

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego Planning Commission was held Monday, March 25, 2019.

Chairman Gilmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Robert Alway, Ric Saucedo, Paul Mitchell, Tom Gilmer, Jayson Ennis, Brent Milhiem and City Manager Mitchell. Absent: Mark Aldrich and Cyndi Trobeck.

Member Paul Mitchell moved to excuse Member Trobeck and Member Aldrich, seconded by Member Milhiem. CARRIED

The January 28, 2019, minutes, were accepted as submitted.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

II. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

III. CONSIDERATIONS

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. DISCUSSION REGARDING POTENTIAL CHANGES TO THE TEMPORARY SIGN ORDINANCE

Manager Mitchell gave an overview of the reasoning for potentially revising the current temporary sign ordinance to delete the wording and specifications for political signs. He explained that the City has been challenged on our current temporary sign ordinance, because the individual feels it presents him from expressing his freedom of speech. He commented that he wanted to bring suggestions that were presented by the City's attorney to potentially change the ordinance for residential temporary signs to a twelve (12) square feet maximum signage with no sign being larger than six (6) foot and no taller than four (4) foot, and no more than four (4) total signs. He stated that every sign should pass the "strict scrutiny test", only looking at the dimensions of the sign – not the content. Manager Mitchell also commented that the signs could be back to back and counted as square footage of one sign. He gave an outline of the time schedule needed to have a new ordinance in place before June 1<sup>st</sup>. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the potential changes to the temporary sign ordinance, as presented by the City attorney. Various suggestions were discussed and the Planning Commission Members will contact Manager Mitchell with their final thoughts before the end of the week. Manager Mitchell will communicate with the Planning Commission the final language. A Public Hearing will take place at the April 22, 2019, meeting. Manager Mitchell also commented that the City attorney has asked that he write all future ordinances for the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sean Seibold, the owner of 541 W. Allegan Street, was in attendance to give an overview of his intentions to expand the used car lot he currently operates at 541 W. Allegan Street. He stated that he will be purchasing a lot to the east of his current property which has a thirty (30) foot frontage. He stated that he will be applying for a Special Use Permit for the new lot he is purchasing. He stated that he will also be presenting the Planning Commission with a site plan, for the review. Manager Mitchell briefly explained the Special Land Use process.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Member Paul Mitchell, seconded by Member Ennis. CARRIED –7:55 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC  
City Clerk