



**CITY OF NEWPORT  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
NEWPORT CITY HALL  
August 10, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Anthony Mahmood called the Planning Commission Meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. on August 10, 2021.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present (5): Chair Anthony Mahmood, Commissioner Brandon Leyde, Commissioner Maria Bonilla, Commissioner Tami Fuelling, and Commissioner Michael Kermes.

Not Present (0): None.

**3. MEETING MINUTES**

**A. July 13, 2021**

Commissioner Leyde motioned to approve the Planning Commission Minutes from July 13, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Bonilla. Approved 5-0.

**4. PUBLIC HEARING- Mississippi River Critical Corridor Area (MRCCA)**

City Planner Harry Davis stated the Minnesota DRN has requested changes to the MRCCA ordinance to clarify definitions and requirements along with the revised formula for patios and porches. The changes include minor word changes to the bluff definition.

Chair Mahmood opened the public hearing at 5:31 p.m. on August 10, 2021.

Bill Sumner, residing at 737 21<sup>st</sup> Street, addressed the Commission. Mr. Sumner stated he looked at the proposed changes to the MRCCA ordinance and is in favor of approving them.

Chair Mahmood closed the public hearing at 5:32 p.m. on August 10, 2021.

Commissioner Leyde inquired if we were able to answer the past questions from a resident about the high-level mark. Assistant to the City Administrator Travis Brierley stated the ordinary high-water mark is defined by an elevation.

Commissioner Leyde motioned to recommend the updated MRCCA Ordinance to City Council for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Fuelling. Approved 5-0.

**5. PUBLIC HEARING- Fence Ordinance**

Planner Davis stated the City Council has requested changes to the fence ordinance to allow additional materials for fences, require permits for new fences, and to address fences in the right-of-way and easements. Planner Davis stated the surrounding communities are more accommodating with fence materials as they are more concerned with “quality” materials. The proposed change would remove the list of specific materials and the final call would reside with the City Administrator. City Administrator Deb Hill stated residents have requested to use vinyl fencing which was not on the approved material list and therefore could not be allowed.

Chair Mahmood opened the public hearing at 5:39 p.m. on August 10, 2021.

Bill Sumner, residing at 737 21<sup>st</sup> Street addressed the Commission. Mr. Sumner stated he was concerned with the barbed wire section of the ordinance. He believes the barbed wire should protrude away from the business and not towards the business like the ordinance states. Also, regarding fences in the front yard, Mr. Sumner inquired what was meant by the section to allow signage or lettering that is not visible to the public street or adjacent properties.

Planner Davis stated the barbed wire was existing language within the code. Assistant Brierley stated the barbed wire protruding toward the business has to do with visibility and makes for a cleaner appearance.

Chair Mahmood closed the public hearing at 5:50 p.m. on August 10, 2021.

The Commission discussed having signage or lettering on fences what the community standards should be. The Commission agreed that for consistency and clarity we should revert to the original language for signage and lettering. Planner Davis clarified it would read “a fence in the front yard shall be of one color or pattern and may not contain signage or lettering that is visible to a public street or to adjacent properties.

Commissioner Leyde motioned to recommend the updated fence ordinance as presented with amendments to City Council for approval. Seconded by Commissioner Kermes. Approved 5-0.

**6. COMMISSION REPORTS**

None

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Leyde motioned to adjourn the Planning Commission Meeting. Seconded by Chair Mahmood. Approved 5-0.

The Planning Commission Meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m. on August 10, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Jill Thiesfeld,  
Administrative Assistant II

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Anthony Mahmood, Chairman