



PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 06, 2025

4:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: Pursuant to due notice and call thereof a Regular Meeting of the Grand Rapids Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025 at 4:00 PM in City Hall Council Chambers, 420 North Pokegama Avenue, Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

CALL OF ROLL:

PRESENT

Commissioner Paul Bignall
Commissioner Amanda Lamppa
Commissioner David Marquardt
Commissioner David Kreitzer

ABSENT

Commissioner Betsy Johnson
Commissioner Patrick Goggin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Consider approval of the December 5, 2024 regular meeting minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Lamppa, second by Commissioner Kreitzer to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2024 regular meeting. The following voted in favor thereof: Lamppa, Kreitzer, Bignall. Opposed: None, Marquardt abstained, motion passed.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

2. Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding a vacation of a platted utility easement (Airport South Industrial Park – Phase 1)

Community Development staff is asking the Planning Commission to consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding a vacation of a platted utility easement in the Airport South Industrial Park-Phase 1. Assistant Community Development Director Swenson provided background.

The Commissioners reviewed the considerations for the record:

1. Is the right-of-way needed for traffic purposes?
Why/Why not? No, it is in a field it is not needed for traffic purposes.

2. Is the right-of-way needed for pedestrian purposes?

Why/Why not? No, due to it's location there is no need for pedestrian purposes.

3. Is the right-of-way needed for utility purposes?

Why/Why not? No, due to the combination of the parcels it is no longer needed.

4. Would vacating the right-of-way place additional land on the tax rolls?

Why/Why not? Yes, a very small portion.

5. Would vacating the right-of-way facilitate economic development in the

City? Why/Why not? Yes, it will allow for future development.

Motion by Commissioner Marquardt, second by Commissioner Kreitzer to approve initiating the vacation request of the platted utility easement described as:

A thirty-foot-wide utility easement centered on the north, east, and south lines of Lot 5, Block 2 of Airport South Industrial Park - Phase 1, Grand Rapids, Itasca County, Minnesota.

The following voted in favor thereof: Kreitzer, Marquardt, Lamppa, Bignall. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

3. Consider initiating the process to review and amend Division 30-VI-12 (Floodplain Restrictions) of the Land Use Regulations Ordinance

Staff would like the Planning Commission to consider initiating the review and consideration of an amendment to Division 30-VI-12 (Floodplain Restrictions) of the Ordinance. The Ordinance is being amended to incorporate the updated Flood Insurance Rate Map panels and Flood Insurance Study for Itasca County, to maintain participation in the Nation Flood Insurance Program.

Motion by Commissioner Kreitzer, second by Commissioner Lamppa to initiate the review of Division 30-VI-12 entitled (Floodplain Restrictions) to meet current State and Federal standards. The following voted in favor thereof: Bignall, Lamppa, Marquardt, Kreitzer. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

4. Consider a recommendation to the City Council regarding an amendment to Division 30-VI-12 (Floodplain Restrictions) of the Land Use Regulations Ordinance

Assistant Community Development Director Swenson provided background information. The ordinance is being amended to incorporate the updated Flood Insurance Rate Map panels and Flood Insurance Study for Itasca County, to maintain participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

The Commissioners read their considerations for the record:

1. Will the change affect the character of neighborhoods?

Why/Why not? No, there is no change to the neighborhoods.

2. Would the change foster economic growth in the community?

Why/Why not? Yes, it will allow for the purchase of flood insurance for those who need it.

3. Would the proposed change be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the ordinance? Why/Why not? Yes, it is maintaining FEMA and DNR standards.

4. Would the change be in the best interest of the general public? Why/Why not? Yes, it will allow for the purchase of flood insurance.

5. Would the change be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan? Why/Why not? Yes, it allows the opportunity for growth.

Motion by Commissioner Lamppa, second by Commissioner Kreitzer that, based on the findings of fact presented here today, and in the public's best interest, the Planning Commissioner does hereby forward a favorable recommendation to the City Council regarding a draft amendment to replace the existing floodplain restrictions ordinance language with ordinance language consistent with state floodplain management rules and the floodplain management standards of the Federal Emergency Management Agency of Division 30-VI-12 of the land use regulation ordinance. The following voted in favor thereof: Kreitzer, Marquardt, Lamppa, Bignall. Opposed: None, motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Individuals may address the Planning Commission about any non-public hearing item or any item not included on the Regular Meeting Agenda. Speakers are requested to come to the podium, state their name and address for the record and limit their remarks to three (3) minutes.

None

MISCELLANEOUS:

None

REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 6, 2025 AT 4:00 PM.

Hearing Assistance Available: This facility is equipped with a ready assistance system.

ATTEST:

Aurimy Groom, Administrative Assistant