

Regular meeting of the City of Downs Planning Commission was held September 30, 2013, 5:30 p.m. at city hall. Members present: Bill Cushing, Jennifer Cooper, Don Heiland, Linda Miller, Tim Parker, Randy Koops. Absent: Doug Brush. Also present: Mayor Jen Brush, Vickie Oviatt.

Bill called the meeting to order.

Linda moved, seconded by Jennifer, to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2013 meeting as presented. Carried. Don abstained.

Bill introduced discussion regarding Shirley Redeker's property auction on west Railroad Avenue. Could a person purchase a dilapidated primary structure, build a new garage, then demolish the primary structure and be in compliance? There was discussion.

Annexation was discussed as the city council has directed the commission to proceed with annexation exploration. The city council has approved to hire John Riggs to assist. Bill said that the commission needs to invite John Riggs to bring a check list and some guidance to the procedure. There are questions to be answered before conducting a public hearing. Bill noted that the public has concerns. Numbers and cost are yet to be presented and considered. Some of the business are concerned with city code compliance. Tim suggested that they submit their written concerns and the commission could follow up. Mayor Jen said that the city is not out to hurt businesses, or interrupt or change any of the businesses considered for annexation. She noted that this is not an easy process, but Downs is growing and funds are needed to keep moving forward. Don said that the city cannot grow if it does not have infrastructure. There are positives to be conveyed to the property owners being considered, possibly on a one on one basis, or getting together for an informal discussion. There was continued discussion. It was decided that Bill will contact John Riggs and invite him to a meeting.

Don moved, seconded by Randy, to adjourn the meeting. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

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Vickie Oviatt, DPC Secretary