

**CITY OF IRON RIVER
REGULAR MEETING
PLANNING COMMISSION
Thursday, August 10, 2017
9 AM
Minutes**

Chairman Rick Commenator called the meeting to order at 9 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Iron River City Hall. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Pete Djupe, Jere Fritsche, Bob Byczek, Jr., Mary McCreary and Commenator.

Absent: Darren Mercier

Also present: City Attorney Mark Tousignant, City Manager/Zoning Administrator David Thayer and City Clerk Rachel Andreski.

Public in attendance:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVE AGENDA

Fritsche moved, with support from Djupe, to approve the Agenda as written.

All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Mercier.

APPROVE MINUTES

Djupe moved, Byczek supported, to approve the June 8, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Mercier.

Fritsche moved, Djupe seconded, to approve the June 19, 2017 Special Meeting Minute. All in favor; Motion carried. Absent: Mercier.

REPORTS

Manager's Report: Thayer reserved his comments for the Zoning Ordinance rewrite.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Discussion on Zoning Ordinance Rewrite: Thayer feels the current draft can be given to the public for review. He requested the group review it for practicality, or how does this apply in the real world. Thayer stated the Commission needs to reconsider having a separate Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and strongly feels the Council should perform the duties. A ZBA hearing was held last night in which the public in attendance had a mob like mentality. The bottom line is the decision affects people's real life. Thayer felt he did not have the authority to grant Melissa Passamani the request for 15 children for a daycare center rather than the 6 he had previously approved. Thayer stated that because the group meets so infrequent, it is difficult to inform and

train. Thayer again stated he strongly recommends the Council assume the ZBA duties and wants the Commission to think on it over the course of the next month.

Thayer recommends the next meeting should include a public hearing and held in the evening. It will be advertised well in advance, along with copies of the draft ordinance available for review. Fritsche added that when a reference to sections are made, follow through to check for accuracy.

Capital Improvement Plan – 1st Year through 3rd Year (6 Year Plan): Thayer provided a revised version of the Capital Improvement Plan for the first three years. He has updated the status of items as it happens, and has date coded the document to determine the most current draft. Three construction project bids were received yesterday. Bids came in a bit higher than anticipated, however, because of the time of year, contractors are busy. Thayer feels it may be more advantageous to bid projects during the winter months. Commentator asked if the contracts will be awarded. Thayer stated they will, but he will have to make a few minor adjustments.

By April, Thayer wants to have the full six-year document to supply to Council. Commentator requested the members of the body do an individual analysis of the streets and prioritize their list to present to the Commission where a compiled list will be made.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Districts Map: Thayer has completed and presented his draft of the Zoning District Map. When Thayer looked at the overall space, he kept in mind what wants to be achieved 20 years in the future. The City owns lots that can be sold to be placed on the tax roll. Once the group has provided their input, Thayer will have it printed and smaller copies available. Djupe questioned Thayer on his opinion of growth in the community. Thayer responded that he has noticed a surge in population, however, there is not adequate housing. Lack of storage facilities is another concern.

Thayer added that PA 51 monies are supposed to increase in the next few years, however, he questions where the funds will come from. Byczek asked if there is a sales tax the City can instill. Thayer responded not without the Legislature's permission, but felt it's not worth pursuing. An income tax is possible, but would have to go to the public for approval.

PUBLIC COMMENT

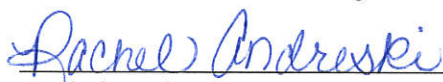
None.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Commentator adjourned at 10:06 a.m.



Rachel Andreski, City Clerk