

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
PLANNING COMMISSION-CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
CITY OF LOWELL, MICHIGAN  
FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair LaPonsie and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Present: Commissioners Jim Hall, Shannon Hanley, Rachael Schwab, Jim Salzwedel and Chair LaPonsie.

Absent: Commissioner David Cadwallader.

Also Present: City Manager Mark Howe, Deputy City Clerk Susan Ullery, DPW Director Dan DesJarden and Mayor Hodges.

**2. EXCUSE OF ABSENCES.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HANLEY and seconded by HALL to excuse the absence of Commissioner Cadwallader.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA.**

IT WAS MOVED BY HANLEY and supported by HALL to approve the agenda as presented.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2013.**

IT WAS MOVED BY SCHWAB and seconded by HALL that the minutes of the September 9, 2013 meeting be approved as written.

YEA: 5. NAY: 0. ABSENT: 1. MOTION CARRIED.

- 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS.** Mayor Jim Hodges of 422 N. Jefferson thanked Chair LaPonsie for her service to the community. She has served on the Arbor Board, Light and Power Board and Planning Commission. She is a gifted and wonderful person. He thanked her and on behalf of the community and thanked her for her leadership and wisdom. LaPonsie will be missed.

Commissioner Hall thanked Chair LaPonsie for her leadership in the community. LaPonsie has done a very good job serving as Chair of the Planning Commission.

**6. OLD BUSINESS.**

- a. Review Code of Ordinance – Chapter 5 – Animals. The Commissioners reviewed the ordinance information from Cedar Springs, City of Grand Rapids, City of Hastings and the City of Rockford.

Hanley stated she did some research and found a lot of information such as not allowing roosters and limiting certain animals. Farm animals do not seem to be any greater risk than dogs.

Hall suggested notifying the community of this and asking for input. Possibly some type of survey?

Hall commented on the idea of City residents raising animals for the 4H Youth Fair. An annual permit could be issued for 12 months.

Howe believed the Planning Commission needed to list specific animals allowed and set the community standards in which staff can administer. He suggested having animals considered on a case by case basis.

Howe suggested including the issue in the newsletter in order to receive public comments. A suggestion was made regarding the Ledger asking for public input.

- b. Master Implementation Plan. City Manager Howe discussed the issue of reviewing a Mixed Use Zoning District. Should this be a Planning Commissions priority? He believed the Commission needed to start sorting out what a Mixed Use Zoning District looks like and what are the uses by right. At some point Howe will have Williams and Works provide examples from other communities.

By general consensus, the Commission agreed to move forward on this discussion.

Howe also suggested the idea of placing the strategic plan on the next agenda and have the Planning Commission provide input of where the Commission believes they fit within the Strategic Plan.

LaPonsie suggested the idea of Conditional Zoning.

7. **STAFF REPORTS.** City Manager Howe thanked Chair LaPonsie for being part of his hiring process when serving on City Council. He has had the opportunity to serve for LaPonsie while she has served on the City Council, Planning Commission, Arbor Board and Lowell Light and Power Board. She has been a very active member of this community. He appreciated her mentorship on issues. He commented on LaPonsie being part of the Germany trip and the great questions she asked. Even though LaPonsie is moving out of the City of Lowell, she is still very much a part of the community.
8. **COMMISSIONERS REMARKS.** Commissioner Salzwedel asked if anyone has come forward to replace the two Commissioner seats available. Mayor Hodges stated the positions will be advertised in the Ledger. We currently have openings on the Planning Commission, Light and Power, Historic District Commission. Anyone interested may submit their interest to the City Clerk.

Commissioner Schwab stated it has been great working with LaPonsie. She has learned a lot.

Commissioner Hanley thanked LaPonsie as well.

Chair LaPonsie stated this is her last meeting. She had originally called Mayor Shores stating her interest to serve on City Council. At that point Shores suggested she serve on the Planning Commission. LaPonsie believed the Planning Commission was one of the most underrated boards in the City.

LaPonsie thanked Jeanne Shores, Mayor Hodges, former City Manager Dave Pasquale, and Jim Hall. She commented on the knowledge Hall has about the City. She thanked everyone.

IT WAS MOVED BY HALL to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.

DATE:

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Maryalene LaPonsie, Chair

APPROVED:

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Betty R. Morlock, City Clerk