

PLANNING COMMISSION – CITY OF HOUGHTON
CITY CENTER – COUNCIL CHAMBER
JUNE 22, 2010

PRESENT: Chairman Mike Butvilas, City Manager Scott MacInnes, Gary Lubinski, Kristine Bradof, Tom Merz and Mike Needham.

ABSENT: Mayor Bob Backon, Rachel Lankton, Jay Green.

Also present: Justin Ruonavaara, Kevin Geshel, and Mike Lowney.

REGULAR MEETING: Chairman Mike Butvilas called to order a Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: A motion was made by Bradof and seconded by MacInnes to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 Regular Meeting as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA: No changes were made to the Agenda.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS COMMISSION: No one addressed the Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING: None.

NEW BUSINESS: City Manager MacInnes presented a letter from Mike Lowney who owns lots 4 and 5, Block 4 of a Private Plat in Houghton. This property is zoned R-3. Mr. Lowney asked that the zoning be changed to B-3 with conditions so that he can erect a storage building. The only other use permitted on this property would be uses that fall within the R-3 zoning.

City Manager MacInnes said there have been a number of attempts to build something on this lot and all have failed. The Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 28, 2010 to abandon a portion of Franklin Street and Champion Avenue adjacent to these lots.

Mr. Lowney said that if the roads are abandoned, he will sell his portion of the abandoned portion of S. Franklin to Ted Gast who uses it as a parking lot for his apartments. He plans to build two buildings with 4,000 square feet each. There will be 18 10x20 units and 8 5x10 units.

A motion was made by Merz and seconded by Needham to schedule a public hearing for July 27, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

A discussion was held that everyone in the Forest Park subdivision west of Agate Street will be notified because that is the entrance to their neighborhood.

City Manager MacInnes reported on the Training Wheels for Bike Communities seminar that he attended. There are new federal guidelines coming out regarding sharing the road with bicycles and lane widths. The Bike Committee will revisit the bike plan. There are also plans to make the bike committee more formal with a list of members as well as a set of by-laws.

The Carnegie Museum study is almost complete. The commission will review it at the next meeting. The museum director is in the process of forming a group of interested people that will hopefully be able to form a 503c corporation to run it.

There are four new façade grants downtown. Mr. MacInnes is working on another signature building. MEDC has taken over the façade and signature building programs.

Mark Kemppainen has not built his fence yet. He plans to ask the Zoning Board of Appeals again to plant trees instead of a fence.

The next Planning Commission Regular Meeting will be held Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lubinski and seconded by Needham.

Yes: All

No: None

Motion carried.

Gary Lubinski
Secretary