

City of Oregon Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission met Thursday March 23, 2017, 6:00 pm at the Oregon Coliseum 124 N 4th Street

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, Attorney Paul Chadwick, and City Clerk Charlene Ruthe.

The Public Hearing that was scheduled for tonight has been postponed, which was a request from Ogle County to vacate 6th Street from Washington to Jefferson Street. They have a second request to rezone the properties on South 6th Street where the proposed Judicial Annex will be from Residential zoning to Commercial zoning. The request is also to have the hearings for the zoning change and the closure of the Street to be held concurrently. The date of the Public Hearing is yet to be determined.

Craig Carpenter moved to approve the February 21, 2017 minutes, Seconded by Kurt Wilson.

Motion carried. No Nays. Mark abstained from vote.

Anne Jones, a citizen of the city, asked if the Committee members could introduce themselves.

Mayor Ken Williams had a handout of the proposed changes to the city codes for overhanging branches, vegetation on terrace, and parking of boats and RVs. He asked that the members look over and discuss at the next meeting.

The property owner is to maintenance the trees on terrace. Main problem is low hanging trees over the sidewalks. Current City Code allows scrubs to be no higher than three feet. Main problem is traffic flow and being able to around the vegetation.

Public Comment

Cindy Enzer, who resides just outside city limits, had a handout for the committee members on the proposed jail.

Sylvia Newcomer, a resident of the city, wanted to know why the old stove on the sidewalk in front of the business at 404 W Washington Street hasn't been moved?

Greg Tremble, a resident that just lives outside city limits, had a handout for the committee members on the new proposed jail. He also wanted to know if an Economic

Study had been done by the County. The Counties Fifty-Year Plan will take more homes off the tax rolls. The City just passed an updated Comprehensive Plan why would they want to place the new jail on South 6th Street.

Jim Barnes also spoke against the location of the new proposed jail. He feels the downtown is not the place for it.

Beth Simeone, a resident of the city, has seen drawings of the proposed jail and feels that the architects have done a good job, it blends in with the existing buildings. Placing it on South 6th Street makes since will be easier on Judges, Attorneys, and County Staff. If any of the inmates need help Sinnissippi Center is in town.

Anne Jones, a resident of Oregon, 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 as so much potential; with the historic district, statues, and parks. We need to capitalize on what assets we have. Sixth Street needs to stay open it's a Street used to get to the Park District and recreation areas.

Byran Zobeck, who resides a block away from the proposed jail location, asked if an Economic Study had been done. 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?

Thomas E. Izer is also against the new jail being put on South 6th Street. It is going to cost a lot of money to move the utilities, kids walk by there to go to school, and properties were taken off the tax roll. He suggested it be put on Pines Road where the County Offices currently are or 64 East where the golf course was. Why a two hundred bed facility?

Mayor Ken Williams would the like the committee to review and discuss code revisions to Overhanging Branches, Vegetation on Terrace, and Parking of Boats and RV's. He also had a handout of codes from other communities. Everyone is to review before next meeting.

Chairman Mark Herman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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

Motion carried. No Nays.

Adjourn: 6:53 PM

Charlene Ruthe, Secretary