

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
HELD, TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2007 – 6:00 P.M. – ROCKVILLE CITY HALL**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Brian Herberg. Roll Call was taken and the following members were found to be present:

City Council: Brian Herberg, Vern Ahles, Jeff Hagen, Jim Pflapsen, Don Simon & Randy Volkmuth.

Planning Commission: Jerry Bechtold, Dale Borgmann, Dan Hansen, Jerry Tippelt & Toni Honer.

Staff Members present: Rena Weber, Judy Neu, Attorney Jim Mogen, & Engineer Scott Hedlund.

Absent: Susan Palmer.

**PURPOSE OF MEETING** – Mayor Herberg announced that the special meeting had been called for the purpose of discussing issues between the Planning Commission review/approval process and City Council acceptance of recommendations.

Mayor Herberg set the rules of the meeting. Mayor Herberg stated that if the council does not agree with the Planning Commission they would move to send the application back to the Planning Commission for further review. It got back to him that the council was stepping on the Planning Commission's toes. The City Council has some ideas and will use the liaison to bring this back to the Planning Commission. It is not saying the council has to have our way.

Rena Weber expressed concern that each board is important to the city.

Jerry Bechtold expressed his concern about citizen rights and that people expect the Planning Commission and City Council to bend to their wishes.

Member Pflapsen indicated that permeable pavers are accepted everywhere, but not at Stearns County or Rockville.

Member Hagen agreed with Member Pflapsen that they should be accepted.

Mayor Herberg suggested that we eliminate the Stearns County review of application because of the different answers the staff gets.

Member Volkmuth stated that he is ready to move on from Stearns County.

Member Pflapsen reported that he has been to many meetings (because of his job) and he has seen that Councils do overrule Planning Commission recommendations. It is common.

Toni Honer reported that the Planning Commission has done a lot of ordinance revisions and further has had a major change in the membership.

Attorney Jim Mogen reported that staff reports are generated and urged the group that they take things a step higher and support the staff. Jim Mogen suggested that any plan the council is thinking about adopting needs to be presented to the Planning Commission for their input and see if they catch something wrong or problematic with the plan.

**Member Hagen indicated that there is terrible communication between Planning Commission & City Council. There are too many people involved. Member Hagen stated that we need one person to take the applicant through the process from start to finish.**

Member Pflapsen suggested that if the lead person has a problem with the applicant, they can pass it on to someone else.

Discussion was held on who that lead person can be (each of the Planning Commission members or staff).

Jerry Tippelt voiced his concern about taking the time to come to a public hearing, then the public hearings are closed and then the public is not allowed to voice their opinions. As the Council or Planning Commission discusses the issue, the public may have something more to contribute.

Discussion was held regarding the public hearing process. This is a procedural step, but the Mayor or Chair may add more comments from the public and then take the vote.

**Jerry Tippelt recommended that when we don't have all the facts he would like to table the decision for two weeks, brush up on stuff, and then make the decision.**

Empty Seat on Planning Commission – Do we want to fill it or not?

Member Pflapsen suggested the Planning Commission discuss whether or not a new chair should be appointed to better communicate between the Council and Planning Commission. The present chair should remain on the Commission as his input is very valuable.

Mayor Herberg asked that we poll members on their thoughts for both issues:

Member Pflapsen voted not to fill the vacant seat and appoint a new chair

Member Hagen voted not to fill the vacant seat and appoint a new chair

Member Simon voted not to downsize and appoint a new chair

Member Ahles voted not to downsize and appoint a new chair

Member Volkmuth voted not to fill the vacant seat and appoint a new chair

Mayor Herberg voted not to downsize and appoint a new chair

Jerry Tippelt voted not to downsize and appoint a new chair

Dan Hansen voted not to downsize and keep the present chair

Dale Borgmann voted not to downsize and handle the chair position diligently with Jerry until he decides he wants off

Toni Honer voted not to downsize and suggested that Jerry would act as co-chair. This would improve communication and keep the knowledge he has. Toni indicated she had talked to Jerry sometime ago and he would be willing to step down as chair, but would like to stay on the Commission for two more years.

**Mayor Herberg summarized that it appears most are in favor of keeping the Planning Commission at its current size and further that the Planning Commission needs to discuss/appoint a new chair.**

**Decks, concrete, asphalt and pavers – The Planning Commission is to make a recommendation on what could be approved.**

As a wrap up to the meeting Mayor Herberg asked that the minutes be highlighted to indicate areas of agreement that were reached as part of the working session. They are in bold.

**ADJOURNMENT – Motion by Member Simon, second by Member Hagen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.**

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**VERENA M. WEBER-CMC  
ADMINISTRATOR/CLERK**

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**BRIAN HERBERG  
MAYOR**