

**MINUTES
BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION**

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 --- 7:00 p.m.

Big Rapids Fire Hall, 14212 Northland Drive, Big Rapids, MI 49307

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Township Supervisor Bill Stanek called the annual joint meeting with the Big Rapids Township Board of Trustees and the Big Rapids Township Planning Commission to order at the township fire hall on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

II. BOARD OF TRUSTEES ROLL CALL:

Roll call of the Board of Trustees was conducted.

III. PLANNING COMMISSION CALL TO ORDER:

Planning Commission Chairperson Amanda Wethington called the Big Rapids Charter Township Planning Commission to order at the township fire hall on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:01 p.m.

IV. PLANNING COMMISSION ROLL CALL:

Present: Carman Bean, Mike Bigford, Mary Davis, Gordon Oliver, Mark Sweppenheiser and Amanda Wethington. Zach Cook is excused. The record shows there is a quorum. Also present: Bill Stanek, Big Rapids Township Supervisor; Timothy Kleinheksel, Big Rapids Township Zoning Administrator and Recording Secretary; Dave Bee, West Michigan Regional Planning Commission.

V. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

VI. STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP ADDRESS:

Mr. Stanek presented the 2020 State of the Township address.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

VIII. OATH OF OFFICES:

Mr. Stanek gave the oath of office to returning Planning Commission Chairperson Amanda Wethington, returning Zoning Board of Appeals and Construction Board of Appeals member Kevin DeFever, and returning Zoning Board of Appeals member Mark Maclver.

IX. RECESS OF PLANNING COMMISSION:

Mrs. Wethington recessed the Planning Commission members at 7:35 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Mr. Stanek adjourned the Board of Trustees at 7:35 p.m.

XI. PLANNING COMMISSION CALLED BACK TO ORDER:

Planning Commission Chairperson Amanda Wethington called the Big Rapids Charter Township Planning Commission back to order at the township fire hall on Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 7:49 p.m.

XII. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

Mrs. Wethington asked if any of the Commission members had known conflicts of interest with any of the items on the agenda for this meeting. No one indicated that a conflict of interest existed.

XIII. MINUTES:

Mrs. Wethington asked the Commission members to review the minutes of the October 8, 2019 since there was no meeting in November or December. Mr. Bean made a motion to approve the October 8, 2019 minutes as submitted. Mr. Sweppenheiser supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes.

XIV. ELECTION OF OFFICES:

Mrs. Wethington asked the Commission members to elect the 2020 Planning Commission offices. Mr. Sweppenheiser made a motion to elect Mrs. Wethington as Chairperson stating that she has done an excellent job in this position in the past. Mr. Bean supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes. Mrs. Davis made a motion to elect Mr. Sweppenheiser as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Bigford supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes. Mr. Sweppenheiser made a motion to elect Mr. Cook as Secretary. Mr. Oliver supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes.

XV. ACTION ON 2019 PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT:

Mrs. Wethington asked the Commission members to review the 2019 Planning Commission Report. Mr. Sweppenheiser made a motion to approve the 2019 Planning Commission Report as submitted. Mr. Oliver supported the motion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes.

XVI. SET MEETING DATES FOR 2020:

Mrs. Wethington asked the Commission to review the meeting date schedule for 2020. Mr. Sweppenheiser made a motion to accept the Planning Commission meeting schedule for 2020. Mrs. Davis supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with six ayes.

XVII. UPDATE ON PROGRESS ON MASTER PLAN:

Mr. Dave Bee from the West Michigan Regional Planning Commission is attending tonight to update the Planning Commission on progress on the Big Rapids Charter Township 2020 Master Plan. Mr. Bee began by handing out a synopsis of the Public Participation efforts. Highlights included: An Introduction considering how to update the Master Plan; Key Person Interviews conducted on November 6, 2019 and November 7, 2019, where the Township's strengths, weaknesses and opportunities were identified; and Issue Identification Workshops held on December 4, 2019 where participants were asked to

identify the Township's strengths and weaknesses in a roundtable setting. Discussion followed. A second handout detailed a draft of a survey to be mailed to Township residents to gain an understanding of their opinions relating to planning, development and other community issues. Discussion followed. Mr. Bee will be revising the Community Survey and forwarding to Committee members as per discussion of content. Mrs. Wethington thanked Mr. Bee for his work on the Master Plan.

XVIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

XIX. NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Stanek stated that the Board of Trustees has asked the Planning Commission to look at zoning for Marihuana growing facilities in the Industrial Park. Discussion followed. Comments from commission members included: that we cannot be an island with surrounding communities allowing growing and our Township not allowing growing; that we have an excellent opportunity to gain revenue for the Township; that we cannot allow our personal feelings to interfere; that the Township needs to go all-in on this endeavor. Mr. Kleinheksel will post to the Michigan Township Association online bulletin board in order to glean Zoning and Planning information pertinent to this subject from other Michigan townships. Mr. Stanek also reported that there is interest in erecting a communication tower on Big Rapids Township property. Discussion followed. Mr. Kleinheksel will review ordinances checking for zoning regulations regarding communication towers. Update on Woodward Avenue junk ordinance violation: Mr. Kleinheksel has visited the 22420 Woodward Avenue numerous times in the last six weeks. Most of the visits resulted in no one at the residence or not answering the door. Photos have been taken and archived in the Building Management program. A civil infraction is in process at the 77th District Court in Big Rapids.

XX. ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further business for the Planning Commission, Mrs. Wethington adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the Planning Commission minutes of January 14, 2020 by: Mr. Oliver.
Seconded by: Mr. Sweppenheiser. Roll call vote carried with five ayes.

Timothy Kleinheksel, Recording Secretary
BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION

02-11-20
Date Approved