



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
with
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
MINUTES
Wednesday, July 20, 2021 – 6:30 PM
2801 Ranch Road 1869, Liberty Hill, Texas

Liz Branigan, Mayor	Chris Pezold, Place 1
Kathy Canady, Place 2	Crystal Mancilla, Place 3
Tony DeYoung, Place 4 / Mayor Pro Tem	Angela Jones, Place 5

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Liz Branigan at 7:59 PM. In attendance were Liz Branigan, Mayor; Chris Pezold; Kathy Canady; Tony DeYoung; and Angela Jones. Crystal Mancilla was not in attendance. Quorum was established.

Planning and Zoning Commissioners present were Chad Cormack, Jon Mathiasen, Steve Messana, Diane Williams, and Wes Griffin.

REGULAR AGENDA

DISCUSSION OF TREE ORDINANCE AND RELATED UPDATES TO THE UNIFORM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

Lacie Hale, City Administrator presented stating she would like input from the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. An ordinance to be written by the Bojorquez Law Firm will include purpose and definitions, which can be made more robust. The ultimate goal is to preserve the landscape as much as possible, determine required permits and tree survey, and address tree vegetation and replacement. It would also dictate where funds would be assigned. At this time, staff proposes a no-fee permit for removal of trees of a smaller size, understory vegetation, and new construction, unless there is a desire for fees for those items.

The Planning and Zoning Commission and Council deliberated preservations of trees, tree mitigation policy needed, section for oak wilt needed, and the proposed ordinance. PowerPoint attached. Wes Griffin stated he felt that this would present a detriment to the landowners and business owners, laying regulations on them that are not necessary. He felt the tree ordinance needs to be less onerous. Discussion followed.

DARK SKIES PRESENTATION.

DISCUSSION OF OUTDOOR LIGHTING AND POSSIBLE RELATED UPDATES TO THE UNIFORM DEVELOPMENT CODE.

Molly Evans who lives in Sundance Ranch provide a presentation on Dark Skies. She stated that she moved to the city 21 years ago and has raised her children here. She spoke on behalf of the Liberty Hill Save Our Skies group. She stated that she has seen the impact of light pollution and that if this continues, the city will be robbing children of the job of watching stars. She encouraged the City to implement an outdoor lighting program with restrictions on types of lighting and signs, hours allowed for outdoor lighting, and limiting of light exposure.

Planning and Zoning members and Council deliberated this. Ms. Evans provided a sample ordinance modeled after Dripping Springs.

Wes Griffin made a move to adjourn. Motion died for lack of second.

At 9:31 PM, there was a brief recess. At 9:36 PM, Mayor Branigan brought the meeting back into session.

DISCUSSION OF SIGNS AND POSSIBLE RELATED UPDATES TO THE UNIFORM DEVELOPMENT CODE.

Lacie Hale stated she was postponing this item.

DISCUSSION ON PLAN OF ACTION FOR UPDATING THE UNIFORM DEVELOPMENT CODE.

There was discussion on how best to proceed with draft updates and presentations thereof. Ms. Hale stated the potential updates will be sent to Planning and Zoning and Council at least seven (7) days prior to workshops for adequate review. Scenic City information will be included in the updates. Discussion of adding open houses prior to the meetings discussing changes to the UDC.

DISCUSSION ON PLAN OF ACTION FOR UPDATING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

Chris Pezold said that he has been looking at the 2016 Comp Plan and thinks it would be good to go through, review, and tweak. There was discussion following Lacie Hale's recommendation that the data in that plan could be updated with some correction of lack of consistency. There was discussion of hiring a consultant to update the plan v doing this inhouse with City staff. Following discussion, staff was tasked with identifying what needs to be updated.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Chris Pezold and second by Tony DeYoung, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 PM.

Motion passed on vote of 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of Liberty Hill, Texas on Wednesday, August 25, 2021, on vote of 4 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 abstentions.


Liz Branigan, Mayor

[seal]



Nancy Sawyer
Nancy Sawyer, City Secretary