

CITY OF OKANOGAN
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
April 8th, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting of the Okanogan Planning Commission was called to order by Chairman Jim Martin at 7:01 p.m.

The following were:

Present: Chairman Jim Martin; Members: Sarin Molnar, Bryan Smith
Staff: Clerk 1 Kaylee Beetchenow and Building Official Bryan Forbus
Others Present via Zoom: Planner Christopher Johnson
Absent: Doug Woodrow and Dennis O'Connor

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Martin asked if there were any alterations to the agenda. Date should be correct from January 8th to April 8th 2024 and the new business should be about Vern's Auto not Burns Auto. Agenda passed without objection with those 2 amendments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Martin asked if there were any changes, additions, or corrections to the minutes for January 8th 2024. Hearing none, member Molnar moved to approve the minutes, seconded by member Smith to approve the minutes as presented. Seeing no objections raised, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

➤ *No public comments*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Shoreline Master Plan: Planner Johnson is still working with Highland and Associates along with the Town of Winthrop to get the SMP completed. There have been new employees at DOE and with that turnover it is taking more time.

There are four areas needing attention:

1. **Mitigation Sequencing.** DOE believes that the City should go back to 1904, however this is where planner disagrees. We need to be dealing with what is before us today and not trying to go back in time.
2. **Dredging.** Planner does not want to agree to a blanket statement of No Dredging. Of course, the City would like to limit this issue however there could be an incident that requires Dredging and Planner believes the City needs to have some sort of control for that.
3. **Float or Dock Use.** Currently we only have Alta Vista dock however, City may want to add or have another dock for public access.
4. **Bank Stabilization.** Nonstructural stabilization of rocks, plants etc. Structural would be a Corp of Engineer Levy

The other area discussed which was not mentioned previously is the Urban Shoreline Recreation Areas. City of Okanogan and the Town of Winthrop are putting this language in their SMP. This is a new term that we created

that DOE doesn't really know how to address, however the City wants to make sure that it is protecting the people and businesses of Okanogan and their right to enjoy what our area has to offer.

Brief discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Fix It Shop (formerly Vern's Automotive): Building Official Forbus stated that the Fix It Shop is wanting to put a Napa Auto sign up on the front of their building. It would simply cover up the shadow that is currently there from a previous sign. The Napa Auto sign would only cover up the previous sign and is very similar in size, it is only slightly larger. However, this business is technically in the Historic District of town and needs to be approved by the Planning Commission.

Brief Discussion.

Member Molnar moved to approve the signage. Member Smith seconded; motion carried with no objection.

STAFF UPDATE

Building Official Bryan Forbus: April 14th 2024 is the deadline for Valley Care Building to be secured and cleaned up. A1 Asbestos has visited the site and tested. The building has a large amount of Asbestos, specifically in the floor tiles and in the ceiling, however it is non friable.

Currently working on a nuisance issue on residential property in the north part of town. Also dealing with nuisance complaints at the Blue Mountain Motel.

Building Official stated the office is busy right now. Received 15 permit applications in the last 15 days.

Okanogan Valley Orchestra and Chorus building is going smoothly. There needed to be some minor adjustments and some changes that needed to be worked through however that work seems to be going well.

Planner Christopher Johnson: Finished one annexation and currently have another pending. There are codes that need amending as well. Only other issue currently being dealt with for Planning Office is the State Patrol/Pape Offices. There is a City easement and some Well Head protection issues that the City and State Patrol are trying to work out but taking some time.

MEMBER UPDATE

No Member updates

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, the Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Clerk I, Kaylee Beetchenow

APPROVED:

Jim Martin, Chairman

ATTEST:

Kaylee Beetchenow, Clerk I

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