

MINUTES OF A WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ZION CITY COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2008, AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ZION, ILLINOIS

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Mayor Harrison called the meeting to order.

On call of the roll the following answered present: Commissioners Taylor, Bennett, DeTienne, Flammini and Mayor Harrison.

AGENDA CHANGE

It was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini to discuss the agenda items in the following order: 1) animal licensing procedures, 2) sign ordinance, and 3) strategic planning for the eastside.

The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Bennett, aye; DeTienne, aye; Flammini, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

ANIMAL LICENSING PROCEDURES

Larry Pannell proposed amending the procedures for animal licensing. There are 700 animals in the database, and the \$5.00 per animal charge doesn't cover administrative costs. Mr. Pannell proposed either 1) increasing fees and changing the license fee structure or 2) eliminating animal licensing. Mayor Harrison stated immunizations conducted outside of Lake County are not accepted by the County of Lake, and recommended eliminating this program. Chief Booth stated the Police Department doesn't need this program, noting the Animal Control Officer transports unidentified animals to Orphans of the Storm. Commissioner Bennett stated if the Police don't rely on animal tags, then the county's rabies tags are sufficient. Mayor Harrison noted 9 out of 11 communities polled don't have animal tags. Randy Knorr, Animal Control Officer, stated dogs can be identified through the City tag, if the dog isn't wearing its rabies tag, however, he noted that 50% of the dogs have county tags and 20% have Zion tags. Officer Knorr noted the cost for the county's rabies tags have significantly increased.

It was moved by Commissioner DeTienne, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve eliminating the animal licensing, registration and fee procedures effective April 1, 2008, and for an ordinance to be prepared accordingly. The vote on roll call was: Commissioners Taylor, aye; Bennett, aye; DeTienne, aye; Flammini, aye; and Mayor Harrison, aye. Motion carried.

SIGN ORDINANCE

Based on legal counsel recommendation, John Jones recommended the following:

1. All residential signs need to be governed by the same regulations regarding size, height, quantity, location and removal.
2. Signs on rights of way and public property must be regulated and/or prohibited the same regardless of the type of sign.

Commissioner Taylor questioned the current application process and criteria for signs on public property. Mr. Jones stated the application requires the Mayor's signature and allows not for profit, community based activities or events. Commissioner Flammini noted all signs must meet the same criteria. Mr. Jones questioned the Council's intent for signs owned by the City. Commissioner Flammini stated the businesses and the City jointly purchased the downtown business sandwich board signs. Ron Colangelo noted the rights of way along Sheridan Road and Route 173 are under the jurisdiction of the State. Mayor Harrison suggested allowing signs on public property for businesses in Central Business and Highway Business districts.

The Council agreed not to make any changes to the current sign regulations and procedures, therefore, no action was taken.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR ZION

Delaine Rogers presented an overview of the City of Zion’s past economic development and anticipated growth. The areas of growth were broken into the following:

- West side – new subdivisions
- Route 173 & Green Bay Road corridor – commercial focus
- Lewis Avenue – retail and service development
- Sheridan Road – retail business
- In fill – addressing individual lots throughout the City
- East side – industrial redirect

Ms. Rogers proposed strategic focuses and measures for Zion property on the east side:

1. Meetings to be conducted between City officials and key companies, developers and individuals
2. Complete survey
3. Choose a focus
4. Review and identify goals
5. Assign tasks
6. Direct staff to proceed with tasks
7. Establish accountability
8. Meet with Commonwealth Edison/Exelon
9. Discuss spent fuel storage
10. Address electric high wires
11. Determine demolition fees with legal team
12. Designate main entry on 25th Street
13. Gain consensus for high density residential
14. Determine entertainment component
15. Include retail mix in plan
16. TIF funds and cost of planning

Commissioner Flammini recommended the City start negotiating with Exelon and Energy Solutions as soon as possible.

The Council agreed to the following strategy:

1. Establish what is needed on Zion’s eastside, in order to properly negotiate with Exelon,
2. Meet with Exelon officials, including other appropriate officials and representatives, in order to ascertain all wants and needs for the area,
3. In cooperation with the State, include public accessibility planning, connecting park areas along lakefront,
4. Design an RFP, so an overall plan can be presented to Exelon and officials,
5. Consider possible grants to help offset costs,
6. Include concept plan of medium-to-high residential condominiums along with retail development
7. Develop planning guide to help structure project and goals
8. Develop retention program for existing businesses, which would compliment the new growth.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council at this time, it was moved by Commissioner Taylor, seconded by Commissioner Flammini and unanimously approved the meeting be adjourned at 6:11 p.m. Motion carried.

City Clerk

Approved February 5, 2008