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City of Ashland, Wisconsin
601 Main Street West — Ashland, WI 54806 — www.coawi.org

PLAN COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

July 2nd, 2024 at 4:00PM at the City Hall Council Chamber and via Go To Meetings

The meeting can be joined in person or by using a computer, smartphone or tablet at

<https://meet.goto.com/775025133>

**The meeting can also be joined by phone at
1 866 899 4679 using Access Code: 775-025-133**

Present: Mayor Mackenzie, John Beirl, Jeff Beirl, Laurie Gregor, David Eades, JoAnn Erickson, Steven Wiley (Planning and Development Director), Terri Erickson (Assistant Planner)

Absent: Ana Tochtermann (Excused)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
Mayor Mackenzie called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.
2. Approval of the Agenda
Mackenzie asked for approval of the agenda. John Beirl moved to approve the agenda as proposed and Eades seconded. The motion carried 5-0
3. Identify potential conflicts of interest
None
4. Public Comment (non-agenda items)
None
5. Discussion Items:
 - a. Discussion regarding parking spaces for automobiles, boats, campers in rear yards on residential properties
Mayor Mackenzie mentioned that this is an item where we are unsure what to do. At Council there were mixed feelings. Some councilors said leave well enough alone. The Mayor and staff would appreciate some input from Plan Commission. *Ms. Erickson arrived at 4:03 pm.* Wiley explained the current issue and regulations. Often people park or store boats, campers, RV's, ATVs/UTVs, trailers, and automobiles in rear yards. Property maintenance staff have encountered many of these instances and the alternative is often parking these on the street which generates more complaints. Mackenzie asked if gravel pads can be used for parking of these vehicles. Wiley answered that existing grandfathered ones can. Currently ordinance prohibits owners from expanding them. Erickson asked if the problem was maintenance, junk, or something else. Mackenzie answered that it was all of the above. John Beirl stated that Mackenzie brought up that this came up at the City Council. He asked what Plan

Commission's appetite is for this. John Beirl stated that he would rather see ordinance prevent parking these on the street and have them back onto private properties. Currently we are disincentivizing parking on property and now putting them onto the streets. He suggested looking at what other communities do rather than reinventing the wheel. He asked staff to look into this and make a recommendation. Time is of the essence. He would rather want these items on peoples' properties. People have been parking on the street with the wet weather. Erickson asked if people can pay the expense to put a gravel or a paved area in. She asked if people can obtain a permit to park in their yards and if so is the City going to enforce it. She asked if not what is the point. Gregor agrees with John Beirl. She too would rather see people park on private property than in the street and it could require a permit. If they do not keep the area maintained that falls under the regular ordinance. Eades agrees with John and Gregor. He asked what the big deal is with parking in the yard. He supported potentially requiring a permit. Erickson asked if it was legal to have someone living in an RV on the street with water, etc. Mackenzie and Wiley explained that there is a time limit. Eades asked if we consider limiting the number of vehicles, amount of area, require screening, etc. Jeff Beirl is supportive of allowing people to park on the grass in the rear. If we are going to limit number of vehicles we have to look at the property size and look at setbacks. He is supportive of a free permit for record keeping but is not supportive of requiring people to pay a permit fee in order to park vehicles on their own lawns. He thinks it should be explored. Mackenzie mentioned short term rentals and cases of fishermen who stay in Airbnbs have large boats that will not fit into yards. Erickson stated that she is not as worried about non-residents.

Mackenzie asked what Commissioners' thoughts were on relaxing the amount of impervious surface allowed by ordinance. Wiley explained the current impervious surface maximums and stormwater considerations. The size of garages is limited due to scalability. We would not want a small home dwarfed by a large-scale accessory building on a residential parcel. Erickson asked if ordinance changes would come to us. Wiley explained that some of these would come back to Plan Commission, especially zoning and some property maintenance. Eades suggested maybe having a time limit for how long RVs can be parked on the street (maybe 48 hours). Mackenzie explained how property maintenance enforcement works currently. It is not a quick turnaround. It can be a 21 or so day process before you get to where you can pursue things through the court system. He stated that we can catch up with property maintenance and then get more aggressive with what we put on permits. Erickson believed that some people put off complying because there has not been follow up. Staff will look at what other communities are doing, come up with ideas, and determine how to proceed.

6. Announcement/Reports/Comments/Questions

Erickson asked if Copper Cup was coming or not. Wiley explained that they were not moving forward on the Stuntz site. Mackenzie explained that Taste of WI is moving to Little Caesars, the flower shop going to the Huen drug store across the street from City Hall. The El Tarasco site is coming back to the city and Mr. Alvarez is interested in looking at other options. Mayor Mackenzie mentioned the City's plans to consider an East Side Arts District.

7. Adjournment

Mackenzie asked for a motion to adjourn. Eades moved and Erickson seconded. The Commission voted 6-0 to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 4:33 pm.

Recorded by:

Steven D. Wiley, AICP
Planning and Development Director