

**Charter Township of Ironwood  
Planning Commission Minutes  
Regular Meeting  
October 17, 2019**

**Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.** The Regular Meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:** Jason Hofstede, Joe Rohde, Marlene Saari, Darrin Kimbler, Bob Lynn, Sandy Lahtinen

**Also Present:** LeRoy Johnson, Zoning Administrator; Bernard Brunello

**Absent:** Joe Kafczynski

**Public Comment:** Mr. Brunello commented on the problem with chickens on Sunset Rd. Some of the owners are allowing the chickens to run loose, creating a health hazard from their droppings. In addition, the noise from the roosters are disturbing the residents.

**Additions and/or Approval of Agenda:** Saari reported the agenda needed to be amended to include approval of the July 18, 2019 minutes. Motion by Kimbler, seconded by Lynn to approve the Agenda, as amended. Motion carried

**Approval July 18, 2019 minutes:** Motion by Kimbler, seconded by Lahtinen to approve the July 18, 2019 minutes. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

**Chickens on Sunset Rd – Nuisance Animals:** Further discussion was held regarding the problem with chickens, particularly for Sunset Rd and Margaret St., where the lots are small. There is no ordinance right now to address chickens or other nuisance animals. The complaints are treated as nuisance due to noise. Johnson will research other State of Michigan ordinances regarding chickens and provide samples for the Commission to review. Tabled the issue.

Lahtinen discussed the problem of cats being dropped off in the Township. Hope Animal Shelter is full and not accepting cats at this time. It was noted this is a problem throughout the County. The County has an ordinance for Animal Control. Lahtinen volunteered to meet with the County to discuss the problem and recommend to the County a Committee be formed to include the County Animal Control Officer, Hope Animal Shelter, and any other municipalities in the County.

**Proposed Changes to Zoning Ordinance:** Johnson recommended the Commission review language changes to include additional fees and add additional definitions, as needed. Motion by Kimbler, seconded by Saari to have the Ordinance Committee meet on November 14, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. at the Township Building to address the proposed

changes to be presented to the Commission and the Township Board prior to any Public Hearing. Committee representatives are Hofstede, Lahtinen, Kimbler, and Johnson.

**Zoning Administrator Report:**

Johnson provided the Zoning Log of Activities for April, May, June, July, and August. Motion by Saari, seconded by Kimbler to place the reports on file.

Johnson provided two proposed Orders by Mr. Imwalle vs. Charter Township of Ironwood for review by the Commission. One is regarding outdoor wood burning appliances and the other is regarding firepits. Johnson also provided the letter sent to the Darwins' regarding their request for an outdoor wood burning stove. The letter indicates they would need to comply with Article XVII and require a Special Use Permit.

**Old Business:**

Master Plan Update: Final review by the Master Plan Working Group is scheduled for November 14, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. at the Township Building. Once the review and any changes completed, final recommendation will be made to the Commission.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjournment/Schedule Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be December 19, 2019. Motion by Kimbler, seconded by Rohde, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

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Jason Hofstede, Chairman

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Marlene Saari, Secretary