



**MINUTES
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
February 13, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair Adams.

Present: Chair: Roger Adams; Commissioners: Virginia See, Judd Axelson, Lori Goodsell, and Anita Secord; City Administrator: Scott Weske; Planning Consultant: Hannah Rybak; and City Council Liaison: Mike Feldmann

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVE AGENDA

A motion was made by See, seconded by Secord, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following:

- A. Approve Minutes of the January 9, 2024 Planning Commission Meeting

Commissioner Goodsell requested that a comment of hers on Page 2 of the January 9 meeting minutes be updated to reflect that the issue she was addressing was construction parking, not employee parking.

A motion was made by Secord, seconded by Goodsell, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: all.

OPEN CORRESPONDENCE

No one was in attendance to address the Planning Commission during Open Correspondence.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Public Hearing: Review Draft Ordinance Amending Certain Parking Requirements by Use and Updating Parking Regulations for the Storage of Boats, Trailers and Recreational Vehicles

Chair Adams began by thanking Planning Consultant Rybak for helping the Commission to understand the variety of parking standards within Zoning Code.

Planning Consultant Rybak reviewed the draft Ordinance being presented as a follow up to the last Commission meeting's discussion and direction regarding certain areas of the City's existing parking requirements. She pointed out that two changes she had included in the Ordinance were to correct references to Code provisions in the section and were not substantive. She gave a detailed presentation of the amendments and parking requirement updates proposed in the areas of recreational vehicle storage, restaurant and drive-thru convenience business parking, and service oriented business parking.

Commission members and staff discussed gravel versus paved driveways as parking surfaces; parking of recreational vehicles on corner lot side yards, recommending vehicles be parked adjacent to a principal structure, and not unduly impacting residents' ability to store both a boat and a recreational vehicle.

Chair Adams opened the public hearing at 6:45 pm. Hearing no comments, Chair Adams closed the public hearing.

A motion was made by Secord, seconded by Goodsell, to recommend the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 2024-01 amending certain parking requirements. Ayes: all.

OTHER BUSINESS

Parking for Downtown Area – Chair Adams reported that he had driven through the City's industrial and commercial areas to see what additional parking may be available. He reviewed areas where parking is allowed on Mill Street, Symes Street, and Lake Street; highlighted various parking restrictions on Daniels Street; and added that the side streets in the industrial park area are pretty much without parking restrictions currently. The best opportunity he could see for adding parking would be to allow two-hour parking on the side of Lake Street adjacent to the Town Center, and along Daniels Street on the side where City Hall is located. Weske provided a review of the history behind parking and truck traffic restrictions on Daniels Street, and observed that allowing parking on both sides of Lake Street may narrow the roadway more than would be advisable as trucks access that portion of the road. He noted that additional Code amendments by the Council will be necessary in the future to address parking inconsistencies in certain areas. Commission members also discussed the condition of certain streets in town; public transit improvements and proposals impacting the Metropolitan area; and commented on pedestrian safety concerns in areas of Long Lake.

Meeting Absence – Commissioner Goodsell informed the Commission that she would be absent from the March meeting.

Council Liaison Report – Council member Kvale shared that the Council is still awaiting a decision from the court on the latest contempt order hearing in the matter of City of Long Lake v. City of Orono. Fire services has continued to be a significant issue that the Council continues to work through. She indicated that the Council was also looking towards hiring Public Works staff, and had promoted longtime staff member Don "Luke" Laakkonen to a lead worker position. Commission members agreed that he was deserving of the promotion.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Adams, seconded by Secord, to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm. Ayes: all.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Weske
City Administrator