

Regular meeting of the City of Downs Planning Commission was held February 29, 2016, 5:30 p.m. Members present: Bill Cushing, Don Heiland, Doug Brush, Kabin Henke, and Linda Miller. Absent: Jaime Emerson, Tim Parker. Also present: Mayor Jennifer Brush, Terry Gradig, Bruce Berkley, Vickie Oviatt, John Cary, Teri Cordill, Devin Renken, Dale Goheen, and Shannon Chandler.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order.

Linda moved, seconded by Don, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2016 meeting as submitted. Carried.

Bill opened with the purpose of considering for adoption two changes in the Zoning and Regulations and amendment to the Zoning Map regarding short and long term living in a Recreational Vehicle. Shannon asked if this would allow for one or two campers and how it would work during celebration. Teri asked about people that stay more than 14 days, what happens then. Linda noted that the number of campers needed to be limited. John asked if the time could be lengthened to 30 days. John asked about a camping group that has requested to park at Roadside Park, and also how it would work for celebration. Don asked, if Teselle has not approached the commission for RV living, then why is it being considered for the overlay? Linda asked if they really want long term living at Roadside Park. Bill asked what does this do to the motel owners business. Linda said that she was okay with changing to 30 days, Bill said he was not. John asked about rezoning Roadside Park. Dale Goheen commented that he had no problem with the proposals as published.

Linda moved, seconded by Doug, to approve the proposed change to Zoning Article 26, Section 1 (16)(b) allowing living in an RV no more than 14 days per calendar year. Carried.

Bill opened for the hearing to consider for adoption an amendment to the Zoning Map, changing lots from R-1 to C-1. Don moved, seconded by Kabin, to rezone Lots 31-36 inclusive, in Block 15, O.T. from R-1 zone to C-1 zone. Carried.

Bill said that he does not approve having an overlay option for anywhere in town. There was discussion. Devin commented that the way he understood it, one would still have to apply for a zoning change and notify neighbors and obtain permission through city council. John asked if anyone had checked with other towns. Linda said that Beloit does not allow living in a camper. Osborne does not allow living in a camper. Bill suggested contacting Riggs. Dale Goheen said that he has no intention of having the camper there for ten years. Don suggested tabling the decision while Dale's in-laws look for a house. Linda said that housing is very limited in Downs. Bill asked if the commission is just trying to help Dale. John noted that he had three people ask about Myron's camper, and what was happening there. John said someone told them to go ahead with parking it there as the city was not enforcing it. Bill closed the hearing.

Bill said that every time we have something come up we jump to change things. He said that he did not think the commission has a consensus here. He said that the planning commission has no recommendation for the city council.

Bill moved, seconded by Don, that after hearing from those present, the planning commission make no recommendation on permanent RV living. Yes-Bill, Don, Doug; No-0. Carried.

At 7:10 p.m., Linda moved to adjourn. Don seconded the motion. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

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Vickie Oviatt – DPC Secretary