

MINUTES
AUSTIN CITY PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2017
5:30 P.M.
AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MEMBERS PRESENT: Megan Burroughs, Rick Bremner, Steve Kime, Jay Lutz, Michael Postma, and Greg Siems

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Mino, Troy Nelson, and Aaron Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT: Holly Wallace, Craig Byram, and public

Commissioner Kime called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Commissioner Lutz made a motion to approve the January 10, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting minutes as written and Commissioner Siems seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: To consider a request from Ulland Bros, Inc., 2400 Meyers Road, Albert Lea, MN for a five year Interim Use Permit for a mining operation. This action is pursuant to Austin City Code Section 11.57 and 11.56. This item has been continued from the January 10, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting.

This request is from Ulland Bros, Inc for a mining operation. The public hearing was continued from the January 10, 2017 Planning Meeting. The pit will be operated by Ulland Bros, Inc and is owned by Gregg Johnson. The property is located at the intersection of 10th Drive Southeast and 8th Avenue Southeast. The pit has not been in operation for eight years and Ulland Bros, Inc would like to extract sand from the pit to be used for construction projects. Work will also be done to alleviate drainage issues in that area. In the past, Ulland Bros, Inc have received approval to extract material via conditional use permits.

Notices were mailed to surrounding property owners. Barb Trimble came to a City Council meeting regarding the project but was not in attendance at the Planning Meeting. Ms. Wallace will contact Ms. Trimble with the information of the next City Council meeting and the discussion requested by the Planning Meeting.

Ms. Wallace went thru the applicable code section and staff report. She indicated the termination date of the IUP should be changed to February 21, 2022, which is five years from the next council meeting, if approved.

Valerie Sheedy, a representative from Ulland Bros, Inc explained they dewater the pit to be discharged to the river. A MPCA permit is required for the discharge and requires quarterly monitoring, testing for pH and total suspended solids. Once the water is drawn down, the sand can be used for projects calling for a soil correction. The sand is removed with an excavator, drained and driven to the project. This sand needs to be a very clean sand in order for the water to run thru it and not freeze, heave. This sand in this pit is clean, but not really, really clean and the right projects will need to be found to utilize the sand. Once the project is complete, the pit will be 18 feet in depth.

Commissioner Bremner made a motion to recommend approval of the IUP to the City Council with the termination date changed to February 21, 2022 and include the staff report recommendations. Commissioner Burroughs seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

SIGN APPEAL: To consider a request from Mower County Recycling and Precision Signs regarding the denial of a sign permit. This is appeal is pursuant to Austin City Code Section 4.50, Schedule V (1) (b).

This requested sign appeal is for the Mower County Recycle Center and Precision Signs located at 1111 8th Avenue NE. An addition was completed on the building and changed how recycling material is sorted. They are requesting signage be added to direct the public for disposal of their recyclables. Smaller signs and signs with arrow are exempt from sign permits. Two signs are allowed facing the public right-of-way. These signs do not face the public right-of-way and four signs are being requested. Ms. Wallace discussed the applicable ordinance provision and staff report. Commissioner Bremner made a motion to recommend approval of the sign appeal to the City Council and Commissioner Lutz seconded the motion. All were in favor the motion passed.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: To consider a request from Nikola and Christoph Baumann, 107 27th Street NW, Austin, MN for an Interim Use Permit to house horses on her property. This action is pursuant to Austin City Code Section 11.57 and 11.56.

Ms. Wallace requested a continuance for the IUP request from Nikola and Christoph Baumann, as additional information needs to be collected before the IUP can move forward. Commissioner Lutz made a motion to continue the request to the March 14, 2017 Planning Commission Meeting. Commissioner Postma seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Siems made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Bremner seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourn at 5:58 pm.