

Village of Lawton
REGULAR PLANNING COMMISSION
125 S. MAIN, LAWTON MI 49065 269.624.6407
Tuesday, November 5, 2024 - 7:00 PM

MINUTES

- 1. Call to Order:** J. Peterson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 2. Roll Call:** Present: J. Peterson, P. Rathbun, P. Chmiel, B. Allen and M. Dudek. Absent: C. Knapp and K. Hellman. Also Present: T. Hackenberg and M. Leonard.
- 3. Approval of Agenda:** R. Rathbun, supported by M. Dudek, made a motion to approve the Planning Commission Agenda for, with the addition of Unfinished Business: Site Plan for Safe and Easy Storage: fencing. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.
- 4. Approval of Minutes:** M. Dudek, supported B. Allen made a motion to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of October 01, 2024. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.
- 5. Public Comment / Communications:** T. Hackenberg revisited the MSU Extension Citizen Planning Program to the planning commission, a four-week online course that covers the fundamentals of roles, responsibilities, and best practices for planning and zoning in Michigan. He is hopeful members of the Planning Commission will participate in the program.

P. Chmiel raised a concern regarding the new streetscape, noting that there is no ordinance permitting bikes on the newly extended sidewalks, Additionally, with the installation of bump-outs, it has become more dangerous for bikers to ride on the newly designed roads.

6. New Business:

A. Antennae Ordinance Review and Examples

J. Peterson expressed that there was little interest in towers during the discussion of the new zoning ordinance. Many attendees felt that the towers occupy valuable property that could be put to better use. Currently, there are no regulations in place to limit the actions of tower companies. J. Peterson suggested that Suzanne from Progressive AE assist in drafting language for an amendment to the zoning ordinance, establishing clearer requirements for cell towers and wireless communication infrastructure.

B. Potential Food Truck Ordinance

The Planning Commission recognized that the community supports food trucks and agreed on the need for an ordinance to regulate them. The discussion centered around whether to keep the ordinance simple or make it more detailed. T. Hackenberg will research the food truck ordinances of nearby cities and villages and present examples for review at the December meeting.

7. Unfinished Business:

A. Safe and Easy Storage: Site Plan Review – Fencing

T. Hackenberg presented the Planning Commission with the approved site plan for Safe and Easy

Storage. Currently, the facility is not in compliance with fencing requirements, as the existing fence lacks the necessary shielding material. T. Hackenberg will reach out to the owners to discuss their plans for addressing this issue moving forward.

8. Public Comment / Hear from the Audience: None.

9. Planning Commissioner Comments: None.

10. Adjournment: M. Dudek, supported by P. Chmiel, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49pm. Motion approved by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melina Leonard