



Watertown Planning Commission Minutes

Donald Hendricks
Elizabeth Schulze
Jennifer O'Connell
James Rivord
Jim Sandquist
Jim Kasheimer
Ali Parsons-Towle
Mike Walters

8/12/2021 - Minutes

1. Call To Order & Roll Call:

Chairman Rivord called the Watertown Planning Commission meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 12, 2021. Commission Members present: Chairman James Rivord, Ali Parsons-Towle, Donald Hendricks, Jennifer O'Connell, Jim Sandquist, Jim Kasheimer, Elizabeth Schulze. City Staff present: Councilman Dan Schuette, Planning Consultant Mark Kaltsas, Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Christine Dammann & Scott Dornfeld Building Official. Others present were community members Steven & Leah Kastner.

2. Adopt Agenda:

**HENDRICKS MOVED AND KASHEIMER SECONDED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED;
MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

3. New Business

3.A. Approve Minutes From May 27, 2021

**HENDRICKS MOVED AND PARSONS-TOWLE SECONDED A MOTION TO ADOPT THE May 27,
2021 MINUTES WITH SPELLING CORRECTION AS NOTED BY RIVORD; MOTION CARRIED 7-0.**

4. Public Hearing:

4.A. 216 Territorial Street E Fence Variance

Mark Kaltsas advised that the homeowners at 216 Territorial Street East would like to keep the current fence location but are seeking a variance – to allow a four-foot-high fence in the front and corner yards

of the subject property. The proposed fence would be replacing an existing fence. The proposed front yard fence exceeds the height limits for fences in the front yard as established by City Code. The subject property is located along the south side of Territorial Street E and west side Hope Ave SE. The property has an existing home and detached accessory structure. The property owners did agree to change the material of the fence they originally wanted to put up. They have agreed to ornamental metal.

Kaltsas advised that the property owner's plan will unify the look and improve the condition of the fence greatly, also noting, that the fence is being put up to ensure the safety of the homeowner's child with a disability. Territorial is very busy so there is an increased risk to the child.

Chairman Rivord closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 6:45 p.m..

The City received no written communication prior to this Public Hearing and no members of the Public voiced concerns.

Chairman Rivord closed the Public Hearing at 6:46 p.m..

Discussion took place among Commission members. Sandquist questioned if the height of the fence will look similar to the City's metal fence that was recently installed on Highway 25; Kaltsas advised there was a minor height difference but being the distance apart, it would not be noticeable, Hendricks felt the fence should be allowed especially for the safety aspect of the child. O'Connell feels the City should remain consistent with the 3.5 foot fencing in place by the City. Schulze stated that the six inch difference will not be noticeable and for added safety on Territorial it is a certainly understandable request.

HENDRICKS MOVED A MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE FENCE VARIANCE WITH ALL STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS SET FORTH IN THE MEETING PACKET. SCHULZE SECONDED THE MOTION; MOTION CARRIED 6-1. RIVORD, PARSONS-TOWLE, SANDQUIST, SCHULZE, KASHEIMER, HENDRICKS VOTING YAY; O'CONNELL VOTING NAY; STATING THAT SHE DOES NOT BELIEVE THE HEIGHT WILL BE CONSISTENT.

This item will be presented to Council at the August 24, 2021 Council Meeting.

4.B. Spring Mill Site Plan And Preliminary Plat – Table

Chairman Rivord closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m..

Kaltsas asked the Commission to table this discussion until the August 26, 2021 Planning Commission meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Rivord closed the Public Hearing at 7:02 p.m..

SCHULZE MOVED, KASHEIMER SECONDED A MOTION TO TABLE DISCUSSION TO A FUTURE MEETING ON AUGUST 26, 2021. MOTION CARRIED 7-0

5. Staff Updates:

Multiple updates were provided by staff on various City projects.

Our next Planning Commission meeting will be on Thursday, August 26, 2021.

6. Adjournment:

There being no further business;

SCHULZE MOVED AND HENDRICKS SECONDED A MOTION TO ADJOURN; MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

The Planning Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m

Chairman; Jim Rivord

Deputy Clerk-Treasurer; Christine Dammann

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