

Regular meeting of the City of Downs Planning Commission was held March 30, 2015, 5:30 p.m. at city hall. Members present: Bill Cushing, Doug Brush, Don Heiland, Linda Miller, Tonya Kuhn, and Tim Parker. Absent: Randy Koops. Also in attendance: Mayor Jennifer Brush, Bruce Berkley, Vickie Oviatt.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order.

Don moved, seconded by Tonya, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting as submitted. Carried.

Bill introduced the subject of accessory buildings and asked members what they wanted to do about it. He noted that considerable amount of time has been spent on the subject. A recommendation was submitted to the city council to include the whole city, but they wanted to split the town. Nothing was workable. PC did not like the idea of just allowing in one part of the town.

Bruce explained the process for the Board of Zoning Appeals and their function. Linda asked about allowing the accessory buildings on adjoining property as a start. There was discussion and it was noted that this would benefit two members on the commission, Tim, and Tonya.

(Tonya left the meeting at 5:55 p.m.)

Tim explained that no one is going to invest in a property if all they can do is clean it up and mow it. He questioned, is the reason the council member is against it a personal reason? They should consider if it is a benefit to the city. Are they looking positively or negatively? Do they just want to benefit half the town? Maybe the commission should visit with the council.

(Don left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.)

Linda moved, seconded by Bill, to meet with the council on May 4, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. Carried.

Bill noted that Randy and Tonya's terms expire this year. Bill noted that he chooses not to continue as chairman, so members could be thinking about that for the May meeting.

Mayor Brush gave an update on annexation and all that has been accomplished. She noted that it takes everyone working together and if we choose not to expand, we are dying. City Council has voted to continue with the annexation process and Mayor Brush is visiting with property owners on a one on one basis with positive results. She asked for the commission's help, to bring up any questions they have or hear of. Bill has been asked about what Downs Enterprises is contributing to the sewer upgrade to the industrial park. Mayor Brush said that she has met with them, but they have not committed to any assistance.

At 6:50 p.m., it was moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

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Vickie Oviatt, DPC Secretary

