



Planning Board Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2015
Council Chambers, City Hall at 7:00 PM

MINUTES
Approved 11/23/2015

Mr. Wahrlich called the meeting to order at 7:06.

I. Roll Call

Present: Jim Neilsen, David Putnam, James Short, Victor Bergeron, Neil Ward, Marilyn Harris, Richard Wahrlich

Absent: William Greenrose, Bruce Kolenda, Chris Belvin

City Staff: Michael McCrory, Interim City Planner

Mr. Wahrlich asked Mr. Putnam to sit in for Mr. Greenrose and Mr. Ward to sit in for Mr. Kolenda.

II. Review of Minutes – October 12, 2015

Motion: To accept the minutes as written.

Made by: Mr. Putnam **Second:** Ms. Harris **Vote:** Unanimous in favor

III. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

IV. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

V. Reports from Boards and Commissions

There were no reports from Boards or Commissions.

VI. Other

a. Workshop – Agriculture, Livestock and Zoning

The focus of the workshop was how to manage agricultural activities in the City.

The Planning & Development Department often receive complaints from citizens about the noise or smell associated with agricultural activities. The current ordinance does not cover agriculture throughout the City. Such activities are allowed in some districts, but the Ordinance is silent on it in other districts. The general presumption in zoning is that if an activity is not addressed, it is not allowed. State statutes, however, state that agricultural activities are allowed everyone so long as Best Management Practices are being followed (RSA 674:32-a) and so long as it is not specifically prohibited in the zoning ordinance.

It would be preferable for the City to adopt specific standards and guidelines to address agricultural activities throughout the City. At present the City must rely on nuisance standards to address the complaints.

Mr. McCrory stated that the UNH Cooperative Extension and the State Department of Agriculture can provide information that will be useful in the preparation of such standards and guidelines. The standards and guidelines will need to address space and shelter for various livestock animals, location of shelters on the property, and manure management for starters. Definitions will also have to be created to assist in enforcement of the standards once they are adopted into the ordinance.

Motion: The PB wishes to review specific guidelines, standards and definitions as part of an agricultural ordinance to help provide a safe and pleasing environment for animals in our community to present to Council so the Council can vote on them.

Made by: Mr. Putnam **Second:** Mr. Short

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The Planning Board supports ordinance changes that will focus on animal welfare in addressing agricultural activities in the City.

Mr. McCrory said that Planning & Development Department Director, Nancy Merrill, had made a presentation to City Council regarding this matter. Comments she received from City Council included:

1. Manure management complaints
2. Odor – define and set standard
3. Roaming animals
4. Difference between personal and commercial
5. Noise
6. Best Management Practices for the animals.

Mr. McCrory will create a draft ordinance to be presented to the Planning Board in the near future.

VII. Correspondence

Correspondence received by the Board included:

1. Alteration of Terrain permit for Mikros Manufacturing Expansion
2. Alteration of Terrain permit for Jewell Transport, Inc.
3. Town & City magazine

VIII. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting

Made by: Mr. Putnam **Second:** Mr. Ward

Vote: Unanimous in favor

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
deForest Bearse
Resource Coordinator