

Mount Vernon Planning and Zoning Commission
Minutes
August 10, 2011
City Hall Council Chambers, 6:30 PM

Meeting was called to order by Rich Hileman at 6:32 p.m. Members present: Rich Hileman, Trude Elliott, Carol Chamberlain and Dave Davis. Absent: Jerry Keleher and Truman Jordan.

1. Approval of Agenda and June 8, 2011 minutes. These documents stand approved unless otherwise indicated by Commission members.
2. Open Forum: each citizen limited to 5 minutes per discussion item.
3. Zoning Administrator Report. Full report available at City Hall. Gruver was not in attendance to give report.
4. Discussion of new lighting ordinance. Hileman explained that the City Council would like Planning and Zoning to consider a lighting ordinance. There is some framework for a lighting ordinance in the Design Standards ordinance which was removed on the grounds that a lighting ordinance should apply throughout the City and be more comprehensive than just the design standards. Hileman will e-mail examples of lighting ordinances from other communities that he received from Dick Peterson. He feels that the issue this presents is whether as a commission they feel this is something enough within the scope of expertise that they can bring to this subject to take it on or whether they think the City should hire someone to start on it. If they want to take it on they need to decide a process for it. His feeling is that the last process was too hard and a committee of the whole doesn't work too well. Hileman feels that if the Commission is going to do this they should have a committee, let them do their work and present it to the commission. Hileman said another option would be to forward the e-mail from Dick and have everyone look at the websites and have everyone look at it on their own and come back as a group. Chamberlain said she thinks they need more direction from City Council, such as are they looking at a "dark sky" ordinance, are they looking for something that applies only to the commercial areas, are they looking for both commercial and residential by telling people that they cannot have certain lights on during certain times. How strong do they want this ordinance? Elliott would like to know what prompted this and thinks that they shouldn't go too far with it until they get more clarification from Council. Elliott also said that she would like to look at the websites and determine how big of a project this will be. She also feels that if they do move forward it would make more sense to have a committee work on it. Davis would like to know how this is driven, whether it is one person on Council or the entire body. He thinks there needs to be an objective and a

goal and would like to know whose agenda they are following. Chamberlain wanted to know how pervasive they wanted it to be. It was the consensus of the commission to get a clearer direction from City Council before they decide how to proceed. Chamberlain said that www.darksky.org has a model lighting ordinance that members could refer to as a starting place. Hileman will forward the e-mail from Dick Peterson with the other websites and he will communicate to the City Council that they would like to have a clearer idea of the scope of such an ordinance and its primary purpose and intent.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Dewell
Administrative Assistant