

MINUTES

DRAFT

**THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
THOMAS TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
8215 SHIELDS DRIVE, SAGINAW, MICHIGAN
WEDNESDAY, July 15, 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

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

Mr. Iamurri addressed the Planning Commission regarding the business “Certificates of Recognition” that have been completed by Mrs. Watt. He noted that they are ready to be delivered and can be picked up at the Township Office. He added that he and Mr. Sommers had already delivered some of the certificates and the businesses seemed very appreciative.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Mr. Yockey, supported by Ms. Beam, to approve the minutes of June 17, 2020 as presented.

VOTE

6 YEAS

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED

Old Business :

A. Update on Ordinances Under Review to Finalize for August Hearings.

Mr. Sika explained that the proposed text amendments for each of the listed sections of the Ordinance had all been previously discussed and reviewed. The purpose at this time was to finalize these amendments so they can be brought to a public hearing, hopefully in August.

The text amendments proposed were as follows:

- Section 12.2 a, 1 a) through f); B-2 North Business District Overlay Zone; Streetscape Design.
- Section 12.3; Table 22, B-3 Corridor Business District Uses: Uses By Right.
- Section 9.1; Table 14, A-1 Primary Agriculture and Conservation Development District Uses: Uses By Special Permit.
- Section 9.2; Table 15, A-2 General Farming, Open Space, Woodlot, and Conservation Development District; Uses By Special Permit.
- Chapter 1 of Title 6; Public Ways and Property; Section 6-1-4; Plans and Specifications (relating to sidewalk construction).
- Chapter 5; General Off-Street Parking & Loading; Section 5.9; Large Parking Lot Design Standards.

Mr. Sika stated that the proposed text amendment for a Business License requirement for home occupations and Overgrown Landscapes will be brought before the Planning Commission at a later date for further discussion.

After review and discussion, one incidental word change was requested to be made in Section 12.2 a, 1) b) from “height of the cap” to “thickness of the cap”. This change will be made throughout the ordinance for the final text amendment brought to the public hearing.

B. Shop Local Update.

Mr. Sika updated the Planning Commission on the steps being taken by the Township to encourage “shopping locally”.

- An over-the-road banner purchased by the Township, produced by a local company, that delivers the “shop local” message and support of local business.
- The DDA has purchased air time from 97.3 JOE FM, 98 KCQ and The Bay, 104 FM, 1400 AM to Do an advertisement message to support shopping local.
- The Township Board has approved a letter being sent to MDOT for the request of a speed reduction on Gratiot Road until the end of the year to increase business visibility.
- Allowing businesses to use temporary signage without the forty-five day limit that is normally in place. Also waiving the \$10 fee. This will go on until the end of the year.

- Allowing for businesses to apply for a temporary outdoor event to permit the use of outdoor seating. There is no cost for this and the applications are being expedited so businesses desiring to do this can get started immediately and utilize it as long as the weather allows. Hopefully this will help with the 50% indoor occupancy reduction at restaurants

Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Yockey, supported by Mr. Bird, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

VOTE

6 YEAS

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT

MOTION CARRIED