

BOROUGH OF WEST READING PLANNING COMMISSION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2015

The West Reading Planning Commission met for their regular meeting on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 at Borough Hall with the following persons present: Chair Philip Wert, Christopher Lincoln, Jennifer Bressler, Terry Siggins. Maxine Goodwin, Christin Kelley and Kim Collins were unable to attend. Borough Engineer Tom Unger was also in attendance.

Visitors: None

Mr. Wert called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Commissioner Resignation

Mr. Wert announced that Kim Collins has formally resigned her seat on the Planning Commission and that Council will accept her resignation at their next meeting. He noted that he is aware of a resident who is interested in becoming a member of the Commission.

SALDO Update

Mr. Unger emailed the draft SALDO earlier in the day and Commission members were provided with a copy for review. Ms. Bressler noted that there were some spelling errors which she will forward to Mr. Unger. After some discussion, it was decided that the document would be sent to Mr. Becker for legal review now, rather than waiting for the Commission to finish its final review of the draft. It is hoped that the Public Hearing can be advertised in November and scheduled for the December Council meeting.

International Property Maintenance Code

Mr. Wert purchased an online copy of the IPMC for use by the Code Enforcement Department as well as the Planning Commission. Members of the Commission received a copy and were asked to review it for the November meeting.

Disruptive Conduct Ordinance

The Code Enforcement personnel provided a portion of the City of Reading's Housing Ordinance that deals with disruptive conduct. It was noted that there are some aspects of the section that would be helpful to the Codes officers. Mr. Wert said he had discussed this with Chief Powell who indicated that the section has been very helpful in Reading and that our Police Department could have benefitted from it in the past. Mr. Wert felt that the Planning Commission was not the appropriate body to consider this further and suggested that the Protection of Persons and Property Committee review it.

General Code Codification Project

Review of Chapter IV continued as follows:

- Discussion of Part 6 concerning "Graffiti" continued from the September meeting. Mr. Wert noted that the Norfolk Southern train bridge has been 'tagged' several times over the past year

and that Norfolk has denied access to the property to abate the graffiti unless the Borough enters into an indemnification agreement and pays for the flaggers that they require.

- §607 speaks about the Mayor offering a \$200 reward – this was questioned and will need legal review.
- §608 - The penalty should be consistent with the penalties listed in other chapters.
- §608 (c) says that the court may order the defendant to perform 50 hours of community service, but it doesn't refer to which court.
- It was noted that the IPMC also has regulations concerning graffiti.
- The discussion came up again regarding graffiti vs. art. It was noted that graffiti is generally considered to not be aesthetically pleasing and is a detriment to property values.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Hoffman
Administrative Assistant