



Minutes

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609
September 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

John Bintz called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in addition to Mr. Bintz were: Ruth, McDonald, Rod Iamurri, Chris Thompson and Dale Halm. Also present were Dan Sika, Director of Community Development, Susan Coggin, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer and one (1) interested party.

Members Absent: Rick Lorentzen and Diane LaMountain.

2. Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda:

It was moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Halm to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Mrs. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Thompson to approve the minutes of August 17, 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Hearings

A. Amendment to the Future Land Use Map – Solar Technology Overlay District.

Mr. Sika stated that in March, 2010, the Planning Commission amended the Future Land Use Map regarding the Solar Technology Overlay District. At that time, a preliminary study by the Township Engineer was reviewed and it became apparent that the sanitary sewer capacity at the time was limited. At the July, 2011 Planning Commission meeting, a site plan was approved to begin construction of the Solar Technology Park. Included in the construction will be a new sanitary sewer lift station. Due to the new lift station, it is proposed to expand the Solar Technology Overlay District and expand the Future Land Use Map to reflect the increased capacity in the sanitary sewer system in the area.

Mr. Bintz then asked for public comments in favor or in opposition to this proposed amendment to the Future Land Use Map. There were no public comments.

Motion by Mrs. McDonald, supported by Mr. Iamurri to approve the amendment to the Future Land Use Map extending the Solar Technology Overlay district as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Presentations – None.

7. Sign Board of Appeals – None.

8. Old Business

Mr. Sika updated the Planning Commission members on the Gratiot Road streetlight project. J. Ranck Electric will be starting the bases the week of September 26, 2011 and anticipate completion of all ninety-eight (98) bases by the end of October.

9. New Business

A. Discussion Only – Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance – Confirm the Establishment of a Planning Commission with Zoning Authority.

Mr. Sika stated that in 2008, Senate Bill No. 206, the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, was passed. Although our current ordinance text complies with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Otto Brandt, Township Attorney, feels that we could make it more in line with the updated planning laws with these changes.

Section 10-30-2 of the Thomas Township Zoning Ordinance regulates the creation, membership, organization, procedures, compensation and meeting dates of the Planning Commission. This proposed amendment would update this section.

It was the consensus of the Planning Commission members to schedule this proposed text amendment for the next available Planning Commission meeting.

10. Adjournment:

Motion by Mr. Halm, seconded by Mrs. McDonald to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting date is Wednesday, ***October 19, 2011.***

Respectfully submitted by Susan Coggin, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer