

MINUTES

DRAFT

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
THOMAS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
8215 SHIELDS DRIVE, SAGINAW, MICHIGAN
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2020, 7 O’CLOCK P.M.**

Members Present

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

Members Absent

J. Curry

Others Present

D. Sika, Dir. Of Community Dev
C. Watt, PI Asst/Code Enforcement
R. Eggers, Spicer Group

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

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Yockey, supported by Mr. Bird, to approve the minutes of March 18, 2020 as presented.

VOTE

6 YEAS

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

New Business :

A. Master Plan Update with Rob Eggers

Mr. Rob Eggers of Spicer Group was present to begin the “kick-off” of the Master Plan Update. He highlighted the scope of the areas of the Master Plan that will be reviewed for the update as well as the proposed schedule for completion of the update. The target date for the first half of the draft changes

will be the July 15th meeting of the Planning Commission.

B. Plan to Support Business Re-Openings in the Township After COVID 19 Closures.

Mr. Sika explained several ideas that the Township is looking at implementing to help encourage shopping at the local Thomas Township businesses to hopefully help with their business struggles. Ideas include:

- Allowing outdoor seating at local restaurants to ease the burden of the 50% capacity restriction.
- Allow usage of temporary signs until the end of the year without a 45 day cap and no permit fee.
- Request a speed reduction on Gratiot Road from MDOT.
- Utilize the Township owned temporary signs in key locations to contain a message about shopping at the local businesses.
- The Township will be purchasing an over-the-road banner to encourage shopping/eating at the local businesses/restaurants.

Motion by Mr. Sommers, supported by Mr. Bird to support the Townships Plan to put the above items into action to encourage buying from local businesses.

VOTE 6 YEAS 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT MOTION CARRIED

Discussion of the 2020 Business/Organization of the Year also took place. It was decided that this should be different this year in light of the events of the past few months. The Planning Commission determined they'd like to see a "Certificate of Recognition" for all licensed businesses in the Township to be personally delivered by all members. A "draft" of a certificate will be emailed to the members within the next few days for approval.

Motion by Mr. Sommers, supported by Mr. Yockey, to honor all local businesses in Thomas Township with a "Certificate of Recognition" for 2020 a draft of which will be emailed for final approval to all members.

VOTE 6 YEAS 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT MOTION CARRIED

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Yockey, supported by Ms. Beam, to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

VOTE 6 YEAS 0 NAYS 1 ABSENT MOTION CARRIED