

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OWOSSO PLANNING COMMISSION

October 22, 2007

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

Roll Call was taken by Secretary Baker.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ronald Baker, Mike Bradley, Mike Bruff, Gary Burk, Tracy Butcher, Dallas Lintner, Francis Livingston, Cheryl Voss, Bill Wascher

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda Robertson, two seats unfilled

MINUTES:

It was moved by Commissioner Voss and supported by Commissioner Livingston to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 24, 2007 as presented.

AYES: All, Motion Carried

NAYS:

ITEMS OF BUSINESS: Neighborhoods of Choice Program:
Washington School Neighborhood, Census Tract 308

Phil Hathaway, the Community Development Director, welcomed the audience and explained the concept of Neighborhood of Choice Program and how the sharing of information between the Planning Commission and the neighbors will give all of us a better insight into what is good about the neighborhood and what people do not like about their neighborhood. Phil talked about the four Principles and Practices that make up a good neighborhood. He also discussed the census data for this census tract and compared it to other areas of Owosso, Shiawassee County and the State. He explained the support structure at City Hall for the neighborhoods.

Ron Baker, City Engineer and Gary Burk, Utilities Engineer talked about the public improvements that have been made in the last 5 years in the area and some work that needs to be done in the future.

Mike Compeau, Director of Public Safety, talked about the crime statistics and how the police and fire department work. He talked about how complaints about burning, barking dogs, loose dogs and other issues are handled.

The audience made the following points about their neighborhoods: too many drugs and roaming youth after curfew, parents do not keep track of their children, there are bushes over the sidewalks in the Broadway, Lingle, and Woodlawn area, there are alleys that are overgrown with trees and brush, too much vandalism, too much illegal burning, too much burning, loose dogs, barking dogs.

The neighbors would like to see reinvestment in residential and commercial properties, eliminate burning, loose dogs and barking dogs, and create a neighborhood watch program.

The things they like about Owosso is the 1225 locomotive, the Art Center, the River Walk, their neighbors, and the small town atmosphere.

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Phil Hathaway introduced the new City Manager Joe Fivas, this being his first day as City Manager.

COMMISSIONER/CITIZENS COMMENTS: Theresa Skaryd announced to the audience that she was running for City Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

AYES: All, Motion carried

NAYS:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Ronald Baker
Secretary