

Athens Township Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2023

Opening

The regular meeting of the Athens Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on April 20, 2023 and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Planning Commissioners Present

Todd Christensen, Marlys Balfany, Jack Cole, Jason Ross, AJ Ondrey, Dean Thompson, Township Clerk Diane Carpenter and Mike Jungbauer

Guests Present

Several residents attended.

Approval of Minutes

M/S Jack Cole/Jason Ross to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum

Sandy Ondrey and Rebecca Mauriala-Kuehn brought suggestions to the planning commission about having a farmer's market at the town hall by next year. Also, the suggestion was made to have a senior coffee day, possibly on Tuesdays, at the town hall. Seniors could sell things and just get together for a fun day. The township could provide coffee and donuts or other treats. We would need to verify with MAT if township funds could be spent in this manner. P&Z members thought this was a good idea and Rebecca will present a proposal to the board on Monday May 1st.

The Public Hearing for T&R Homes was opened. This is an application for an IUP for an existing business. They make cabinet doors for other cabinet businesses. They previously had commercial property in Isanti but it became too expensive. The problem is that by ordinance, they need to live on the property and they live in Braham. Mike recommended an amendment to the ordinance to rezone the area they live in as commercial as they are on county road 9. There were no neighbors present to comment for the public hearing. M/S Jack Cole/Dean Thompson to rezone portions of land on county road 9 as commercial. Motion passed unanimously. Public Hearing closed.

The Public Hearing for ICO, LLC was opened. They own the trailer court in East Bethel and things are stored there. They have applied for a CUP for outside storage by the mini storage. There are new owners there and they have a tenant. The previous CUP stated no outside storage. The tenant is leaving in June and the mess that is his will be gone.

Jake Carpenter, a neighbor, weighed in on the proposal. Currently, there is lots and junk and lights from the property shine into his house. There is also concern about runoff of excess water if more of the property had a hard surface for outside storage. We will extend the application 60 days. We will see how cleanup of the current situation is progressing. M/S Jack Cole/Jason Ross for the resident to attend the May meeting with a more complete proposal. Motion passed unanimously. Public hearing was closed.

Public hearing for Tyler Fohrenkamm, Cash for Junk Cars, was opened. No residents attended to speak at the public hearing. Tyler hauls wrecked cars in. Some he repairs and sells, and the others he brings to scrap yards. Mike prepared a resolution outlining screening, hours of operation, limits on vehicles etc to

present to the town board. Tyler was also advised that he needs a dealer license if he is selling over a certain number of cars.

M/S AJ Ondrey/Dean Thompson to send resolution to the board.

Motion passed unanimously.

Public Hearing was closed.

Old Business

The ADU ordinance changes were presented by Mike with changes in red. A discussion was held that ADU's will not be allowed short term rental and fines were discussed.

M/S Jason Ross/Dean Thompson to forward to the board for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

Park dedication fees were discussed with a list of fees charged by some of our neighbors.

M/S Jason Ross/Marlys Balfany to recommend 1500.00 to be split between roads and parks and forward to the board. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Mike has been going over old ordinances that are a mess. He was looking at the one concerning residential lot sizes. In one spot it says we allow two acre lots and in another spot it says three acre lots. A consensus was that lots should be a minimum of five acres for new lots.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Jack Cole to adjourn the meeting at 9:21.

Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Diane Carpenter