

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE OWOSSO PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING**  
**Monday, July 27, 2020 – 6:30 P.M.**

City Manager Nathan Henne announced the meeting would be held as a Virtual Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, under the authority of Executive Order No. 2020-15 of the Office of the Governor of the State of Michigan.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Wascher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited

**ROLL CALL:** Recording Secretary Tanya Buckelew

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Wascher, Vice-Chair Livingston, Secretary Fear, Commissioners Law, Morris, and Yerian

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioners Jenkins, Robertson and Taylor

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Justin Sprague, CIB Planning, City Manager Nathan Henne, Alex Huff, Smith Group

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**  
**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER LAW TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR July 27, 2020.**

**YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
**MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR LIVINGSTON, SUPPORTED BY SECRETARY FEAR TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR THE June 22, 2020 MEETING.**

**YEAS ALL. MOTION CARRIED.**

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** NONE

**OLD BUSINESS:** NONE

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Master Plan Draft Review**

**The draft Master Plan was presented by Justin Sprague and Alex Huff. The following was discussed:**

- The new plan is focused on future development and the zoning issues (from the 2012 plan) have been moved to the appendix
- Master Plan Goals have been added to guide the policies and actions of the plan

- Framework is new to the plan that includes neighborhoods, centers, corridors, districts and open space
- Economic Development was highlighted for supporting and growing locally-grown business. It means attracting and retaining talented workers and investing in our residents.
- Marketing Strategy Framework was discussed (remove Beautiful location on Lake Huron)
- Areas of the plan are targeted for Westown and Downtown
- Discussion regarding redevelopment opportunities for various parcels
- Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) will be incorporated with the Master Plan
- Next steps involve Planning Commission feedback, ways to present to public during COVID19, there will be a 63-day review period and during the review period all districts/county/utilities will also review the plan, with public hearings being held possibly in November 2020
- City Manager Nathan Henne asked the board to seriously consider the following before sending to council: public safety building renovations, city wide trash initiative and GAP financing for developments
- Planning Commission Dan Law spoke about using the alleys behind the Westown businesses for public as opposed to reduce M-21 down to 3 lanes
- Secretary Fear asked about updating the Census numbers in the plan but the new Census won't be out until 2022
- Justin Sprague stated the plan is about 75% complete to go public but still need the Action and Implementation plan completed.
- Planning Commission members are to review further and get comments to Justin Sprague and Alex Huff within 2 weeks so a new draft can be presented at the September meeting

**OTHER BOARD BUSINESS:**

For the next few meetings, the board will be reviewing the Master Plan, recreational marijuana and the 5 new additional licenses, and a sample chicken ordinance (to allow chickens in the city). A sample chicken ordinance will be presented at the next meeting.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION BY COMMISSIONER LAW, SUPPORTED BY SECRETARY FEAR TO ADJOURN AT 7:49 P.M. UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING ON August 24, 2020.  
YEAS ALL, MOTION CARRIED.**

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Janae L. Fear, Secretary