

MINUTES
MOUNT VERNON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
AUGUST 10, 2016

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

1. Approval of Agenda and June 8, 2016 minutes. These documents stand approved unless otherwise indicated by Commission members.
2. Open Forum: each citizen limited to 5 minutes per discussion item. A letter from Guy Booth written to Planning and Zoning Chairperson, Truman Jordan, was read to the commission.
3. Discussion of proposed Zoning Ordinance changes. Chad Sands from ECICOG was in attendance to begin the process of updating the Zoning Ordinance. Sands explained that the process would possibly take between seven and eight months. He also provided commission members with a sample of Anamosa's zoning ordinance that he felt could be used as a starting point for Mount Vernon and can be used for comparison purposes. Sands will be working very closely with Zoning Administrator, Matt Siders during the process. The first part of the discussion will be getting an overall impression of the existing ordinance from commission members and the Zoning Administrator which will be used as a basis for updating the ordinance. The next part will be a more in depth discussion on the format and how everyone would like to see permitted uses within each district. Ultimately there will be discussion on each page of the ordinance.

Siders shared a list of items that he had concerns with in the current ordinance. ADA compliance, uptown residential in Town Center, definitions, setback adjustments, a process for amendments to the ordinance, fence regulations and off-street parking were just a few of those items.

Sands then asked for some brief input from commission members on areas that they thought needed attention. Some of those items discussed were making the ordinance more user friendly, formatting and number of zoning districts. Sands felt that the number of zoning districts that the City

currently has was sufficient. The issue is defining the uses in each district. Sands said one of the first things to start with would be how each district should be formatted and how the permitted uses should be utilized.

Sands instructed commission members to review the Anamosa ordinance before next month's meeting and also said that he will get ordinances from other cities to review. Discussion will continue at the next meeting on September 14, 2016.

4. Zoning Administrator Report. A fence request went through Board of Adjustment for height exceptions that was approved.
5. Old Business.
6. New Business.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Marsha Dewell
Deputy Clerk