

MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
REGULAR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jim Freid, Joe Kodada, John Duban, and Scott Pelava

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Dave Dols, Ben Sticha, and Harold Vosejka

STAFF PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker and Public Works Director Russ Vlasak

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kodada called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

2. AGENDA

Kodada asked if anyone had any additions or deletions to the agenda.

A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Freid to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, and Duban; Against: None. Vote: 3-0. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Freid to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2010 regular meeting. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, and Duban; Against: None. Vote: 3-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- a. Review Proposed Ordinance 2010-238, an Ordinance Adding Specific Language to City Code Section 90.01 Concerning the Keeping of Honeybees, Poultry, and Hoofed Animals Within the City Limits.

Chair Kodada opened the public hearing. Planner Baker read through the proposed ordinance language along with the relevant background information. He explained that after researching the City Code, the Planning Commission found that the Code did not specifically prohibit or permit farmyard type animals, and therefore they decided that more detailed language should be added to the City Code concerning specific types of

farmyard animals. Baker also presented the Commissioners with a memorandum, dated October 12, 2010, from the City Attorney regarding the proposed ordinance. After Baker finished reading through the staff report, Chair Kodada asked if anyone had any comments for the record.

Gary Skluzacek, 601 Railway Street SW, stated that the City is going overboard with its rules and regulations. He asked the Commissioners, what is wrong with raising chickens, and he mentioned that bee hives should be allowed. He stated that regulations, such as the proposed ordinance amendment, are being directed at specific land owners in town. He also stated that development annexations may be complicated if properties outside of City limits contain farm animals.

Patrick Hughes, 522 Delaware Street SW, stated that it is a bad idea to have farm animals in town. He said that vermin and chickens can attract diseases, and those types of animals shouldn't be located in/near neighborhoods where kids play. He also provided detailed insight on honeybees, and he explained the value that they have to the communities and the planet. He mentioned that everyone should appreciate bees and bee keepers, and he suggested that honeybee hives not be outlawed.

Pelava clarified that the proposed ordinance would still allow existing honeybee hives to continue and also allow new honeybee hives along with a conditional use permit. He mentioned that the Planning Commission was just trying to tighten up loose ends in the Code. Kodada stated that the City needs to control farm animals and poultry somehow. Duban added that the City would use the conditional use permit process to lessen the affect on neighboring property owners located next to any new honeybee hives. Kodada asked for anymore comments from the floor. No one else responded to the invitation.

A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Freid to close the public hearing. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, and Duban; Against: None. Vote: 3-0. Motion carried.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

- a. Consider Approval of Proposed Ordinance 2010-238, an Ordinance Adding Specific Language to City Code Section 90.01 Concerning the Keeping of Honeybees, Poultry, and Hoofed Animals Within the City Limits.

Pelava provided a brief history and explanation for the proposed ordinance. The Commission all agreed with the proposed language as presented.

A motion was made by Duban and seconded by Freid to approve Ordinance 2010-238, an ordinance adding specific language to City Code Section 90.01 concerning the keeping of honeybees, poultry, and hoofed animals within the City limits. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, and Duban; Against: None. Vote: 3-0. Motion carried.

b. Consider Approval of a Resolution Requesting Approval of the City of Lonsdale's Application for the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Community Destination Sign Program

Baker explained that the City is proposing to apply for MnDOT's Community Destination Sign Program to erect the following directional signs along State Highway 19: 1) Industrial Park, 2) Public Library, 3) Downtown Business District, and 4) 3-R School (Historic Site). He provided the Commission with the proposed resolution, a location map for the proposed signs, and Section 6-8.03 (Community Destination Sign Program) from the MnDOT Traffic Engineering Manual. Baker noted that the program does not allow for directional signage to the elementary school or compost site. The Commission reviewed the proposed signs and agreed with the resolution.

A motion was made by Freid and seconded by Duban to approve a resolution requesting approval of the City of Lonsdale's application for the Minnesota Department of Transportation's Community Destination Sign Program. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, and Duban; Against: None. Vote: 3-0. Motion carried.

MISCELLANEOUS

Baker mentioned that the Hwy 19 welcome sign landscaping project was recently completed.

7. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Freid and seconded by Duban to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, and Duban; Against: None. Vote: 3-0. Motion carried. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner