

MINUTES
MOUNT VERNON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 10, 2016

The Mount Vernon Planning and Zoning Commission met February 10, 2016 at Mount Vernon City Hall Council Chambers with the following members present: Truman Jordan, Trude Elliott, Richard Peterson and Joan Burge. Absent: Rich Hileman, Matthew Nelson and Jenna Wischmeyer. Also in attendance, Zoning Administrator, Matt Siders. Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Truman Jordan at 6:37 p.m.

1. Approval of Agenda and January 13, 2016 minutes. These documents stand approved unless otherwise indicated by Commission members. Peterson brought up a concern he had about a reference in the minutes that landowners who were in attendance at the last meeting were not involved in the Comprehensive Plan process. He would like to make it clear that all residents were given the same notification about the process that went on for two years. A correction will be made in the minutes to clarify this. He would also like a correction made on page three where it references Ken Neal's property being incorporated and correct it to say that it "could" be incorporated. The minutes for the January 13, 2016 meeting will be approved at the next meeting in March, 2016. Agenda approved with no changes.
2. Open Forum: each citizen limited to 5 minutes per discussion item.
3. Discussion and possible action regarding rental regulations for the City of Mount Vernon. At the request of the committee, Jordan sent an e-mail to the Mayor and inquired whether he thought that he and Council would be receptive to having a rental ordinance and he responded that this project was a "great idea". Jordan asked commission members what they felt the next step should be. It was discussed in the past about having a sub-committee to work on this. Siders said there is a packet of information that Des Moines area landlords and renters have access to that has education pieces, renter's rights and some other good pieces of information that could be used as a resource. He will provide this information to commission members. Peterson, Elliott and Jordan volunteered to be on the sub-committee to discuss these regulations. Siders will also be part of the group. Jordan appointed Peterson as the chairperson to the sub-committee. The membership of this group will be flexible so if other commission members want to be involved they can be.
4. Discussion on Planning and Zoning tasks after Comprehensive Plan is approved by City Council. Jordan asked commission members if they wanted to work on

zoning changes themselves or have someone act as a consultant with them. Everyone agreed that a consultant would be a good idea and suggested going back to ECICOG and receive a proposal. Peterson said that the last time the Comprehensive Plan was done and the Zoning Ordinance was revised, a consultant was paid for both of those. City Council will need to authorize these funds. Jordan asked for a motion to retain the services of Chad Sands at ECICOG for the purpose of revising the zoning and subdivision ordinance. This motion made by Elliott and seconded by Burge. Siders suggested checking with the City Administrator to see how he would like to proceed. Elliott thought that it was a good idea to speak to the City Administrator first before making a formal motion to Council and withdrew her motion. Burge also withdrew her second. Siders explained that there is a new purchase policy for goods and services and wants to make sure that the City Administrator is on board for having additional funds available for this.

5. Zoning Administrator Report. Board of Adjustment met last week and there was a sign variance that was granted to the St. John's Catholic Church. There is a sign being put up on the back side of their property facing Highway 30.
6. Old Business. Discussion of design standards will be a topic in the future.
7. New Business.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Dewell
Deputy Clerk