

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OWOSSO PLANNING COMMISSION

September 24, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wascher at 7:30p.m.

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Baker.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Baker, Mike Bradley, Gary Burk, Dallas Lintner, Francis Livingston, Linda Robertson, Cheryl Voss, Bill Wascher.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Bruff, Tracy Butcher, and two seats unfilled.

MINUTES:

It was moved by Commissioner Robertson and supported by Commissioner Livingston to approve the minutes of the meeting of June 25, 2007 as presented.

YEAS: All, Motion Carried

NAYS: None

SITE PLAN REVIEW: Cass Street curb and stripping modification at Shiawassee Street as a part of the Woodard Station Lofts site plan.

Ronald Baker, City Engineer, described the requested change to the approved site plan. Because MDOT will not move the railroad signal at the southeast corner of the intersection of Cass Street and Shiawassee Street until the old siding track is removed from M-52 roadway until 2012, it is requested that the curb radius at that corner of the intersection be modified to just north of the base of the railroad signal until that signal is moved and that only the centerline stripping be installed to leave a large east bound lane for ease of traffic turning south onto M-52.

It was moved by Commissioner Robertson and supported by Commissioner Voss to approve the requested changes to the Cass Street intersection plan as outlined above.

AYES: All, Motion Carried.

NAYS:

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

I. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The nominating committee of Tracy Butcher and Dallas Lintner, recommended that Bill Wascher remain as Chairman, and Ronald Baker remain as Secretary, they asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Dallas Lintner was nominated for Vice Chairman.

A voice vote was held to elect Bill Wascher as Chairman, Dallas Lintner as Vice Chairman and Ronald Baker as Secretary.

AYES: All, Motion Carried.

NAYS:

II. DDA MASTER PLAN PROGRAM--Vibrant Small Cities Initiative

Phil Hathaway, Community Development Director, gave an overview of a presentation he will make this Friday to the State of Michigan for a grant proposal for the 2007 Vibrant Small Cities Initiative. It is a summary of needs the downtown has for improvements to facades, cultural centers, signature buildings, green space, streetscapes, and infrastructure improvements to improve the vitality of the downtown. The need for the grant was explained. The local cash match was detailed. There were no public comments, but a supportive consent to pursue the upgrades.

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III. NEIGHBORHOOD OF CHOICE PROGRAM--Emerson School Neighborhood, Census Tract 305.

Phil Hathaway welcomed the audience to the fourth neighborhood meeting the Planning Commission has held this year to learn what the residents think is good in their neighborhood and what they do not like about their neighborhood. A summary of the census data for this neighborhood was discussed and compared to other areas of Owosso, the County and the State.

Mike Compeau, the Director of Public Safety talked about the level and types of crimes occurring in this neighborhood. Ron Baker, City Engineer talked about the condition of the streets and sidewalks in the area and some future projects planned. Gary Burk, Utility Engineer, talked about the condition of underground utilities and the cause of recent flooding in this area. Mike Bradley, the Chief of the Fire Division talked about the training his men go through and the building safety inspection program for fire prevention.

Members of the audience talked about open burning, localized flooding and wet ground they have experienced, homeless people, rundown rental houses, image problems the city has on the state trunklines, and the need to promote the positive things that are occurring in Owosso.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Commissioner Robertson and supported by Commissioner Voss to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: All, Motion Carried

NAYS:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Ronald Baker
Secretary