

Minutes

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609

May 18, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Ruth McDonald called the Planning Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present in addition to Mrs. McDonald were: Rick Lorentzen, Chris Thompson, Dale Halm and Rod Iamurri. Also present were Dan Sika, Director of Community Development and Susan Coggin, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer.

Members Absent: John Bintz and Diane LaMountain.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
2. **Approval of Agenda:**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes:**

It was moved by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Halm to approve the minutes of April 20, 2011 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Hearings** – None.

1. **Presentations** – None.
2. **Sign Board of Appeals** – None.
3. **Old Business** – None.
4. **New Business:**
5. ***Discussion Only – Proposed Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance – Chapter 1, Section 10-1-2-A – Prohibited Uses.***

Mr. Sika stated that the Township Attorney, Otto Brandt, had recommended that a definition for prohibited uses be added to the Zoning Ordinance. This definition covers Thomas Township from any use not specifically permitted or any use which is unlawful by state or federal law or local ordinance.

Discussion followed among the Planning Commission members regarding the proposed text amendment. The Planning Commission instructed the Community Development staff to schedule and publish this proposed text amendment for a public hearing to be held on June 15, 2011.

1. ***Discussion Only – Proposed Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance – Chapter 25, Section 10-25-2-D – Public Hearing Notifications.***

Mr. Sika stated that this proposed change to the Zoning Ordinance, Section 10-25-2-D, is regarding public hearing notifications. The previous requirements stated the following: “The notice shall be given not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) days before the date the application will be considered. “ The new requirement is for one (1) notice not less than 15 days before the date that the application will be considered.

Discussion followed among the Planning Commission members regarding the proposed text amendment. The Planning Commission instructed the Community Development staff to schedule and publish this proposed text amendment for a public hearing to be held on June 15, 2011.

1. ***Committee Recommended Name Change – Thomas Township Business/Organization of the Year Award.***

Mr. Sika stated that at the April Planning Commission meeting, Chris Thompson raised a concern regarding the name “Business of the Year” being given to both business and services organizations including churches. A committee was formed and on Tuesday, May 11, 2011, the committee of Planning Commission members including Chris Thompson, Ruth McDonald, Rod Iamurri and Director of Community Development, Dan Sika met. After discussion, the committee is recommending to the Planning Commission that the award name be changed from the Thomas Township Business of the Year Award to the Thomas Township Business/Organization of the Year Award.

Motion by Mr. Halm, supported by Mr. Lorentzen to approve the name change from Thomas Township Business of the Year Award to Thomas Township Business/Organization of the Year Award. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **Adjournment:**

Motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Iamurri to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. The next meeting date is Wednesday, ***June 15, 2011.***

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