

REGULAR NORWALK PLANNING AND ZONING MEETING 06-22-2020

Call to order

The regular meeting of the Norwalk Planning and Zoning Commission was held electronically due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) State of Emergency WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 372.14(2) and the Norwalk City Code Chapter 15.02(2) grant the Mayor powers in emergency circumstances when public danger exists to take extraordinary steps to protect the public health and safety; therefore, all in attendance met via google hangout, Monday, June 22, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. by Chairperson Judy McConnell. Those present at roll call were, AJ Samuelson, John Fraser and Elizabeth Thompson, Donna Grant and Megan Regennitter. Absent: Zach Webster

Staff present included: Elliot Klimowski, City Planner, Luke Parris, Community Development Director and Hillarie Ramthun, Community Development Coordinator.

Approval of Agenda – 20-47

Grant made a motion to approve the Agenda and Thompson seconded. Approved 6-0

Approval of the June 8, 2020 Minutes – 20-48

Fraser motioned to approve the June 8, 2020 Minutes and Samuelson seconded. Approved 6-0

Welcome of Guests

There were 3 guests present by computer and phone; with no one wishing to speak, the business portion of the meeting was opened.

New Business

Public hearing and recommendation for a Zoning Amendment related to standard garage dimensions —20-49

Public hearing opened at 5:47 p.m.

This Zoning Amendment is in regards to the required garage sizes in residential zoning districts according to the City of Norwalk Zoning Ordinance. Currently the ordinance requires two-car garages for all single-family and two-family structures and garages must be 22 feet in width and 20 feet deep. The proposed amendment would modify the requirement to an overall square footage of 440 square feet. This topic has been proposed previously with Planning & Zoning recommendation sent to Council but has not been approved at Council. At a May 21, 2020 Council meeting, the topic was discussed and concern was voiced by a Council member regarding the possibility of a single car garage that would be double deep on a lot. The motion for the 440 square foot requirement was approved at that meeting but ultimately failed when voted on. At the June 4, 2020 Council meeting, a member asked if the 440 square foot requirement could be reconsidered and the City Attorney advised that it go back to Planning & Zoning for a public hearing and recommendation in order for Council to reconsider the item. Staff revised the proposed amendment to include the minimum width for consideration.

Public hearing closed at 5:53 p.m.

The Planning & Zoning Commission expressed concern that recommendations are not being considered at Council and feel like they are not being heard.

Grant made a motion to approve the amendment related to garage dimensions with the recommendation of 440 square feet with a minimum width of 20 feet. Samuelson seconded.

Approved 5-1, Fraser voted Nay due to not understanding why a lot could not contain a single-car, double deep garage when the lots are becoming more narrow in developments.

City Council Update- No update, discussed the reason the garage dimensions zoning amendment failed and was brought back to P&Z

Economic Development Update- None

Community Development Update- Upcoming joint P&Z/Council meeting to be held June 29, 2020 to discuss Comprehensive Plan. Shadow Creek Preliminary Plat to come forward next meeting.

Next meeting Date –July 13, 2020

Adjournment – 20-50

Motion by Thompson and seconded by Fraser to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m.
Approved 6-0

Judy McConnell, Chairperson

Elliot Klimowski, City Planner

Date: _____