



Minutes

THOMAS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Thomas Township Public Safety Building, 8215 Shields Drive, Saginaw, MI 48609
June 18, 2014 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: Rod Iamurri, Chris Thompson, Rick Lorentzen Ruth McDonald, and Diane LaMountain. Absent was Dale Halm. Also present were Dan Sika, Director of Community Development, Connie Watt, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer and one interested party.

1. *Call to Order and Roll Call*

2. *Pledge of Allegiance.*

3. *Approval of Agenda:*

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

4. *Approval of Minutes:*

It was moved by Thompson seconded by LaMountain to approve the minutes of April 16, 2014 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

5. *Communications – Petitions – Citizens Comments – None.*

6. *Hearings-A. Amendment to the General Ordinance-Title 3-Chapter 3, Section 3-3-5 Storage of Refuse Prior to Collection.*

A Public Hearing was opened by Chairman Bintz at 7:05 p.m. after his reading of the General Ordinance Chapter 3, Title 3; Solid Waste Collection. In addition the text amendment to Section 3-3-5 was introduced. The amendment shall read as follows;

3-3-5: STORAGE OF REFUSE PRIOR TO COLLECTION: No person shall place any solid waste, yard waste or recyclables in any public place or upon any private property whether owned by such person or not, within the Township unless it is in proper containers for collection. Nor shall any person throw or deposit any refuse in any stream or other body of water. Any unauthorized accumulation of refuse on any premises is hereby Declared to be a nuisance and is prohibited.

Solid waste, yard waste, and recyclables may not be placed at the curb more than twenty four (24) hours in advance of the scheduled pickup time.

In all districts, except in agricultural uses, all trash cans, waste material, debris, refuse, recycling, yard waste, or garbage shall be kept in an enclosed building which is constructed of the same materials as the principal structure or properly contained in a closed container designed for such purposes. Containers must be stored indoors or be fully hidden from view from the road as well as adjacent neighbors. The owner of vacant land shall be responsible for keeping such land free of refuse.

After review, Chairman Bintz asked for any Public Comment. There was none and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m. Sika explained that the need for the text amendment has arisen out of the number of complaints received regarding property owners who use the front of the garage as a storage area for trash containers. In order to address the problem, the proposed changes to the ordinance were made. Motion Thompson, supported by Iamurri to recommended approval of the proposed text amendment to the Thomas Township General Ordinance, Title 3, Chapter 3, Section 3-3-5 Storage of Refuse Prior to Collection. The motion carried unanimously

7. Presentations-None

8. Sign Board of Appeals – None.

9. Old Business

A. 2014 Business /Organization of the Year.

A review of the spreadsheet with the points each Business/Organization received for 2014 was discussed. All members were pleased to see the results of the overall votes.

B-Discussion Only of Proposed Amendment to General Ordinance Section

4-7-2 Unauthorized Display of Vehicles for Sale.

Discussion was held concerning the proposed text amendment to the General Ordinance, Section 4-7-2 concerning Unauthorized Display of Vehicles for Sale. Director of Community Development Sika advised the Planning Commission that this amendment is to part of the General Ordinance and would not have a Grandfather Clause. It would affect all equally and help us to adapt to the problem at hand of more than two (2) vehicles being sold per year on any parcel of land. Sika added this would be set up for Public Hearing in July.

C-Discussion Only Proposed Amendment to General Ordinance Chapter 1, Sidewalk Construction and Maintenance of Title 6 Public Ways and Property.

Sika explained that this is a synopsis of the existing ordinance and a portion of it is being clarified for readers to clearly understand the necessity for removing/plowing snow and/or ice from their sidewalks and that if the sidewalk becomes damaged repair needs to be done. He added that a Public Hearing will take place on this proposed amendment in July.

10. New Business

A. Capital Improvement Plan

Sika explained that the Capital Improvement Plan was a review of what funding has been requested for. The Planning Commission has the duty of reviewing the Plan before it goes on to the Thomas Township Board. This is what was done back in March by the Planning Commission, at that time for the Parks and recreation Department. Motion by Iamurri, support by McDonald to approve the Capital Improvement Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Attendance for the July 23, 2014 Meeting.

Sika questioned the Planning Commission members as to who would be present at the July meeting. This due to two (2) Public Hearings that will take place at that meeting. All members present believe at this time that they will be in attendance.

11. Receive and File All Correspondence

A. Planning and Zoning News March 2014

B. Planning and Zoning News April 2014

12. Adjournment

Motion by Thompson, seconded by Iamurri to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. ***The next meeting date is July 23, 2014.***

Respectfully submitted by Connie Watt, Planning Assistant/Code Enforcement Officer