

**APPROVED MINUTES
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
CITY OF WYOMING, MINNESOTA
NOVEMBER 10, 2015
7:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

Planning Commission Chairman Frank Storm called the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming Planning Commission of November 10, 2015 to order at 7:00 P.M.

CALL OF ROLL:

On a Call of the Roll the following members of the Wyoming Planning Commission were present: Judy Coughlin, Mathew Engstrom, Mark Lobermeier, Ken Meyers, and Frank Storm.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Council Liaison Mayor Eric Peterson and Zoning Administrator Fred Weck.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM:

Chairman Storm determined a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

OPEN FORUM:

“An opportunity for members of the public to address the Planning Commission on items not on the current Agenda. Items requiring Planning Commission action maybe deferred to staff for research and future Planning Commission Agendas if appropriate.”

No members of the public spoke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. **Consider approving the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Wyoming, Minnesota Planning Commission for October 27, 2015.**

Commissioner Engstrom noted that regarding the Gierke variance that he was fine with the size of the building requested by the applicant; instead of the reduced size of the building in the draft minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PLANNING MEMBER COUGHLIN, SECONDED BY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER LOBERMEIER, TO APPROVE THE “REGULAR MEETING” MINUTES OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA PLANNING COMMISSION FOR OCTOBER 27, 2015 AS CORRECTED.

Voting Aye: Coughlin, Engstrom, Lobermeier, Meyers, and Storm.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

2. **None.**

NEW BUSINESS:

3. **None.**

OLD BUSINESS:

4. Ordinance Amendment Solar Energy Ordinance.

Staff provided the commissioners with zoning and comprehensive plan maps of the city showing where solar gardens are not allowed under the proposed ordinance. The areas on the maps include the solar energy overlay, all shoreland districts, Carlos Avery and that portion of the city that electrical service is being provided to by Connexus Energy (at this time legislation only allows solar gardens in areas served by Xcel Energy). The Planning Commission considered the City Council's request to not allow solar gardens in residential areas. After viewing the maps (in particular, the comprehensive plan map) the Planning Commission came to the determination that to not allow solar gardens on undeveloped residential properties would force them to be located on future commercial and industrial properties; the exact reason why the City protested to the State the proposed location of the Geronimo solar farm. The Commissioners also considered increased setbacks, land area limitations, comparisons to businesses in residential districts and outside investors, best use of the land, solar in new residential developments, and having the City Council make changes to the ordinance before their adoption of it.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER MEYERS, SECONDED BY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER ENGSTROM TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2013-03, THE SOLAR ENERGY ORDINANCE WITHOUT REVISIONS AND TO REQUEST THAT IF THE CITY COUNCIL RETURNS THE ORDINANCE TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION THAT THE CITY COUNCIL PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES AS TO WHAT IN THE DRAFT ORDINANCE WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE CITY, AND TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC DIRECTION AS TO WHAT NEEDS TO BE CHANGED.

Voting Aye: Coughlin, Engstrom, Lobermeier, Meyers, and Storm.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

COMMUNICATIONS:

5. None.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER MEYERS, SECONDED BY PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER COUGHLIN, TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYOMING, MINNESOTA PLANNING COMMISSION FOR NOVEMBER 10, 2015 AT 7:48P.M.

Voting Aye: Coughlin, Engstrom, Lobermeier, Meyers, and Storm.

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None