

City of Oregon Planning Commission Meeting

The Planning Commission met Tuesday February 21st, 2023, at 5:30 pm.

Members Present: Rachel Brunner, Roger Cain, Randy Cropp, Jeff Hallock, Mark Herman, Rick Ryland, Karly Spell, and Commissioner Kurt Wilson.

Also, Present: City Administrator Darin DeHaan, City Clerk Cheryl Hilton, and Mayor Ken Williams.

Chairman Mark Herman called the meeting to order.

Mark Herman moved to approve the November 15th, 2022, minutes, Seconded by Rachel Brunner.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Planning Commission set a public hearing date for March 21st 2023 for a Short-Term Rental application.

Discussion: Roger Cain asked if a public hearing would be needed for each short-term rental application the city receives. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said yes because it is for a special use. Rick Ryland asked what the limit on short-term rentals will be for the city. City Administrator Darin DeHaan stated currently we are ok however they should be looked at each time an application is presented to the Planning Commission. Rick Ryland also asked if the city is notified when a new short-term rental is started in the county. Mayor Ken Williams said they do not have to notify the city.

City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the Sustainability Committee briefly discussed chickens at their last meeting. They had discussed placement of chicken coops, law enforcement issues, and application process and approval. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the City Council previously had concerns with disease, smell, and law enforcement. He asked the Planning Commission to have a roundtable discussion on the topic. He believes the new Code Enforcement officer position will help with the law enforcement aspect. He also stated quite a few communities are researching and presenting to their City Councils ordinances regarding chickens. The Planning Commission discussed having a one-year trial period, limiting the number of approved licenses to allow for adjustments to be made. They also discussed the placement of chickens and chicken coops, approval of chicken coops by the city building inspector and each license to be approved by Special Use by the Planning Commission. Mayor Ken Williams said the average cost to have chickens would be about seventy dollars a month over a five-year period. He believes the people who apply for a license will be serious about what they do. Mark Herman stated this would be more of a hobby for people. Roger Cain said caring for chickens would be a lot of work and he is concerned with abandonment. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the city has a nuisance ordinance already in place. Rachel Brunner stated the City of Dixon allows chickens and she considers this a good feature to have. Mark Herman said he would like to move forward. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said he will do more research to present to the committee.

Mark Herman asked about the status of the Dollar General store. Mayor Ken Williams said the developers are looking at other sites/locations and are getting ready to submit the project to Dollar General.

Rick Ryland asked about the Trestle Ridge Development. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the developer reaches out weekly. The developer plans to start with the first homes being built along 2nd Street.

Mayor Ken Williams said the old drive up bank facility will become the Sarah Phelps Community Plaza. This area will be a green space for the community. Upgrades will be made to the building and surrounding landscaping. Funding for the project will be provided by a grant, a foundation, and ARPA funds. The project will go out to bid in March. Roger Cain asked about the name of the plaza and who Sarah Phelps was. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said she was John Phelps wife. Jeff Hallock asked about the condition of the building. Mayor Ken Williams stated it was in good shape.

Roger Cain asked about local newspapers and if cities created a community newsletter for residents. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said he has been working to get this started for two years. He also said this is part of the communication plan. He sees different entities such as the library and the chamber having their own page in the newsletter.

Mayor Ken Williams said Frontier will be installing door to door fiber in the city. They will be able to run the lines above and below ground. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said this will give the community options. Roger Cain said his current cost through Comcast is about three hundred dollars a month. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the county has been working to provide what the average monthly cost is per household, as well as the speed of service.

Mayor Ken Williams said the city is working on the Comprehensive Plan and reminded everyone to take the survey. City Administrator Darin DeHaan said the survey can be accessed through the city website.

Mark Herman asked about the solar farm project. Mayor Ken Williams said there is no news on this yet.

Jeff Hallock moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 pm, Seconded by Randy Cropp.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Cheryl Hilton, City Clerk