

**CITY OF EYOTA
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 15, 2015**

Present: Members: Barry Karsjens, Janet Hughes, Lief Hughes and Casey Johnson
Council Rep Ray Schuchard Secretary: Marlis Knowlton

Absent: Member Chad Ohl and Council Rep Bryan Cornell

Call to Order: Chair Barry Karsjens called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Approve Agenda: Motion was made by Janet Hughes and seconded by Lief Hughes to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Minutes: Motion was made by Janet Hughes and seconded by Lief Hughes to approve the May 21, 2015 regular meeting minutes. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Sign Ordinance: The Council had asked the Commission to review the sign ordinance, (Ordinance 128, amending Ord. #53 Zoning Ord, Section 8.14 relating to signs) specifically the maximum height for a freestanding sign in commercial zones – forty feet high, is that excessive. The Commission discussed existing signs, compared heights of other features to possible future signs, pros and cons, and agreed retail businesses need to be seen to attract customers and to succeed. Motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Janet Hughes to leave the ordinance as written, forty feet maximum. Karsjens, Johnson and Janet Hughes voted in favor. Lief Hughes voted opposed. Ayes 3, Nays 1. Motion carried.

Awnings:

The Commission also discussed awnings in the downtown commercial area in reference to the Historic Downtown Business Incentive for Revitalization Projects with offers funds to businesses to improve the facades, including purchases of awnings. The Commission considered regulating awnings in an ordinance; but concluded it could be addressed in the Incentive documentation. The goal would be for awnings to be of a reasonable and standard size, and of consistent appearance being compatible to a historical downtown. Knowlton will pass this information on to the Economic Development Authority and Director.

Schedule Special Meeting for Stone Garden Estates Final Plat: The Commission briefly discussed pros and cons to sidewalks in new residential subdivisions. John Keefe will be submitting the final plat for approval for his Stone Garden Estates subdivision in northwest Eyota; a special meeting is being requested in order to speed up the process as Keefe hopes to grade and install utilities yet this fall. Motion was made by Janet Hughes and seconded by Lief Hughes to schedule a special Planning Commission meeting to review John Keefe's Stone Garden Estates final plat on October 29, 2015, 7:00 pm at City Hall. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.

Economic Development District: Knowlton updated the Commission on the Economic Development Authority's process of establishing an Economic Development District in the downtown areas of Eyota.

Public Dances Ordinance: The Commission quickly reviewed the existing public dance ordinance and all agreed it needs to be updated. Commission requested it be on the next agenda. Comments were also made that the Commission should start reviewing other out dated ordinances and update them as time allows.

Other Business: Future meetings will be the third Thursday of the month.

Adjourn: Motion was made by Janet Hughes and seconded by Lief Hughes to adjourn. Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried. Meeting was declared adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Marlis Knowlton
Clerk/Treasurer