

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
REGULAR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Voting Members: Jim Freid, Joe Kodada, Dave Dols, John Duban, and Ben Sticha
Council Representative: Scott Pelava

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker and Police Chief Jason Schmitz

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dols called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

2. AGENDA

Dols 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, Dols, Duban, and Sticha; Against: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Freid and seconded by Sticha to approve the Minutes from the October 20, 2016 Regular Meeting as presented. Vote for: Freid, Dols, Duban, and Sticha; Against: None. Vote: 4-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

Kodada arrives at the meeting.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Review and Discuss Potential Regulations for Off-Street Parking of Vehicles and Recreational Vehicles/Equipment

Baker explained that the City is in the process of updating its regulations for off-street parking. He stated that the Planning Commission initially held a joint meeting with the City Council on September 22nd to discuss parking issues, blight, and nuisances around town. Baker stated that there would be an informative presentation at tonight's meeting with a chance for the public to provide comments and feedback on both current and proposed regulations concerning residential off-street parking. He noted that there will also be another opportunity at the December 15th meeting to provide public comments on the subject.

Baker provided an overview of the current restrictions found in the Lonsdale City Code for residential off-street parking. He noted that the City was trying to create a realistic ordinance that will be easier for both compliance and enforcement. Baker went through a 38-slide presentation that was projected on the wall at the front of Council Chambers. The presentation depicted current parking issues, proposed regulations, goals, and various pictures of current parking practices around town. He stated the three main goals of the ordinance update process for residential parking, including: 1) promoting off-street parking, 2) lessening the visual impact of off-street parking, and 3) creating realistic regulations. Baker explained that property appearance expectations can vary greatly between residents. He said that some residents tend to think that Lonsdale should look similar to Lakeville, Minnetonka, or Edina, which all have higher standards for residential properties. On the contrary, Baker said that other residents believe that it is their right as a property owner to be able to fill up the majority of their yard with vehicles and stuff, because it is their property. He explained that some residents believe that any owner of a recreation vehicle/equipment should figure-in the cost of storing, screening, and/or paving a concrete parking pad before purchasing such vehicles. Baker stated that other residents may have limited budgets and/or different priorities, and they don't consider it necessary to plan for storage options before obtaining recreation vehicles. After the presentation, Baker used Beacon GIS to highlight issues with parking pads that are more noticeable on corner lots.

Dols invited the public to provide feedback and comments on the subject.

Josh McCombs, 516 Cottonwood Street NE, suggested that parking areas should be based on a percentage of total yard size. He agreed that corner lot parking pads are more visible and may require different rules.

Terrance Altendorfer, 426 4th Avenue NE, stated that Lonsdale is a farming community and its rules shouldn't be as restrictive as Minnetonka or Edina. He said that he has four kids and that he may have 5 vehicles parked on the driveway because his garage is full. He wondered if the City would allow for more vehicles to be parked on the driveway. Schmitz explained that the City Code makes an exception for vehicles used by college-aged students.

Scott Boyer, 424 Singing Hills Drive SE, asked about the specific rules for seasonal vehicles and parking pad setbacks. Baker said that a 0 ft. setback for parking pads is being considered, and Schmitz said that seasonal vehicles could be parked on a parking pad or in the rear yard during the off-season months.

Harrison Johnson, 515 Dogwood Street NE, asked about Lonsdale's regulations for sheds. Baker provided Johnson with detailed information on size, setback, and design requirements for sheds and garages. Johnson wondered if the newer RV style Ice Castles would be considered seasonal or not because they can be used all year long. Schmitz said that those types of ice houses will not be considered seasonal.

A resident of 533 Dogwood Street NE wondered if his larger truck would be allowed to be parked on his lot. The Commissioners discussed what types of commercial trucks should be allowed. Baker summarized a letter of concern that was submitted to the City by a resident of Lonsdale regarding a food truck that has been parked in her neighborhood for long periods of time.

The audience members asked if trash cans would be part of the ordinance update. Schmitz explained the current regulations and enforcement strategy for trash containers. Schmitz also explained how the Police Department defines and handles junk vehicles.

After hearing comments from the audience, the Planning Commission discussed the different aspects of off-street parking in great detail, including hard-surfacing, screening/fencing, amount of vehicles, size of RVs, driveway widths, lot drainage, issues with renters, and parking pad size limits.

Audience members thanked the City for allowing public comments, clarifying the current/proposed regulations, and doing a good job on the presentation. The Planning Commission thanked the public for sharing their thoughts and ideas regarding off-street parking.

Baker stated that the Planning Commission will probably hold another public input session regarding the residential off-street parking topic at their December 15th meeting.

b. Review and Discuss Potential Restrictions for Where Sexual Offenders can Reside

Baker stated that City Staff was directed to introduce a sexual offender ordinance to the Planning Commission for review. He said that there is not any Level III Sex Offenders currently living in or coming to Lonsdale, but he said that the Planning Commission should be pro-active and consider adopting an ordinance that would limit where offenders could reside in town. The Planning Commission reviewed an example ordinance from Albertville, MN along with a comparison sheet, which listed other Minnesota cities that have already adopted a similar ordinance and the differences between their regulations.

Schmitz explained the differences in the offender levels that are assigned by a committee that releases offenders. He stated that not all offenders are necessary sexual offenders.

Schmitz also explained how public notifications and information is handled if a Level II or III Sexual Offender is coming to town.

Baker asked the Planning Commission if they were interested in creating an ordinance that would essentially restrict where the State's most serious offenders could live. The Commissioners all agreed that it was a good idea to be proactive, and they directed City Staff to work with the City Attorney to draft an ordinance on the matter.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

- Baker noted that a land use permit application was recently submitted, which requested that the City consider allowing detached single-family homes on certain vacant twin-home lots.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Sticha to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, Dols, Duban, and Sticha; Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner