

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Marion Planning Commission held in Council Chambers at the Municipal Building on April 11, 2016 at 5:15 pm.

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

INVOCATION: Mr. Hicks rendered the invocation.

VISITORS: None

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

ABSENT: Dan Surface.

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 Mrs. Freeman, seconded by Mr. Ramsey and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the minutes of the meeting held March 14, 2016 were approved as written. Messrs Wolfe, Ramsey, Barker, Reedy, Freeman and White voted affirmatively.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY: No Report.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES: No Report.

REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES: No Report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Chairman Wolfe stated the need to have election of officers. He opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Barker made a motion to re-elect Mr. Cameron Wolfe as Chairman and Mr. Bob Ramsey as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Wolfe asked for other nominations. With no other nominations made, Mr. White seconded the motion and with a vote of 4 AYES, 0 NOES, and 2 Abstentions (Wolfe, Ramsey) Marion Planning Commission members voted to re-elect Mr. Cameron Wolfe Chairman and Mr. Bob Ramsey Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Chairman Wolfe stated although there were no other items on the Agenda for discussion, he would like to have members discuss an item he feels would be helpful for Planning Commission meetings in the future. He asked members for their opinion on having the secretary keep a commentary of changes made to the Zoning Ordinance with comments or comment codes with a brief explanation of why the decision for change was made. Discussion ensued with regards to past decisions reached, and members agree this would be a good practice.

Mrs. Freeman stated Planning Commission has now had 3 or 4 requests for rezoning of buildings. With the need for housing of students increasing, she feels some citizens may want to begin converting older homes in residential neighborhoods. These units are not permitted in residential areas. If this were to be allowed, it could possibly create more problems with the narrow streets and lack of parking. She would like to know how other communities have been welcoming but not abused in the process when dealing with this type of situation.

Mr. Hicks informed members that Special Use Permits will start to be more frequent, and Town Council will need the guidance of Planning Commission more. He also feels that Mr. Wolfe's suggestion would help to see how and why they have reached decisions in the past. Discussion ensued with regards to the number of out of town students expected for the Emory and Henry College programs and the possible need for more housing. Mr. Ramsey stated he will check with someone at the college for these numbers and ask how Planning Commission can be of assistance.

With no additional comments or questions, Chairman Wolfe stated if there is a need, the next Planning Commission meeting will be May 9, 2016 at 5:15pm.

Upon motion of Mr. Ramsey, seconded by Mr. Reedy, and a vote of 6 AYES and 0 NOES, the meeting was adjourned.

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Chairman

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Secretary