

# MINUTES BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 11, 2020 --- 7:30 p.m.

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

## I. CALL TO ORDER: 7:30 P.M.

Chairman Amanda Wethington called the regular meeting of the Big Rapids Charter Township Planning Commission to order at the township hall on Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

## II. ROLL CALL:

Present: Mike Bigford, Mary Davis, Gordon Oliver, Mark Sweppenheiser and Amanda Wethington. Carman Bean and Zach Cook are excused. The record shows there is a quorum. Also present: Zoning Administrator and Recording Secretary, Timothy Kleinheksel.

## III. 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.

## IV. MINUTES:

Mrs. Wethington asked the Commission members to review the minutes of the January 14, 2020 meeting. Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the January 14, 2020 minutes as submitted. Mr. Sweppenheiser supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with five ayes.

## V. PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

## VI. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs. Wethington asked the Commission members to review the 2020 Master Plan Project survey letter. Mr. Kleinheksel suggested a verbiage clarification by adding bullet points to list the options of filling out and returning the survey. We will be adding the link to the Township's website for convenience of residents to fill out and submit online. Mailing will be conducted through KCI – Kent Communications Inc. who we use frequently for bulk mailings. Mailing is expected by February 14, 2020 with due date listed as March 19, 2020. Mr. Bigford made a motion to approve the mailing of the survey with the verbiage clarification. Mrs. Davis supported the motion. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously with five ayes.

Mr. Kleinheksel presented the outline of the proposed Marihuana ordinance. Discussion followed. We are considering restricting potential growers to locate to our industrial park in the Northern part of the Township to eliminate the possibility of close proximity to residential areas and schools. Mr. Kleinheksel is compiling an initial draft of the ordinance to be presented at the next Planning Commission meeting for review. Upon approval of

the Planning Commission and Township attorneys, the ordinance will be submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. At this time no action is required from the Committee.

Mr. Kleinheksel updated the Commission members on the proposed project of erecting a communication tower on Township property. American Tower has approached the Township about the possibility of erecting a tower on the Southeast corner of the Township's property here on Northland Drive. American Tower currently has two towers in our Township. Our attorneys are looking into the legalities of allowing the tower to be erected. We are considering allowing towers to be allowed in commercial districts in addition to agricultural districts. The tower would be permitted here due to the fact that Township property is exempt from its own ordinances. Mr. Kleinheksel asked the Commission members for input to making changes to the current Communication Tower ordinance. Discussion followed.

Mr. Kleinheksel updated the Commission members on the progress of the junk violation at the Woodward Avenue location. The occupant of the house has cleaned up most of the visible outdoor trash and says he will be continuing to keep the place presentable. The adjacent property owner is pleased with the clean-up efforts.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT:**

Hearing no further business for the Planning Commission, Mrs. Wethington adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Motion to approve the Planning Commission minutes of February 11, 2020 by: Mr. Sweppenheiser. Seconded by: Mr. Oliver. Roll call vote carried with seven ayes.

\_\_\_\_\_,  
Timothy Kleinheksel, Recording Secretary  
BIG RAPIDS CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION

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May 19, 2020  
Date Approved