



CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
407 Clinton Street - P.O. Box 4159
Delaware City, Delaware 19706
302-834-4573

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
CITY OF DELAWARE CITY
MAY 2, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Dilliplane called to order the regular meeting of the Planning Commission (PC) at 7:00 p.m. Those present included Commissioners Snow, Hendry, Dilliplane, Renoll, and Williams. City Manager Cathcart was also in attendance.

ACTION ON THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 4, 2016 Planning Commission meeting as written. Commissioner Snow seconded the motion. There was no discussion. A vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

NEW SIGN ORDINANCE – PUBLIC INPUT

Commissioner Dilliplane announced that he had received an email from Assistant City Clerk Clifton saying that the interim sign ordinance, which would have brought Delaware City into compliance with the U. S. Supreme Court ruling, was not passed at the last Mayor and Council meeting. City Manager Cathcart said he did not know why the Council decided not to approve the new ordinance. Commissioner Hendry said he was at the Council meeting and there was no discussion before the vote. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Dilliplane asked if there were any members of the public to make comments regarding the sign ordinance. There were no members of the public

present to discuss the sign ordinance. He asked the other commissioners if they could have a round table discussion about what steps they should take at this time. Commissioner Williams said he had been to Kathy's Crab house for dinner and reminded Kathy Wisowaty that there was a public hearing regarding signs tonight. Ms. Wisowaty was not in attendance.

Discussion occurred regarding the following: signs that protrude from a structure rather than being mounted flatly on the wall; proliferation of signs in residential areas that was brought to the attention of the PC last month by Bob Malinowski; permanent signs as opposed to temporary signs on property that is zoned residential; clarifying the definition of a directional sign; grandfathered signs; whether laser lights should be addressed under signs. City Manager Cathcart said his understanding is that the Council did not want to approve the ordinance until the PC had rewritten the sign ordinance, which included the language drafted by City Solicitor Walton. He said that is why he would like to have the City Solicitor at the June Planning Commission meeting. Discussion followed.

The commissioners agreed that they should have a mission/purpose written within the new ordinance. They thought they could start with the statement in the draft ordinance that says, "It's in the best interest of the City, necessary to enhance the health, safety, welfare of the City of Delaware City especially as to traffic safety and the city's aesthetic appeal". Discussion followed.

Commissioner Dilliplane asked the commissioners to use the existing sign ordinance and the draft ordinance to research definitions and to determine any changes they feel would be necessary. They should plan to discuss this at the June meeting of the PC when the City Solicitor is present. City Manager Cathcart recommended that they also go on line to review the sign ordinances and mission statements of other cities and municipalities. The commissioners were reminded that Delaware City used the definitions written by Lewes for their sign ordinance. Discussion followed.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Snow made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. A vote was taken, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn K. Gwynn

City Secretary