

MUNSTER PLAN COMMISSION
MINUTES OF REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Meeting Date: October 8, 2024

The announced meeting location was Munster Town Hall and could be accessed remotely via Zoom, a video conferencing application.

Call to Order: 7:44 pm by President Baker

Pledge of Allegiance

Members in Attendance:

Bill Baker, President
Rachel Branagan
Jonathan Petersen
Roland Raffin, Vice President

Members Absent:

Joseph Hofferth
George Shinkan
Jennifer Johns

Staff Present:

Jennifer Barclay, HWC Planner
David Wickland, Attorney
Denise Core, Administrative Assistant

President Baker confirmed that there are four Plan Commission members in attendance and a quorum is present.

Commissioner Petersen asked to interject. He stated that the Plan Commission is one of the most important commissions in town, dealing with very important work, and as he looks around the room he sees many people he knows well and would like to support their worthy activities. However, one of the petitioners present this evening is a client of his who he has represented in a legal capacity and because of this he now finds himself conflicted. Commissioner Petersen continued by stating that his conflict would leave the Plan Commission unable to address their matter this evening. Commissioner Petersen concluded by stating that this commission has similar matters that have drawn significant comment and community interest and for these reasons he is taking the position that these matters be set over until there is a full complement of the Plan Commission.

President Baker noted Commissioner Petersen's comments and asked Attorney Wickland to advise on protocol when this type of request is presented. Attorney Wickland advised that a motion to the effect of Commissioner Petersen comment may be entered and passed with four affirmative votes of the Plan Commission. President Baker asked Commissioner Petersen to present his motion.

Commissioner Petersen moved to continue all petitions and all activities until next month when there is a full complement of the Plan Commission.

President Baker acknowledges the motion from Commissioner Petersen and asked if there is a second.

Vice President Raffin stated as a point of order he agrees that there are important matters to address and understands the issues with Conflict of Interests and its impact to voting. However, he would like clarification on why some of these matters are brought before the plan commission without a

Preliminary Hearing. Vice President Raffin concluded that it is proven difficult to review and vet at a Public Hearing.

Commissioner Petersen agreed and interjected that as a courtesy he is asking again the plan commission to continue the matters or he is going leave because he does not feel comfortable with proceeding on these matters due to a conflict and that other members should be present because of the importance of all the agenda items.

Commissioner Branagan stated she agrees and asked in the interest of everyone's time, could the other commissioners have participated virtually? Commissioner Petersen said that there is a mechanism for commission members to participate virtually, but he is not aware of their current situation and understands that each plan commission member can exercise their rights to participate virtually.

President Baker added that if individual members knew that they were not going to attend the meeting and that there were going to be conflicts, then this challenge could have been avoided before everyone showed up to the meeting. Commissioner Petersen commented that he does not have access to colleagues and members calendar and was unaware of what would transpire this evening and as a professional courtesy to the petitioners and colleagues he restated that he is not comfortable moving forward because there are too many important issues and concerns that need the entire complement of the Plan Commission to act on these matters. Commissioner Petersen concluded by stating that he once again puts forward that these matters be continued, or he will leave and on the fact of not having a quorum the meeting will be continued, and he is asking for collaboration.

President Baker asked if there was any additional comments or discussion? If not, then there is motion that needs a second.

Motion: Commissioner Petersen motioned to continue all petitions and activities until next month when there would be a full complement of the Plan Commission.

Second: Vice President Mr. Raffin

Vote: Yes –4 No – 0 Abstain – 0. Motion carried.

Vice President Raffin asked staff to ensure that these agenda items appear first on the agenda for next month's meeting.

Commissioner Petersen asked that staff provide the Board of Zoning Appeals and Plan Commission instructions on how to participate remotely.

President Baker announced the next Regular Business Meeting will be November 12, 2024 and asked that discussion be held on the process of Development Plans through the Plan Commission. There being no other matters President Baker asked for a motion and second to adjourn.

Adjournment:

Motion: Commissioner Branagan moved to adjourn.

Second: Vice President Raffin

Vote: Yes – 4 No – 0 Abstain – 0. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm

President Bill Baker/Vice President Roland Raffin
Plan Commission

Date of Approval

Executive Secretary Sergio Mendoza
Plan Commission

Date of Approval