

MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING HELD ON January 11, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nathan Rau at 7:30PM.

Roll call was taken: **Present: Rau, Hicks, Lutz, Voelker, Frederick, Gaitsch**
Absent: Pittman

Chairman Rau asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from December 14, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. There were none. A motion was made by Hicks and seconded by Gaitsch to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020 meeting as presented. **Motion carried.**

The Chairman asked if there were any citizens to address the Planning Commission. There were none.

The Chairman asked if there were any corrections or deletions to the agenda. There were none.

NEW BUSINESS: The Chairman asked if there was any new business. There was none.

PETITIONS:

Z-21-01-01 Review and comment on a petition by Mike Schneider, on behalf of the Monroe County Commissioners and the Monroe County Sheriff's Department, to consider an expansion to a Special Use Permit for an addition to an existing structure at 225 East Third Street (Parcel No. 07-25-282-005-000).

This petition has been made on behalf of the Monroe County Commissioners and the Monroe County Sheriff's Department to allow for the expansion of a Special Use Permit for construction of an addition to the existing Monroe County Sheriff's Department building and jail. Mike Schneider - architect, County Commissioner - George Green, and Sheriff Rohlring were present to represent and speak for the petition. Any government building within the city limits of Waterloo operates under a Special Use permit and must go through city commission hearing to describe intent of use.

The proposed 14,500 square foot addition would allow for improved safety, separate cell blocks for male and female detainees, as well as, updated jailing infrastructure within the building. The new structure would be the same height and same roof level as there is a significant slope on the east side of the building. The plan is to expand the building to the east only.

Rau inquired about the building materials for the new maintenance shed that is also planned to be constructed on the east side of the property. The Sheriff responded that all building materials will be within the city's ordinance code.

Citizen wants to be sure that the new building looks nice and is aesthetically pleasing to the community. Schneider, the architect, stated that the existing brick will stay and the new lobby will cover up a lot of the existing structure.

Gaitsch asked about the new outdoor lighting and if it will be brighter than it currently is and if there will be a fence and separation between the jail and residential properties adjacent to the jail. Schneider replied that there is a city ordinance that prevents flood lighting and the Sheriff doesn't want a lot of additional lighting on the exterior of the property.

There will be no changes in property setbacks and parking at the facility is still to be developed.

Hicks inquired about cell count occupation. Sheriff Rohlfing explained that there is currently no place for a female population and have been adjusting on the fly to separate male and female detainees. The Sheriff also explained that there was a previous plan for expansion in 2010 that did not pass and even though jail population is currently down he anticipates it going back up following the COVID-19 pandemic. The jail is also in need of updates and renovations, especially for cell infrastructure.

Lutz inquired about the need to double the number of cells within the jail. Sheriff Rohlfing stated that yes, they need room for any arrest that is house-able throughout the county.

Jim Nagel notes that this is just the first step in a very long process and ultimately the issue would need to be on a ballot for approval by the citizens of the county.

The Planning Commission recommends that the building material match the current aesthetic and the city code material requirements.

A favorable recommendation to allow for the expansion of a Special Use Permit for an addition to the existing structure at 225 East Third St was made by Hicks and seconded by Voelker.

Members voted at follows: YES – Rau, Hicks, Lutz, Voelker, Fredrick, Gaitsch

OLD BUSINESS: The Chairman asked if there was any old business. There was none.

COMMENTS: The Chairman asked if there were any comments. There were none.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56PM was made by Lutz and seconded by Voelker. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lauren Voelker.