

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Marion Planning Commission held in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building on January 14, 2019 at 5:15pm.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Wolfe called the meeting to order.

INVOCATION: Mr. Hicks rendered the invocation.

PRESENT: Chairman-Cameron Wolfe, Jim Barker, Bob Ramsey, Trey White, Kimberly Austin and Ben Reedy Planning Commission Members; Town Manager/Zoning Administrator Bill Rush, Assistant Town Manager/ Town Engineer Cecil Hicks, Police Chief John Clair, Deputy Town Clerk Anita Catron and Town Attorney Mark Fenyk.

ABSENT: Alice Freeman.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM: The meeting was called to order, and with 6 voting members present, the Commission has a quorum.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. White and vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting October 8, 2019 2018 were approved as written. Messrs Wolfe, Barker, Ramsey, Austin, White and Reedy voted affirmatively.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: No Report.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES: No Report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: No Report.

BLIGHTED PROPERTIES PROJECT: Chairman Wolfe turned the floor to Mr. Rush to continue with this discussion. Mr. Rush stated he would like input from members on changes that can help to better enforce this process. He reviewed with members the properties purchased by the town that were blighted properties. Discussion ensued regarding the need to rebuild and get old blighted properties back on the market. Mr. Rush stated Chief Clair has worked on the problem of enforcement, and has suggested changes for Town Code sections 38-1, 38-2 and 38-3. He turned the floor to Chief Clair for discussion on these changes.

Chief Clair stated he has talked with Todd Long concerning the problems he has incurred while trying to work on the blight problem. They both feel there is no clear definition for enforcement in the town code, and that no one can continually check and enforce it. Chief Clair informed members that Sergeant Rick Billings is attending the Building Code Academy for property maintenance, and will become the enforcement officer for the town. Discussion ensued regarding the suggested changes in language in the Town Code for a clear understanding and statement of legal actions and enforcement. Mr. Fenyk reviewed the wording in the State Code with regard to any changes made.

Mr. Rush would like to present the change recommendations to council within 3 weeks. He asked Chief Clair and Mr. Fenyk to contact the Commonwealth Attorney regarding the suggested wording changes, and to check with other localities on code changes they have made and the legalities for these changes.

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSION: Mr. Rush inquired of the senior members if there has been in time past, a discussion on Planned Unit Development, and why this is not already in place. He would like this to be discussed at a later date, as this will be needed for patio homes to exist. Wytheville has this already in place, so he will get the information for members to review. If members agree with this development plan it would need to be presented to town council and a public hearing scheduled to allow for it to be put in place. He would also like for members to consider the possibility for including small home footprint overlay districts for discussion at a later date.

With no further discussion or comments, Chairman Wolfe thanked everyone and stated the next meeting will be scheduled for February 11, 2019 at 5:15pm.

Upon motion, duly seconded a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned at 6:27pm.

Chairman

Secretary