

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES
MAY 15th, 2023 - 7:30 PM
Township Office 1565 Jackson St. Marne, MI 49435
www.wrighttownshipottawami.gov

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Rich Dausman with a Pledge of Allegiance and a Word of Prayer. Present at the meeting Chair Rich Dausman, Vice Chair Steve VanTimmeren, Secretary Brad Anderson, and Steve Gray. Theresa Frank was present to take minutes of the meeting, and Planner Julie Lovelace from Fresh Coast Planning was present. Commissioner Ken Zahm was absent.

2. Dausman announced no parking in the reserved Fire Department spaces.

3. No additions to the agenda.

4. a. Anderson motioned to approve the April 17th, 2023, meeting minutes, and Gray supported, all ayes, motion carried.

b. Public Comment: John DeWys was at the meeting to let the Commission know that he was going to be starting the process of putting a new office building at the DeWys Manufacturing property. He showed a drawing of what he was going to bring to the Commission in a future Planning Commission Meeting.

An individual representing a company called Herbie's Hound submitted an application for a special land use to build a large arena for dog shows, and more. The property she was requesting to change is in Agricultural. The Zoning Ordinance does not list this as an available Special Land Use in the Agricultural district, nor was the Planning Commission open to amending the ordinance to add this as an approved Special Use. The individual went to homes in the area passing out pamphlets with what she was planning, as though it was going to happen. Because of this many of the neighbors who received this flier came to the meeting very unhappy and reported to the Commissioners what happened. Dausman and Lovelace reassured the neighbors that the individual's request was denied, assuring them that the arena was not approved.

5. New Business:

a. Adam Heft has requested to divide a seven-acre parcel into one five acre and one two acre parcel located at 16982 – 40th Ave. After having met all the Standards of sections 504.1 and 504.1(3)-iii, Gray motioned to approve the Heft land division. Anderson supported this motion, all ayes, motion carries.

b. Public Hearing regarding an amendment to Chapter 3 of the Zoning Ordinance, Section 329 regarding Home Based Businesses. Commissioners did their due diligence going through each line of the new amendment. Some small changes have been made. The Commission realizes some home businesses already exist within the Township with no permits, and this has been taken into consideration for the correct wording of the amendment.

Public Comments portion of the Public Hearing opened at 8:34 p.m. Lisa Potts explained her

in-home sewing business of large drapes, etc. was becoming too small for her home. She needs larger tables for this. Because of this she is asking to be able to build an accessory building on her property. Jim VanDyke thought this sounded like a commercial request. Lovelace replied that the new amendment shows how this would still be a residential accessory use. Commissioners continued discussion and decided to send amendment Ordinance number 2023-04-04 to the Township Board for approval. Dausman closed the Public Hearing at 9:53 p.m.

- c. Public Hearing for Amendment Ordinance 2023-04-03 amending Chapter 2 Definitions of the Zoning Ordinance of Wright Township by adding Farm Labor Housing language. Also includes amendment to Chapter 5, Section 501 (q). The amendment was reviewed carefully by the Commissioners and Lovelace. Dausman called the Public Comment portion of the public Hearing open at 9:55 p.m. Dausman asked for public comments. Hearing none the Commission continued discussion on the amendment, and after some small changes decided to send the amendment to the Township Board for approval. Dausman then closed the Public Hearing at 10:56 p.m.
6. Under Previous Business; Because of the late hour Gray motioned to table discussion of Residential Solar Zoning Amendment to the June 14th meeting. Anderson supported, all ayes, motion carried.
7. No Commissioner Comments.
8. No comment from Trustee Anderson.
9. Gray motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:58 p.m., and Anderson supported. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Theresa Frank, Township Clerk, and meeting recorder.

(Any documents referenced in these minutes are on file in the Clerk's office).