

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PORTSMOUTH  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
JULY 13, 2023 – REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING

The Charter Township of Portsmouth Planning Commission held their regular scheduled meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2023, in the Township Hall at 1711 W. Cass Ave. Rd. Bay City, Michigan.

Chairman Pett called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

Present: Gies, Meagher, Brandt, B. Pett, Krzysiak, M. VanDriessche and P. Pett. Also Present: J. DeWyse, Zoning Administrator/Building Official, Ken DeWyse, Building Inspector and C. Hewitt, attorney.

Motion by Krzysiak and supported by Gies to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

SPICER GROUP MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION:

Cindy Todd and Mike Daly-Martin were here to give an overview of the process to update our Master Plan. All Planning Commissioners were given a binder containing 5 sections to keep and follow as the update progresses. Demographics of the township were reviewed. Prior to our next meeting all commissioner were asked to review the survey for the public that was put together. The goal is to review the questions to see if some should be modified, added to or deleted. Commissioners should complete the survey and get their answers to the clerk to be forwarded to Cindy or Mike. There will be four or five more meetings.

The first will be in August to review the surveys submitted by commissioners to make any changes. We need to decide how the surveys will be distributed to the public.

The second meeting will be to review public responses to the survey.

The third will be to start writing up plan objectives.

The fourth will be to discuss action items and the fifth will be to review the draft of the entire document before sending it to the Township Board.

There is a 63 day review where surrounding jurisdictions can view the document.

Commission members commented on the agricultural and residential look of the township now, alternative energy and the community input process being questionable if only available on-line.

Spicer Group representatives ended the session at 5:25 p.m.

A Public Hearing for a request from Marion and Carol Klosowski (represented by their daughter, Debra Gustin) began at 5:30 p.m.

The request is to rezone a property that is now zoned as agricultural/general business to all general business. Ms. Gustin explained that her parents want to sell the property and she can't get a realtor to set a value on the property because of the dual zoning.

Residents from 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, including James Degg, Len & Sandy Klosowski, Tom & Annette Szczepanik and Phil & Lori Switala, spoke of their concerns that they will no longer be able to enjoy their backyards if a business goes on the property.

The attorney spoke of several things that could be done with agricultural zoned property besides farming. Some were Group Homes, Day Cares, Parks, Churches, Communication Towers, Veterinary Hospitals and a list of others many of which would change the backyard views and serenity of those on 22<sup>nd</sup>. St.

Motion by M. VanDriessche and supported by Krzysiak to deny the rezoning request. Yeas: VanDriessche, Krzysiak, Gies, B. Pett, Brandt, Meagher and Pett. Nays: None. Motion carried. The request was denied.

Motion by Krzysiak and supported by Meagher to approve the minutes of the 6-8-2023 meeting. Motion carried.

Building Permits issued since the last meeting were read by Ken DeWyse.

Joe DeWyse read his report on zoning violations.

The accessory building amendment to the zoning ordinance was discussed. All changes to the template that was provided at the June meeting were implemented on the new draft.

Motion by Krzysiak and supported by Gies since all discussed changes were made and reviewed the amendment be approved. Yeas: Krzysiak, Gies, Brandt, Meagher, B. Pett, M. VanDriessche and P. Pett. Motion carried.

Steps will be taken to implement the zoning amendment, including public notices and a public hearing.

Motion by Krzysiak and supported by Gies that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Paul Pett, Chairman

Judy F. Bukowski, Recording Secretary