighting ordinance but it was unclear what type was needed for Mount Vernon. Peterson said that a real "dark sky" ordinance covers everything and everyone and he doesn't think that this is really what Council had in mind.

Chamberlain wondered if this item should be tabled until February to see how the new Council feels about things and they might be able to give a little more direction on what they want. Hileman said it comes down to whether or not Planning and Zoning as a commission feels that there is a need for a lighting ordinance where they would take the initiative themselves or if a couple of council members want one, he felt that they have a persuasion burden with the other members of council to at least get a majority that want it before Planning and Zoning spends a lot of time on it. After discussion it was proposed that the lighting committee would meet and come up with an initial draft of what should be and should not be covered in a lighting ordinance and meet again in January to approve and send to Council for further discussion to see if that is what they have in mind.

5. Zoning Administrator Report. Full report available at City Hall.
6. Old Business.
7. New Business.
8. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Dewell
Administrative Assistant