

Mount Vernon Planning and Zoning Commission
Minutes
June 12, 2013
City Hall Council Chambers, 6:30 PM

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Truman Jordan at 6:40 p.m.
Members present: Jenna Wischmeyer, Carol Chamberlain, Treva Heiser and Bill Micheel. Absent: Rich Hileman and Trude Elliott. Also in attendance: Zoning Administrator Matt Siders.

1. Approval of Agenda and May 8, 2013 minutes. These documents stand approved unless otherwise indicated by Commission members. Jordan introduced new member Treva Heiser. No objections made on the agenda or minutes.
2. Open Forum: each citizen limited to 5 minutes per discussion item.
3. Discussion and possible action on proposed lighting ordinance. Members were provided with a revised draft of the proposed lighting ordinance. Jordan, Elliott and Micheel met and went over the draft. Micheel went over the revisions that were made to the “light trespass” section. It would be regulating the light source originating on a legally described parcel in certain zoning districts. There is no situation that will arise in which this does not cover the situation. It would allow for brighter lights off of commercial districts in certain situations. The road right-of-way was not included as it was thought this was protected from a public safety issue point of view. Chamberlain thought there needed to be zoning designations for the different districts listed in the lighting ordinance. This will be incorporated into the document. References to residential districts will be removed as well as a few other minor grammatical revisions. Recreational facility (ball field) hours were also discussed. Zoning Administrator Matt Siders suggested the closing time of 11:00 p.m. and suggested that Chapter 47 of the Code of Ordinances be revised to coincide with this. A recommendation for this will be made to City Council. A reference for “applicability” will also be inserted. The above mentioned changes will be made to the proposed draft. Siders will distribute the proposed draft to businesses and a public hearing will be held at the next meeting in July.
4. Discussion and possible action on revisions to the Comprehensive Plan. City Council is asking for a recommendation from Planning and Zoning on whether they feel the Comprehensive Plan needs to be reviewed and updated. Wischmeyer said that the plan was outdated and it would benefit from being updated. She felt that Planning and Zoning would be one component of that but it would be a larger effort by the City that should include the public and a consultant. Micheel agreed, saying that Iowa Smart Planning legislation was passed in 2010 and it lays out 10 planning

principles that communities shall consider and may apply when they engage in planning and has 13 plan elements that should be considered for inclusion in a plan. He is in support of recommending that Council review and update the plan. Chamberlain agreed that it needed to be updated but felt that there are people that do this for a living and know how to do this better than if the Commission tried to do it. Micheel made a motion to recommend to the City Council that they consider updating the Comprehensive Plan. Wischmeyer seconded the motion. Heiser suggested amending the motion to say that a planning professional would guide them through the process. All members were in agreement with this. Roll call all yes. Heiser stated that she believes this is one of the most important agenda items that this commission will do.

5. Zoning Administrator Report. Siders stated there were three building permits approved this month.
6. Old Business.
7. New Business.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Dewell
Administrative Assistant