

Approved Minutes
Regular Meeting
Reading Township Planning Commission
July 18, 2022
7:00 p.m.

Rules of Order for Public Comment: Anyone wishing to comment is required to use the sign-up sheet to do so. There will be a three (3) minute limit per comment. A person is allowed to comment one time during public comment, all comments must be directed to the Board, and anyone making public comment is prohibited from using public comment to personal attack anyone. The Commission has the option of answering, answering at a later time or date, not answering, or researching questions from the public.

Call to Order: By Commissioner Richards at 1900.

Pledge of Allegiance: Recited by all present.

Roll Call: Present: Commissioners Tonnies, Mesarosh, Richards and Kast. Absent Commissioner Gollnick. Guests: H. Farris Zoning Inspector and A. Andrews Township Supervisor.

Minutes: Motion made by Commissioner Tonnies and seconded by Commissioner Mesarosh to approve proposed minutes of April 18, 2022, motion passed 4/0.

Public Comments: None.

Commissioner's comments: None.

Old Business: Commissioner Tonnies brought up marijuana money received by Hillsdale County \$262,000, Camden Township \$112,900, Reading City \$169,000. Commissioner Tonnies would like the Planning Commission to be proactive by letting the Township Board know, if in the future, they would like to benefit from the monies related to marijuana production ie grow facilities, secure and processing, not distrubtion, the Planning Commission is ready to start the process of implementing the ordinance processes. Commissioner Tonnies praised Reading City's ordinances and felt the Planning Commission could use their ordinances as a blueprint. A lively discussion between the Commissioners regarding the positive and negative aspects of the Township participating ensued. Commissioner Richards recommended this be tabled until the Township Board indicated they wanted to proceed. No action taken by the Planning Commission.

New Business: Michigan Gas Utilities sent a proposed ordinance with verbiage they would like the Township to adopt regarding the right to operate its natural gas system with the municipality. After discussion by the Planning Commission members, it was determined the Planning Commission did not need to address the proposed ordinance, that it first falls under the jurisdiction of the Township Board. No action taken by Planning Commission at this time.

Zoning Inspector Harold Farris brought up the need for set scheduled fees for zoning infractions. Zoning Inspector Farris wants to develop a way to track who has paid the fines associated with the incurred infractions and what compensation the Township is being paid resulting from the fines. Supervisor A. Andrews stating he is working on developing a spread sheet which will track this information and generate a report. Commissioner Mesarosh asked Zoning Inspector Farris if there was another Township in the County which already has set scheduled fees for zoning infractions. Inspector Farris replied Somerset Township has a policy already in place. Inspector Farris will investigate Somerset Township's policy regarding fees. No action taken by the Planning Commission at this time.

Zoning Inspector Farris also indicated the need for a nuisance ordinance for tall grass. After discussion by the Planning Commission members, it is determined this falls under the Township Board to review, not the Planning Commission. No action taken by the Planning Commission at this time.

Commissioner Richards stated he spoke with the Township Attorney regarding old trucks, who stated he was unaware anything on the books regarding old trucks. Zoning Inspector Farris states, he will speak further with the Township Attorney Tom Thomson on Thursday July 21, 2022 regarding old trucks. No action taken by the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Mesarosh provided an update on the monies received from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Commissioner Mesarosh listed the six areas the Township Board is dedicating a portion of the \$181,796.86 monies towards: 1) Township Fire Department 2) Driveway approach to the township hall 3) Kimball Camp 4) DMCI fiber optic-support 5) The worst roads in the township 6) Transfer station – new tire box.

Public Comments: None.

Next regular Planning Commission Meeting – October 17, 2022

Adjournment: Motion made by Commissioner Tonnies to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Commissioner Kast. Motion carried 4/0. Meeting adjourned at 1929.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Jenni Kast
Secretary