

City of Norwich
Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
Norwich City Court

February 24, 2014
7:00 PM

Present: D. DeForest, S. Prentice, L. Bunce, K. Campbell, H. Graves

Absent: R. Mirabito, M. Stewart, J. Miller

Staff: T. Dreyer, A. Donnison

I. Call to Order:

Vice-Chair D. DeForest called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM. On a motion by L. Bunce, the minutes of the November 18, 2013 meeting seconded by S. Prentice were approved.

II. Comprehensive Plan Update:

Todd Dreyer distributed copies of the completed text portion of the comprehensive plan. T. Dreyer noted that one change he made that was not discussed was the addition of an acknowledgement page. Photos and logo on the front page as well as any other graphics will be changed later on. T. Dreyer asked that all review this document and to email him about any corrections as he would like to make the Common Council aware on March 18, 2014 that the Planning Commission will be transmitting the text to them. T. Dreyer noted that the page numbers will be corrected and will be transmitted in its most final draft possible – no strike through or colored text. The planning matrix will show the biggest changes. Some of the economic development section is still missing because there is still census information that is not available. D. DeForest asked if there was a deadline that all corrections were needed by, T. Dreyer stated March 12, 2014. J. Miller sent T. Dreyer proposed language which was discussed and D. DeForest stated proposed language may be beyond the purview of this committee. T. Dreyer noted that the section regarding funding sources has been removed because now nearly all grant funding is done online.

III. Other

T. Dreyer stated that each December he creates a priority project list and has done one for 2014. The sidewalk and paint program has been very successful and the Common Council has extended it until 2018. The city has taken more tax properties each year which is a sad sign of the times and has done fairly well managing them and disposing of them through RFP's. The properties at the northwest corner of the city have been purchased and there are plans for a development. The current owner is actively pursuing funding and has submitted tentative plans for review by the code office. The plans are for a home owners association to manage the parcels. There are however many hoops to jump through before a date is set to break ground. Possible tax breaks are being investigated for the proposal and Mayor Maiurano stated he will be going to a Chenango County meeting soon to verify they are on board with the plan.

The State Street housing development is moving forward rapidly and should be completed in just a few months. The Chenango Housing Council believes they have located the ideal site for the homeless shelter which is located outside of the city limits and is currently known as the Chenango County Drug & Alcohol Center on East River Road. Hercules Properties has submitted a proposal to the Common Council to purchase 42 – 44 – 46 North Broad Street and has been accepted. The proposal is for the 1st floor to house 2 commercial spaces and the upper floors will be converted to residential use. H. Graves asked what the tax impact would be on the State Street Housing Project; T. Dreyer stated we do not know at this time.

The City of Norwich is celebrating its 100th year. There will be 1 event per month starting March 15, 2014 at the Rexford Street Car Museum.

Bob Jeffrey stated he does believe that the city has a need for single story housing for seniors such as the homes on Brown Avenue. B. Jeffrey also noted that housing conditions are an ongoing concern and is aware that a lot is being done with inspections to improve it but feels even more needs to be done.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2014.

IV Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by motion by H. Graves at 7:50 pm seconded by K. Campbell. Ayes all.