

VILLAGE OF THORNTON, COUNTY OF COOK
MINUTES OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Swetlik called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to approve the June 10, 2015, Planning and Development Commission Meeting minutes, as presented.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING REPORTS

Commissioner Carlson attended the June 15 Village Board meeting wherein the ESDA room at the Community Center was dedicated and renamed in honor of the late John Levon. The May, 2015, Financial Report was presented by the Treasurer. Attorney Dillner spoke about establishing a new TIF area. The Prevailing Wage Ordinance was discussed and approved. The Village Sticker Ordinance was amended and approved, changing the date to coincide with the fiscal year; and also the senior age and the number of discounts per household was clarified.

Commissioner Carlson reported, at the July 6 meeting, there was a lengthy report by the Village Engineer about unfunded mandates by MWRD regarding sewer water and storm water management. Thornton has done much of these requirements already. The Appropriation Ordinance was passed. The Village adopted the 2014 National Plumbing Code Ordinance by reference, so we don't have to include the voluminous book. Also, the Board voted to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with MWRD whereby they are offering up to four free rain barrels per residence at no cost. There were 2014 Chicago Heights water bills that were paid while current Chicago Heights water bills were put in escrow. Lastly, repairs were needed at the north pump house totaling \$8,000; and President Kolosh is going on vacation. Commissioner Loitz stated the Village will be having a proclamation for Don Willing at the first Board meeting in August; and Mr. & Mrs. Roberts, who have been married 75 years, are scheduled to be honored at the second Board meeting in August.

FENCE ORDINANCE REVIEW

Chairman Swetlik reported the Commission has had discussions regarding the fence ordinance for the last couple meetings. The Building Commissioner gave the Planning and Development Commission his suggestions for changes to the current code. Commissioner Carlson stated Building Commissioner Habecker mentioned the Village doesn't want to have back-to-back fences, and thought it should be included in the Village Code. After discussion, the Commission decided to re-word Building Commissioner Habecker's first recommendation on the list so it would include no back-to-back fences. These recommendations should be reviewed by the Village Attorney. Another comment Commissioner Carlson made, under the second bullet, perhaps the wording should be changed to "a minimum of four inches" so it could be set back further, but not less. After discussion, it was decided to stick to the four inches. Chairman Swetlik will forward this sheet of recommendations to the Village Administrator, so he can have the Village Attorney review the language.

Motion by Commissioner Carlson, seconded by Commissioner Walker, to forward Building Commissioner Habecker's list of fence code recommendations, including the clarification of the back-to-back fences, to the Village Board.

All in favor.

Motion carried.

PRIDE IN PROPERTY UPDATE

Commissioner Hanson stated, together with Commissioner Loitz, they reviewed the recommendations and currently have nine properties. No businesses are included yet. Their final report will be presented at the next Planning and Development Commission meeting with presentations to be made at the second Board meeting in August.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Loitz asked about having an environmental pickup event. Chairman Swetlik stated Administrator Beckman was trying to work something out with Allied, but received no confirmation from them at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Swetlik stated the Commissioners received a copy of a special use application for 601 Williams Street. Straight Shots had done a preliminary presentation for the Commission a couple months ago. Since then, the property has been sold. The new owner, John Melendez, is requesting permission to open a Collision Repair Center at that location, which would essentially eliminate any plans by Straight Shots to open a gun shop and a portable shooting range on that site. There will be more information about this at the next Planning and Development meeting.

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 7:50 p.m.

Jonathan Swetlik, Chairman

Debra L. Pisarzewski, Village Clerk