

Athens City Planning Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting

Thursday, May 7, 2020, 12:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Athens City Planning Commission was held virtually on May 7, 2020.

Attendees: Tom Gibbs, Glenn Decker, Vicki Newell

1. **Call to Order**

RJ Sumney called the regular meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 12:05 p.m. and administered the oath to those in attendance wishing to speak before the commission. Quorum was established.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS:

RJ Sumney, Chair	Present
Christy Zempter	Present
Nancy Bain, Vice Chair	Present
Steve Patterson, Mayor	Present
Tom Pyle, Acting Service-Safety Director	Present

STAFF:

Paul Logue, City Planner	Present
David Riggs, Code Enforcement Director	Present

2. **Disposition of Minutes**

Christy Zempter moved to accept the January 16, 2020 meeting minutes. Steve Patterson seconded. Motion passed 3:0 (RJ Sumney and Tom Pyle abstained).

RJ Sumney moved to accept the March 5, 2020 meeting minutes. Christy Zempter seconded. Motion passed 3:0 (Steve Patterson and Tom Pyle abstained).

RJ Sumney moved to accept the April 2, 2020 meeting minutes. Christy Zempter seconded. Motion passed 4:0 (Nancy Bain abstained).

3. **Cases**

Case #20-05 Morrison-Gordon Middle School

David Riggs/Summary

This project consists of revisions to the elementary school. Glenn Decker sent a line of sight to him verifying that there was a safe line of sight on the proposed access into and out of the school. The lot split is still under review and he will be getting it to Mr. Gibbs as soon as possible. The traffic analysis requested by ODOT is still pending. Recommends approval contingent on completion of the traffic study.

Tom Gibbs/Superintendent ACSD

- Hired a consultant to do the traffic study which has been forwarded to ODOT. ODOT requested the study to review the layout of the parking lot. ODOT provided three potential parking lot traffic flow solutions (not recommending any changes to the roadway). He will forward all the documents to David Riggs who will distribute for staff review.
- Trying to help the city and the railroad on the issue with the culvert. A consultant is coming in later this week to determine if the area constitutes a wetland. Vicki or Glenn can address any questions on this matter.

Glenn Decker/Sands Decker

- Working with Bob Heady on the culvert drainage issue, and conducted an extra survey to determine if there is an easy way to drain the existing culvert underneath the railroad.

Discussion

- Steve Patterson commented that he was glad that they are looking for solutions to the culvert drainage issue because it has been an issue for the EMS.
- RJ Sumney asked why ODOT was concerned about the parking lot traffic. Tom Gibbs said that it is a shared concern for all their schools – increasing number of parents who are driving their children to/from school. Cars tend to stack, especially in the afternoon with early arrivals. ODOT recommended three design options to avoid stacking and potential backing-up on Rt. 56.

Steve Patterson moved to approve Case #20-05 contingent on receipt and approval of the traffic study. RJ Sumney seconded. All present voted aye, motion passed 5:0.

Case #20-06 Herrold Avenue Major Subdivision

David Riggs/Summary

This is the first major subdivision the city has seen in many years. There are five lots having to be divided. Advantages: more saleable lots which will lead to income producing lots for the city; and it will also allow the city to acquire some right-of-way needed for Herrold Avenue. Recommends approval, however, the owners have not signed the application as they are out of the country. He recommends approval contingent on the owners signing the application.

Steve Patterson moved to approve Case #20-06 contingent on the owners' signatures. RJ Sumney seconded. All present voted aye, motion passed 5:0.

4. **Communications**

None

5. **Report from City Planner and Director of Code Enforcement**

Paul Logue

- The zoning commission that was formed in order to work through drafting a Zoning Ordinance for The Plains has forwarded a draft ordinance to the Regional Planning Commission. The RPC will review it at their Thursday morning meeting next week. If the ordinance receives their support this will be placed on the November 2020 ballot. He will forward the draft to the commissioners.
 - RJ Sumney asked about the zoning district boundaries for the new ordinance. Paul Logue will provide the map which outlines the district which is only in the Athens Township area.
- Draft of the Comprehensive Plan has been distributed widely via city social media platforms, and to the comprehensive plan email list (about 240). Has received some feedback, mostly positive. Interns are working on a feedback response form that will be available in the next day or two. This will help in collecting and analyzing the feedback.

David Riggs

- Has a resubmission of the Milliron PUD revision. This may be on the next Planning Commission agenda.

7. Opportunity for Citizens to Speak

No comments

8. Announcements & Other Business

Steve Patterson encouraged people to tune in to the Governor’s 2pm press conference this afternoon, as an announcement about the reopening of restaurants, bars, barbershops, and salons is expected.

Steve Patterson announced that there is a public meeting of ORCA tomorrow at 5:30 via Zoom. Amy Renner, Mayor of Chauncey is the Vice-chair and he is the chair.

The next meeting will be May 21, 2020.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

RJ Sumney, Planning Commission

Patricia Witmer, City of Athens