

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
REGULAR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 29, 2016**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

STAFF/COUNCIL PRESENT:

City Planner Benjamin Baker, City Administrator Joel Erickson, and Mayor Tim Rud

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dols called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 Kodada and seconded by Freid to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, Dols, Duban, and Sticha; Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Sticha and seconded by Duban to approve the Minutes from the September 17, 2015 Regular Meeting as presented. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, Dols, Duban, and Sticha; Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

a. Nominate and Appoint Planning Commission Officers for 2016

Freid suggested that Planning Commission Officer Positions remain the same as in 2015.

A motion was made by Freid and seconded by Duban to approve the 2016 Planning Commission Officers as follows:

- *David Dols, Chair*
- *Joe Kodada, Vice-Chair*
- *Benjamin Baker, Secretary
(City Planner)*
- *Scott Pelava, Ex-Officio
(City Council Member)*
- *Joel Erickson, Ex-Officio
(City Administrator)*

Vote for: Freid, Kodada, Dols, Duban, and Sticha; Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

b. Mayor Tim Rud

Rud stated that he wanted to personally thank the Planning Commissioners for doing such a good job. He said that the City receives a lot of compliments, and Rud attributed it to terrific Advisory Boards and City Staff. Rud said that he appreciated the Commissioners time and effort, and he thanked the Board Members again for volunteering on the Planning Commission.

c. Review the 2015 Community Development Report

The Planning Commission reviewed an 18-page Community Development and Building Report drafted by Baker. Baker went through the entire report which detailed 2015 statistics, maps, charts, and graphs, including: building permits, area cities comparisons, home builders, home sales, residential lot inventory, land owners, and fees collected. Baker noted that only Northfield had more new homes in 2015 than Lonsdale, when comparing the 6 neighboring communities. He said that the City processed 10 land use applications and 239 building permits in 2015. Freid commented that some cities, like Montgomery, are allowing old homes to be moved into newer subdivisions. Baker reminded the Commission that they recently passed an ordinance requiring specific design requirements.

d. Review of Blight & Nuisance Issues/Regulations

The Planning Commissioners briefly reviewed City Code Chapter 91, Health, Sanitation, & Nuisances. City Administrator Joel Erickson provided a report on some of the blight/nuisance related issues that have popped up around town, including campers, snowmobiles, ice houses, and more. He asked the Commissioners for feedback on how strict blight/nuisance enforcement should be enforced and if there is a need for improvement to the City Code to help better define expectations for residents. Freid suggested enforcing the blight/nuisance ordinances based on complaint. Baker explained that residents living in the same neighborhoods can have completely different standards when it comes to how a property should look and be kept up. The Planning Commissioners stated that the rules should be based on common sense.

Chris Malecha, 533 Main Street North, stated that he has been complaining to the City about his neighbor, located directly to the south, since 2014 and nothing seems to get resolved. Malecha mentioned that his neighbor is running a business out of his house/property and that there are trailers and junk that just sit there. He suggested that the City should take a more forceful stance on blight/nuisance issues and issue citations. Malecha and the Planning Commission members agreed that there are mostly just a handful of properties around town that generate the majority of the blight/nuisance issues and complaints. The Planning Commission agreed that they could review the subject in more detail at future meetings.

7. MISCELLANEOUS

Baker noted that the 2016 Farmer's Market will be moved from their previous Railway Street location to Trondhjem Lutheran Church.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sticha and seconded by Kodada to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, Dols, Duban, and Sticha; Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 6:59 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Benjamin Baker, City Planner