

City of Oregon Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission met Tuesday February 21, 2017, 6:00 pm. in the City Hall Council Chambers

Members Present:

Chairman Mark Herman, Roger Cain, Jeff Hallock, Craig Carpenter, Rick Ryland, Commissioner Kurt Wilson and Karly Spell.

Absent: Joe Ebens

Also, Present: Mayor Ken Williams, and City Clerk Charlene Ruthe.

Jeff Hallock moved to approve the December 13, 2016 minutes, Seconded by Rick Ryland.

Motion carried. No Nays. Mark abstained from vote.

Ogle County has a request to vacate 6th Street from Washington to Jefferson Street. In their request, they have included a Traffic Analysis and an Engineering Assessment prepared by Willett Hofmann & Assoc.

The meeting date for March will need to be changed because the County Board meets the same date and time.

The Plan Commission set a Public Hearing date for Thursday March 23, 2017, 6:00 pm at the Coliseum Building 124 N 4th Street.

Code items to review prior to receiving updates from Municipal Code. Back in June of 2016 the committee came up with a prioritized list of ordinance to work on. Parking in front yards has been taken care of. Low branches blocking sidewalks and street, the homeowner should take care of. Smoking in front of retail. Kurt said the state law says fifteen feet from the door. What is remaining on list: plants in terrace, temporary signs, signs on terrace, size and character of signs/awnings/murals, junk in yards, and blue traps on roofs. Will be working on these in the coming months.

Public Comment

Anne Jones spoke against the proposed new jail being built on South 6th Street between Washington and Jefferson Street. She feels this is not the right location. Why not on South Rt 2 just over the railroad bridge on the east side, commonly known as the Brooks Farm. Not in the middle of a residential area. This town has so much potential; with the historic district, statues, and parks. We need to capitalize on what assets we have. The flier that the County sent out about the proposed jail didn't answer any questions. She asked the committee to consider everything and decline the request from Ogle County. She strongly urged everyone to attend the scheduled meetings that the county is having for the proposed jail.

Jim Barnes also spoke against the location of the new proposed jail. He feels the downtown is not the place for it. He asked the committee to think hard about not consider closing South 6th Street from Washington to Jefferson Street.

Byran Zobeck, who resides a block away from the proposed jail location, asked if a utility study and traffic study had been done in the proposed area of the new jail. He is also concerned about future growth for the county. It would mean taking more homes off the tax role. How will this affect the rest of the community?

Mayor Ken Williams said this committee is advisory only. The Council will have the final vote and it will take a super majority of the members to pass.

Kurt let the committee know that the burned-out portion of 700 E Washington apartments has been taken down. Casper has been working with the owner's son to take care of any code violations that are in the rest of the building.

Kurt Wilson moved to adjourn the meeting, Seconded by Karly Spell.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Adjourn: 6:35 PM

Charlene Ruthe, Secretary