

CITY OF HARBOR SPRINGS
PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
June 25, 2015

Vice-Chairperson Smith called the Planning Commission Meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of City Hall, 160 Zoll Street, Harbor Springs, MI 49740.

1. Roll Call and Verification of a Quorum

Present: Jeanne Benjamin, Andrew Bowman, John Cupps, Jack Deegan, Jeff Ford, Lee Kramer, Sara Smith and Carrie Wiggins

Absent: Fred Walstrom

Also Present: City Manager Thomas C. Richards and City Clerk Ronald B. McRae

City Clerk McRae acknowledged that a quorum was present.

2. Public Comments and Correspondence

City Manager Richards stated that a letter was received from Marie Lyons in favor of permitting outdoor dining in Harbor Springs.

3. Proposed Ordinance to Amend the City Code to Allow Outdoor Dining

City Manager Richards asked the Planning Commissioners to review the draft Ordinance to amend the City of Harbor Springs Code to allow outdoor dining in the public right-of-way.

Commissioner Bowman questioned the distance required for the pedestrian traffic. Commissioner Bowman stated that the distance on East Main Street should be seventy-two (72) inches. However the distance reserved for the pedestrian traffic on East Bay Street, East Third Street and State Street should be sixty (60) inches.

[Enter Deegan at 5:05 p.m.]

Commissioner Wiggins stated that the closing times for the outdoor dining cafés should be the same as the Hotel Janelle's hours of operations for their outdoor dining areas. The consensus of the Planning Commissioners agreed with Commissioner Wiggins.

Commissioner Bowman stated that there should be no reference to selling liquor. The City should default to the State of Michigan, Liquor Control Commission requirements. The consensus of the Planning Commissioners present concurred with Commissioner Bowman.

City Manager Richards stated that he would pass the concerns and amendments to the proposed ordinance to amend the City Code to Mr. Nix.

4. Consideration to Schedule a Public Hearing

City Manager Richards stated that the City's Zoning Code would need to be changed to enable the establishment of an Ordinance to permit and regulate outdoor (sidewalk café) dining. City Manager Richards stated that businesses operating an outdoor dining area in the Central Business District (the "CBD") would be operating outside of their buildings. The current Zoning Code does not allow any business to be conducted outside of the business structure.

City Manager Richards stated that in order for the Ordinance to amend the City's Zoning Code to be considered for recommendation to City Council, a public hearing is required. The Planning Commissioners discussed this issue briefly. After the discussion the following motion was offered:

Motion by Bowman, second by Cupps, to hold a public hearing during the July 16, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting on an Ordinance to amend the City's Zoning Code to allow business to be conducted outside of the structure housing the business.

Ayes – 8
Nays – 0

Motion carried.

5. Adjournment

With no further business, Vice-Chairperson Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:22 p.m.

Ronald B. McRae, City Clerk