



**CASCADE CITY  
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, December 19, 2016  
Cascade City Hall**

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lori Hunter. Vice Chairman Brandee Nitzel and Commissioner Heather Perkins were present. Ron Brown and Adam Mapp were absent. Quorum is present.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Lighting Ordinance

*Public Hearing*

Chairman Hunter explained the public hearing procedure, asked if there was anyone that was exparte then opened the public hearing.

Chairman Hunter asked Carrie to read the staff report.

Chairman Hunter asked the applicant to give their presentation. Chuck Smith, Valley County Astronomical Society showed one of two short videos, as one of the videos would not load. After the video, Chuck made the following comments:

- Valley County and McCall have a lighting ordinance in place, Donnelly and Cascade do not. The goal is to acquire Valley County in its entirety with a lighting ordinance.
- They would like to limit the LED lighting to 3,000K or below to reduce the glare, fully shield lights to keep lights from going up into the sky and potentially change as many lights as possible to motion sensor lights.
- Feels motion sensor lights improve safety, security and saves money.
- As far as enforcement, they would like the ordinance to be complaint driven, then address politely and educate.
- The long term goal is to work with the State Parks to put an observatory in place near Kelly's Whitewater Park.
- Solar eclipse will be in August and there are people that will be coming from all over.

After Chuck's presentation, Chairman Hunter asked for proponents:

Shauna Arnold, 535 Cabarton Road, made the following comments:

- Is a member of Horizons, as well as the Valley County Astronomical Society.
- She is a proponent for the lighting ordinance as they have presented.
- Would like Valley County to become a dark sky community as she feels it is viable for the community.

Larry Morton, 1911 Gold Dust Road, made the following comments:

- Feels the proposed ordinance is great.
- As a new business owner on Main Street, has a question about how this will affect his business with the Chief sign as well as other businesses such as the Roxy Theatre and the Ashley Inn – will there be a curfew?

Chairman Hunter asked for anyone that would like to testify as uncommitted. There was none.

Chairman Hunter asked for anyone that would like to speak as opposed:

Troy Huckaby, 115 Par Drive, made the following comments:

- He owns Huckaby Brothers Construction in town.
- Valley County already has a lighting ordinance and it has become problematic in the past.
- Says there are so many light fixtures out there that people want on their homes that don't comply with Valley County standards. The way they have gotten it approved is with lower wattage bulbs.
- Feels the lighting ordinance should be abolished not increased by adding it to the City.

Ronn Julian, 516 Lake Cascade Parkway, made the following comments:

- He's sympathetic with the value of the dark sky after seeing the film.
- Not sure this is the vehicle that will get us there.
- Cascade has a difficult time enforcing ordinances that are already on the books. The City needs to be able to enforce the ones we have because the city only has so much money and man power.
- He has a big spot light in his yard that shines down on the neighbor's property that he needs to use about 10-12 times a year when he uses it to snow blow and says he'd have to do away with it.
- Feels that this ordinance contradicts public health and safety.
- It will be costly to bring the lights on Main Street into conformance.
- Said increasing energy conservation is really not the main focus, it's the dark sky.

Chairman Hunter asked for rebuttal by the applicant.

Chuck Smith made the following comments:

- To address the safety issue – If you have very bright lights in town it can be blinding, not being able to see people until it's too late. We're trying to direct the light down and with the right color so it doesn't blind drivers as they drive through town.
- We're not saying you can't have lights on just be reasonable about it.
- You can have lights all over your house, just point them down, it doesn't do any good to have it pointing at the sky.
- Motion sensors promote safety.

Shauna Arnold made the following comments:

- In order to have a dark sky rating there needs to be an ordinance in place as part of the process.
- We are not eliminating lighting just re-directing it.
- The Astronomical Society is looking for grants to help bring people into compliance in the time frame.

Chairman Hunter closed the public hearing for deliberations.

Chairman Hunter said she feels that as far as safety, motion lights are better than flood lights.

Vice Chairman Nitzel recommends approval of the Lighting Ordinance as it stands; Commissioner Perkins seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Commissioner Perkins, yes; Vice Chairman Nitzel, yes; Chairman Hunter, yes. Motion carried.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Carrie Rushby, Deputy City Clerk

Approved:

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Lori Hunter, Chairman