

CITY OF IONIA
Planning Commission
April 10, 2024
Regular Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Secretary Swartz called the Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for April 10, 2024, to order at 4:32 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Mike Donaldson, Ryan Gregory, Keturah Kelley, Tim Lee (4:35), Jason Perry, and Judy Swartz.

Absent: Logan Bailey

Also Present: City Manager Precia Garland, Assistant to the City Manager Jonathan Bowman, Planning Consultant Bradley Kotrba, and member of the public.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Secretary Swartz introduced the agenda and asked if there were any requested changes. No changes were requested. It was moved by Commissioner Donaldson and seconded by Commissioner Gregory to approve the agenda as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the regular meeting of March 13, 2024, were reviewed. It was moved by Kelley, seconded by Perry to approve the minutes from March 13. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mitchell Simmons – 725 Branch Street

Mitchell Simmons commended the Planning Commission for its work updating ordinances but requested additional options for properties with nonconforming uses such as the ability for property owners to apply for a waiver. Mr. Simmons indicated that other communities allow for rebuild letters to be issued. These letters help during the financing of properties with nonconforming uses. City staff indicated they would review the information provided by Mr. Simmons.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Residential Zoning Update – Ordinance No. 588

Assistant to the City Manager Bowman and Consultant Kotrba introduced Ordinance No. 588 that would amend residential zoning throughout the City. The Commission commented

on how receptive the public was to the proposal during the March workshop session. Commissioners reached the consensus that staff should also develop a proposal from rezoning portions of the City based on the data provided in the presented nonconformity maps.

It was moved by Commissioner Donaldson and seconded by Commissioner Gregory to schedule a public hearing on Ordinance No. 588 at the next regular Planning Commission meeting on Wednesday, May 8 at 4:30 PM. MOTION CARRIED

Master Plan

- i. A draft community survey was presented to the Commission for the Master Plan.
- ii. Staff requested input from the Commission on the planned community engagement activities for the Master Plan to ensure optimal public involvement.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chairperson Donaldson commented on the need for the City to consider park safety when reviewing plans for new park facilities and strategies for maintaining their safety once operational.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Swartz and seconded by Commissioner Kelley to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 PM. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted,

Precia Garland, Recording Secretary,
for Judy Swartz, Secretary