

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Marion Planning Commission held in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building on April 10, 2017 at 5:15pm.

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

INVOCATION: Bob Ramsey.

VISITORS: Brian Reed, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.

PRESENT: Chairman Cameron Wolfe, Vice-Chairman Bob Ramsey, Dan Surface, Jim Barker (arriving late), Trey White, Alice Freeman (arriving late) and Ben Reedy Planning Commission Members, Town Manager/Zoning Administrator Bill Rush, Deputy Clerk Anita Catron and Town Attorney Mark Fenyk (arriving late).

ABSENT: None

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM: As the meeting was called to order, with 5 voting members present, the Commission has a quorum.

MINUTES: Upon motion of Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Surface and vote of 5 AYES and 0 NOES, minutes of the meeting held March 13, 2017 were approved as written. Messrs White, Surface, Wolfe, Reedy and Ramsey voted affirmatively.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: No Report

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES: No Report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: No Report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Upon motion of Mr. Surface, seconded by Mr. White and a vote of 4 AYES, 0 NOES and 1 ABSTENTION (Wolfe), Mr. Wolfe was elected Chairman.

Upon motion of Mr. Surface, seconded by Mr. White and vote of 4 AYES 0 NOES and 1 ABSTENTION (Ramsey), Mr. Ramsey was elected Vice-Chairman.

RIGHT OF WAY WORDING OR REQUIREMENTS FOR ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT: Chairman Wolfe asked Mr. Rush to continue with this discussion. Mr. Rush had given members a draft copy of Re-subdivision wording for review at the last meeting. He would like to make a change to the last paragraph regarding use of Town owned property for egress/ingress at the discretion of Town Council. He would like to reconsider the wording used. (Mr. Fenyk arrived). Discussion ensued regarding Town maintained streets, VDOT owned roads, Town Code regarding dealing with Paper Streets, etc. Mr. Rush would like members to consider wording that may allow for a variance when certain situations occur.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DISCUSSION: Chairman Wolfe stated the need for review of the Comprehensive Plan, and turned the floor to Mr. Rush for discussion. Mr. Rush reminded members this needs to be reviewed for updates and changes every 5 years. This update needs to be complete by November 2017. Mr. Brian Reed, Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, was present and informed members that

he, along with Rocky Warren also with Mount Rogers Planning District Commission, will be working with Planning Commission members on changes. Planning Commission members will be responsible mainly for the narrative. Mr. Rush would like members to review and decide what parts are of most interest to them. He suggested members should note changes they feel need to be changed, and send these to Mr. Reed. He asked Mr. Reed for his thoughts on this. Mr. Reed asked members to think of their vision for the town, focus on what their objectives are, and what they would like for the outcome to be over the next 5 years. He knows there will be sections with several changes. These sections will include land use and mapping due to changes in town. After discussion, members would like for maps and pictures to be in the front of the booklet, along with a synopsis to give an overview of the vision for Marion over the next 5-10 years. Member feel having these in place, would be helpful for grant applications and other projects.

Mrs. Freeman will review the Housing Section. She feels there is need for adjustment in the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance for this section. Mr. Rush discussed the need for a Property Maintenance Code for apartment owners in this section. This maintenance code would require apartment building owners, to have a permit to operate, and be subject to inspections on a regular basis. He asked Mrs. Freeman to work on this also.

Mr. Barker will start with review of the Recreation Section. He would like to see some type of outdoor area for different sports in Marion. This could help attract more students and families to live here. He would like the opportunity to study this.

Mr. Rush informed members Mr. Ken Heath will be reviewing Retail Trade and Tourism sections. He reminded members that more than one person can review the same section. This would provide more suggestions for changes. He requested each member to review the Comprehensive Plan and decide what interests them the most, and where they would like to start.

OTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS: The next Planning Commission meeting will be May 8, 2017 at 5:15pm.

Upon motion of Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Surface and a vote of 7 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman

Secretary