

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 10, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Swetlik called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

In Attendance at Roll Call: Chairman Swetlik; Commissioners Carlson, Consorti, Loitz, Walker.

Absent: Commissioners Hanson, Lorenzo.

Also Present: Building Commissioner Habecker.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to approve the May 13, 2015, Public Hearing Minutes, as presented.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Loitz, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve the May 13, 2015, Planning and Development Commission Meeting minutes, as presented.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING REPORTS

Chairman Swetlik attended the Board meeting on May 18th. The Fire Department made some internal promotions: Art Schweitzer and Glen Schlessner were both promoted to Captain. The Village Sticker Ordinance raising sticker prices was discussed. The Planning and Development recommendation for 587-589 N. Williams Street was approved by the Board. Lastly, there was a presentation from Straight Shots to bring a gun range into Thornton and the sale of firearms.

Commissioner Carlson attended the June 1 Board meeting. The Village sworn in two newly hired full-time police officers. Attorney Dillner discussed at length the creation of a new TIF which would include the distillery area and the Village Hall. Administrator Beckman presented for approval the Village sticker ordinances. There was discussion of Chicago Heights water bills issued to Thornton; and approval of a new A/C unit for the Police Department.

FENCE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Chairman Swetlik stated the Commission received a memo from Building Commissioner Habecker with his recommendations. Since two commissioners are missing this evening, Chairman Swetlik suggested discussing the fence ordinance at the next meeting. Commissioner Carlson originally brought up the subject because the Commission has so many variance requests for fences. Upon reading the ordinance and cross checking where the word fence comes up in the Code, he would tend to go with what is already being used. It gives the Commission leeway when there is a variance submitted. It's purposely a little vague.

Chairman Carlson believed the Building Commissioner's recommendations make sense; but where the minimum diameter of the post holes and the depth is discussed, it states the holes are six inches in diameter. Would this be for wooden and cyclone posts which are usually set in concrete? Building Commissioner Habecker responded the six inches gives room for the concrete. Commissioner Carlson also believed it's a good idea to have the structural supports on the inside.

One other area Building Commissioner Habecker thought was important is there is nothing that prohibits two fences going back to back. In the past, the resident is not allowed to put up a fence if there is a fence there already. This way it's much clearer. Language is needed to say, if there is a fence there, you can't put one up.

Building Commissioner Habecker also felt the Commission should discuss how far from the property line is allowable. Discussion was then had on surveys – whether they may be required or not. Building Commissioner Habecker stated in Construction Standards, Section 7-8-3, part E, it talks about maintenance of fences and says any violation thereof in accordance with the rules of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois. That language would need to be updated eventually because Thornton has an adjudication process now.

Chairman Swetlik commented the Commission will support the recommendations by Building Commissioner Habecker. He will ask for this discussion to continue at the next meeting so all the Commissioners may be present.

PRIDE IN PROPERTY UPDATE

Commissioner Loitz stated Commissioner Hanson and she will probably start to put a list together in the beginning of July. Chairman Swetlik asked the other commissioners to provide Commissioner Loitz with any addresses that might qualify for the award.

OLD BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

No report.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Consorti, to adjourn the Commission Meeting.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

Chairman Swetlik adjourned the Commission Meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Jonathan Swetlik, Chairman

Debra L. Pisarzewski, Village Clerk