Planning and Zoning Minutes

The Humboldt Planning and Zoning board met in special session on Monday, May 16, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Schulte at 7:33pm. Members present were Bob Zirpel and Scott Flanagan. The meeting was held with Town Board members Ritchy Griepp, Theresa Muth, Allen Schmeichel, Adam Lund and Heath VanZee also present. Amanda Siemonsma was present for city personnel. Many resident and guests were also present at the meeting including Mike Garrey, Heath and Monie Siemonsma, Jesse Travis, Rick Muth, Lisa and Jamie Bowen, and Kevin and Emily Berg.

The night’s agenda was amended to add Mike Garrey under business to discuss. The agenda was approved and adopted on a motion by Flanagan and a second from Zirpel. Motion carried.

The special session meeting was called to order to discuss the possibility of allowing temporary campsites within city limits. Heath and Monie Siemonsma presented to the board the opportunity they were approached with to permit temporary campsites on the Town & Country Store lot. Siemonsma was approached by the pipeline workers about allowing campers on the lot. He stated that he would install outlets and water and sewer lines to accommodate these campers at his expense and that the sewer lines would lead to a separate dump station on the lot or into a storage tank. Mike Garrey interjected stating that one could not dump into fuel tanks for the risk of any remaining fuel to rise to the top. Siemonsma continued to add that he would have all this additional piping and work inspected. Many concerns were voiced and addressed concerning garbage, security, lighting, water, fees and rates, check valves, responsibilities, appearance of campers, storm shelter for new comers, noise, enforcements, property values and more. After much discussion on the matter, Siemonsma respectfully withdrew his proposal of the temporary campsites stating all intention was meant to bring business to Humboldt and not to cause any conflict.

Jesse Travis was present to also ask about allowing temporary campsites on his lot. Based on previous discussion, he also respectfully withdrew that request. He is also requesting from the board the possibility of allowing a permanent campsite on his lot west of the bank. The campsite would be a permanent site meant to accommodate and 12-14 campers at maximum and no one camper be allowed to stay longer than a 30-day period. Concerns were also voiced about the future need for extra law enforcement which leads to more hours and higher cost for the city. The board addressed the size of the campsite lot needs to be at least 2000 square feet which Travis states the lot fits those requirements. Travis added his intention of maintaining a clean, nice campground that would be utilized by tourists. He added the need for extra patrolling would not be necessary and he did not foresee any added expense for the city. The board is willing to move forward with allowing for a permanent campground under the understanding that water and sewer issues and plans be figured out before returning in front of the board.

Mike Garrey presented to the board the option of the Planning and Zoning Board holding their regular monthly meetings every 3rd Monday of each month after the Natural Gas meeting. IF the board decides to hold their meetings at this time, there would be the option to dual serve on boards. The P&Z members agreed this set regular date would be a good option going forward. The option of dual serving is up to each individual of both boards.

With no further business to discuss, open discussion was reopened to individuals who were unable to speak at the opening of the meeting. Lisa and Jamie Bowen were present to discuss with the board the zoning requirements and regulations on a lot for sale in town on second avenue. The Bowen’s are interested in purchasing the lot for the construction of a pole shed and living quarters. Schulte stated that, according to city ordinances, the construction of a pole shed within city limits was prohibited. After some discussion about the ordinances and regulations, it was discussed and decided that the Bowen’s should return in front of the board when they knew exactly what structure they wanted to build along with a set of plans and materials to be used so that further discussion could be held.

Kevin and Emily Berg were present to discuss with the council the possibility of having the city vacate the city street that is in front of First Manufacturing, Reliabank and the Post Office. The street is named 4th Avenue. The Bergs own First Manufacturing and are interested in remodeling their building to allow for an expansion which would ultimately put their building into the said street. The board advised the Bergs to file a petition with the city stating the request to vacate the road. The Bergs will work on getting a petition filed with the city while Siemonsma consults with the city attorney to determine whether the city street is public or private. This information is needed before holding a public hearing.

With no further business or discussion to be had, a motion was made by Flanagan and seconded by Zirpel to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. Motion carried.

ATTEST: Amanda Siemonsma
City Finance Officer