

Regular Minutes of the
Ashland City Planning Commission
July 3, 2006

The Ashland City Planning Commission met in regular session on July 3, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

Chairman Joe Macha called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Commissioners present: Ed Nichols, Yvonne Stinnett, Hadley Williams, Dwayne Noe Jim Yates, and Joe Macha.

Commissioners Absent: Gary Norwood

Others Present: Michael Armstrong, Franklin Wilkinson and Angela Fernandez

A motion was made by Macha, seconded by Williams, to approve the June 2006 minutes as typed. Stinnett requested a correction to a typographical error. The word Senior was misspelled and needed to be corrected. Stinnett also commented that the correct reference to the "Senior Citizens Center" is the "Senior Center". Yates requested a correction to the typographical error "waking track". The correction should read "walking track". A motion was made by Macha, seconded by Williams, to approve the June 2006 minutes pending typographical corrections to the minutes. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Public Forum: None

Old Business: None

Williams wants a police officer to come to the Senior Center to talk to seniors on safety and awareness of people that will take advantage of seniors. He said he has not talked to Marc Coulon but did call an officer to North Poole when he noticed an ATV flying up and down the road. It took the officer 15 minutes to arrive. He mentioned to the officer he would like to have someone come talk to the seniors. So far no one has responded to his request.

New Business:

Chairman Macha said he and the other Planning Commission members did not have a copy of the amendment to ordinance #273. He requested the planning commission move on to amending ordinance #179 until each member had a copy of the amendment to ordinance #273. Mike Armstrong said he will get copies.

A motion was made by Stinnett, seconded by Noe, to amend ordinance #179 – propane tanks. Macha opened the floor for discussion.

Section 1- Yates asked if the city would also have to comply with this ordinance. Last year the Christmas decorations went up before November 1 and stayed up longer than January 15. Mike said that was because the decorations were new and were put up to check electrical connections and give people the opportunity to see the new decorations. Nichols said on his deck he has white lights on his umbrella and sometimes turns them on for lighting. Would this be considered lighting and decorations and would he have to remove these lights? Nichols asked if this ordinance applies to commercial businesses. Sometimes a business may start displaying Christmas ornaments in October. Are we going to tell business's they can not display Christmas ornaments before November 1? Mike Armstrong said it will only apply to the outside of the building and have no affect on anything on the inside. The amendment is basically to control residences that leave Christmas lights on their house year round. Noe said some people may need a little more time to remove Christmas lights. Stinnett said we should take more time to think about this section of the amendment.

Section 2- Noe said the State Fire Marshall requires any propane tank over 100 gallons to be 20 feet from any residence. Macha said he has a small tank and it is right next to his house. Nichols asked if we are trying to tell people where to put their propane tanks? Mike Armstrong explained that there is one existing and used to be two propane tanks in resident's front yards. We got a lot of complaints about it and we consider it a safety hazard to be in the front yard especially when it is close to the street. Nichols asked if we have anything now addressing propane tanks. Mike Armstrong said we do but it is only for screening and only on commercial sites. Placement of a propane tank on a commercial site will be addressed during the site plan review process. This amendment primarily deals with residential propane tanks. Noe said he is not in favor of telling people where to place propane tanks. I don't see anything wrong with putting a propane tank on the side of a house and the state already has regulations on tanks over 100 gallons. Macha asked if we could change the wording to the amendment to read "All propane tanks shall not be placed in front of the primary use structure". Stinnett recommended we defer section 1 and recommend section 2 of the amendment to the City Council.

A motion was made by Noe, seconded by Nichols, to delete section 1 of amendment to zoning ordinance #179 and forward section 2 of ordinance #179 as re-written "All propane tanks shall not be placed in front of the primary use structure"

Motion passed with a roll call vote of: Noe-yes, Nichols-yes, Stinnett-yes, Williams-yes, Yates-yes, and Macha-yes.

Motion was made by Noe, seconded by Nichols, to amend ordinance #273. Macha opened the floor for discussion. Nichols asked what we are trying to accomplish with this amendment. Mike Armstrong said as it is now a business can paint their building any color they wish.

The design review manual requires earth tone colors for new buildings but does not address existing buildings. A business could paint their building purple or pink for example. Nichols said he is not comfortable with the city dictating what color a business must use to paint its building. Noe said he was not in favor of the city telling business's what to do. Macha said he is in favor of having some control of how the city will look in the future. Nichols asked who was the Building Official. Mike Armstrong said he is the Building Official. Nichols asked if we are then leaving it up to Mike to decide what color is acceptable. Yates agreed that we should have some say as to how the city will look. Macha asked if we can bring this amendment back to the Planning Commission next month for further review. Angela said they could bring it back next month. Macha asked for a roll call vote to forward to the City Council the amendment to ordinance #273. Nichols-no, Noe-no, Stinnett-no, Williams-no, Macha-yes, and Yates-yes. The ordinance failed to forward to the City Council.

A motion was made by Noe, seconded by Williams, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:30p.m.

Chairman Joe Macha