

## *Official Planning and Zoning Minutes*

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May 3, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Members present: Lynn Drown, Barb Griffith, and Sandi Goetz

Residents in attendance were Al Hires and Lowell Morrill.

In order to have a quorum Ordinance 16-104 was used. It states under section (b) the chairperson shall be a non-voting member except in the case of a tie vote. The chairperson may also be acknowledged as a voting member in order that a quorum (three out of five voting members) may be met.

The proposed agenda of May 3 was reviewed. Lynn Drown made the motion to accept the agenda as presented. Barb Griffith seconded the motion. All members present voted Aye.

The motion passed.

After review of the minutes of April 5, 2011, Lynn Drown made the motion to accept the minutes as presented. Barb Griffith seconded the motion. The Motion passed.

Mr. Lowell Morrill, a citizen of Ozawkie, expressed concerns about the condition of a property that abuts his back property line. He said that the yard is unkempt and that a tarp has lain on the ground for several days. He expressed concerns that unkempt yards and structures impact property values on surrounding properties. This same neighbor had also erected a swimming pool. Mr. Morrill wanted to know if they had applied for a permit and also asked where this pool would be drained. Would the pool drain into the city curb and storm drain, or out on the lawn and possibly into his yard, damaging his yard or the neighbor's yards with the pool chemicals.

Mr. Hires and Mr. Morrill both asked if there was someone to contact when citizens had concerns such as theirs and, that if and when city regulations and codes were violated, was there a process that would lead to enforcement and compliance.

It was explained that while we have no authority in these matters because we are only a recommending committee; we definitely will listen to concerns and bring these concerns to the attention of the appropriate authorities. Lynn Drown asked if he had talked to his neighbor about his concerns. He explained that he had not because a past experience had turned out poorly and did not want a repeat of that.

Mr. Hires volunteered to talk to the person and see if he could get the situation resolved so it would not have to go in front of the City Council. He would call and let us know the results. The committee drafted a statement to present to city council in case the neighborly visit yielded no results. **(Insert statement here if needed)**

Mr. Hires, Mr. Morrill and the committee discussed the need to better inform our residents of the ordinances, while the quarterly newsletter and website are helpful not everyone has internet and another means of communication was needed. Barb Griffith mentioned that a welcome packet would be a nice way to inform citizens of our ordinances, regulations and codes. This would also be a useful tool for listing babysitters and lawn mowing services offered by teens. Of course, the responsibility to check references would be up to the parties involved.

The discussion continued on the general condition of the city. Not only did several yards need mowing, it was reported, but also several needed the trash removed and brush, concrete, pallets and gravel piles cleared away.

Before we adjourned we also talked about some changes to our Codes and Regulations book. It was agreed that merging chapters 4 and 16, along with the Regulations and Amended Building Codes into a single and thoughtfully organized chapter would help to make the book less confusing and more user friendly.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Submitted by  
Sandi Goetz ☺