

MINUTES

DRAFT

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
THOMAS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
8215 SHIELDS DRIVE, SAGINAW, MICHIGAN
DECEMBER 18, 2019**

Members Present

R. Iamurri
P. Lynch
D. Sommers
D. Bird
S. Yockey
K. Beam

Members Absent

Others Present

D. Sika, Dir. Of Community Dev
C. Watt, Plann'g Asst/Code Enf.

Mr. Iamurri called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Sommers, supported by Mr. Yockey, to approve the minutes of November 20, 2019 as presented.

VOTE

6 YEAS

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

New Business:

A. 2020 Planning Commission Meeting Schedule

The Planning Commission meeting schedule for 2020 was presented with the Planning Commission meeting the third Wednesday of each month unless for some unforeseen reason it would need to be changed and it would be addressed at that time. At this time the April 15th date may pose an issue for Iamurri and Lynch. Motion by Mr. Lynch, supported by Mr. Bird to approve the 2020 Meeting Schedule as presented.

VOTE

6 YEAS

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

B. Discussion Only-North Side Business District

Mr. Sika explained the location and purpose of the North Side Business District to the Planning Commission members. He explained that the Township sees a lot of potential with development of this area and the hope is that will take place sooner than later. He wanted the Planning Commission to be aware of the area and what uses are allowed so when it does come before them, they have a better understanding.

C. Discussion Only-Overgrown Landscape Ordinance

The Planning Commission discussed the potential of creating a new ordinance to address the issue of overgrown landscaping at homes in Thomas Township. After discussion among the group, it was decided that more investigation of current ordinances by other communities need to be looked at and brought before the Planning Commission for review and comment to see if Thomas Township may be able to utilize the same type of information.

D. Discussion Only-Adding Digital Sign Illumination Standards to the Zoning Ordinance.

The Planning Commission discussed a possible future text amendment to the current Sign Illumination Standards as currently listed in the ordinance. This was brought up after complaints were received in regards to the new digital sign at Frankenmuth Credit Union. It was agreed that something needs to be in the ordinance to enforce the “brightness” of these signs. An amendment will be drafted and brought before the Planning Commission at a later date for a Public Hearing.

E. Update on the Start of the Master Plan Review.

The Planning Commission was informed that tentatively the date of February 19, 2020 was selected to begin the process of reviewing the Master Plan. Mr. Sika asked the members to please continue to read over the copy of the Master Plan that was given to them at last month’s meeting and make any changes to typo’s etc. He stated the books with their notes would be collected at the January 15th meeting to be compiled for the February meeting.

Old Business:

A. Potential Changes to ordinance Section 3.11, “Private Roadway Standards” and Section 19.3, “Regulation of Condominium Development” to obtain consistency.

Mr. Sika explained that a few changes had been made to both sections of the ordinance to bring the current ordinance up to date with standards that are required such as curb and gutter. The potential text amendments have been sent to the Township Attorney for review and will be brought before the Planning Commission at a Public Hearing at a later date.

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Yockey, supported by Mr. Bird, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

VOTE 6 YEAS 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT MOTION CARRIED