Barry County Planning Commission Meeting Minutes April 22, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson John LaForge in the Community Room of the Tyden Center located at 121 South Church Street in Hastings. The Planning Commission members in attendance included: LaForge, Jack Miner, Jack Nadwornik, Joyce Snow and Juli Sala. Dave Hatfield was absent. Those also in attendance included: Jim McManus, Julie Jordan and other interested people.

Motion by Snow to approve the agenda as printed. Support by Sala. All ayes – motion carried.

Motion by Sala to approve the minutes of March 25, 2024. Support by Miner. All ayes - motion carried.

BUSINESS

Special Use

LaForge explained the procedures of a public hearing.

Case No. SP-05-2024 Julie Jordan (Applicant)
Greg & Lisa Flower (Property Owner)

LaForge recessed the Planning Commission, opened the public hearing, and asked Jordan to present the request.

Jordan said she wants to purchase Flower House. She noted she is currently employed at the facility, and she has been running it in preparation for the sale.

LaForge verified the request is to transfer the Special Use Permit. Jordan agreed.

LaForge asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the request. There was no response.

LaForge asked if anyone was opposed. There was no response.

LaForge closed the public hearing and reconvened the Planning Commission.

Snow asked if Jordan would keep the facility as it is. Jordan said yes.

Motion by Snow to approve Case No SP-05-2024. Support by Miner. All ayes – motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

Planned Mineral Removal

McManus noted the second draft was distributed to the Planning Commission. He asked if the Planning Commission had any other comments. There were no comments.

McManus said he would like to set up public review to gather public comments about the ordinance and the plan is to implement the ordinance into the new Zoning Ordinance. He suggested using July for the public forum.

Motion by Nadwornik to schedule a public forum for the Planned Mineral Removal Ordinance for the July Planning Commission meeting. Support by Sala. All ayes – motion carried.

McManus noted the Board of Commissioners has authorized the county attorney to draft a Solar and Alternative Energy Ordinance. He said the ordinance should be completed by mid May, and the board will schedule an educational forum after that. McManus said he wanted to hold the June meeting date for a public hearing for the Solar Ordinance if the timing worked out.

LaForge asked about mini nuclear reactors. McManus said they will not be included in the proposed ordinance.

McManus provided an update of the Brownfield Authority and noted that a project in Nashville has been approved. He noted another project may be reviewed for the old Mid-Villa site.

McManus also noted the Land Bank is active, and the housing project in Delton may qualify for that too.

McManus noted the county is pursuing a project involving sawmills and their waste products in an effort to recruit new business for the county. He commented that several of the recently approved Amish sawmills were not included in the federal database.

McManus thanked Miner and Snow for their years of service. The three new Planning Commission appointees introduced themselves to the current Planning Commission.

Motion to adjourn by Miner, Support by Snow. All ayes - motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Jack Nadwornik,

Secretary