

SEARCY PLANNING COMMISSION

JANUARY 2021 MINUTES

SEARCY, AR

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Planning Commission of and for the City of Searcy, Arkansas, was held by Zoom ID 617 815 0816, at 12:00pm on Tuesday January 5, 2021, pursuant to proper public notice. Attending the call were Chairman Steven Jordan and Commission members: Lisa Wray, Jamie Mobley, Jim House, Charles Green, Bill Patton, Larry DeGroat and Jim Wilbourn. Also attending the call: Recording Secretary Jeri Parish, City Planner Jim VonTungeln, City Engineer Mark Lane, Code Enforcement Officers Jeff Webb and Phil Watkins, and Fire Inspector Guy Grady.

Chairman Steven Jordan called notice of a quorum.

The next item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from the December 2020 Planning Commission meeting. Commissioner Green moved that the minutes be approved. Commissioner Mobley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The fourth item on the agenda, was Amendment to Land Development and Subdivision Code in The Zoning Code. Jim VonTungeln explained the purpose of this amendment was for commercial developments that do not meet the large scale development threshold. This would require commercial small scale developments to present a site plan, drainage plan, and elevation to the city. City Engineer, Mark Lane, explained the Small Scale Development requires will be the same as a Large Scale Development except coming before the Planning Commission. Adam Hart with Hart Construction explained he felt this would benefit the Building Inspector, Phil Watkins, and Code Enforcement Director, Jeff Webb, when it comes to enforcing and abiding by the current codes for new developments. VonTungeln also explained a minor change is needed on how we treat ground mounted solar panels or solar panels on poles. This would allow the city to treat the solar panels as an accessory building. Chairman Jordan questioned if we add the solar energy system to this section will we need to add in the regulations of the solar energy system. Commissioner DeGroat said he read this new definition as only where it can be placed such as the backyard or the side yard, so he suggested more details. Chairman Jordan and City Engineer, Mark Lane, both agreed the definition is a great start but the regulations will need to be added to this section.

At this time, Chairman Jordan opened the public hearing for the Amendment to the Land Development and Subdivision Code. Recording Secretary, Jeri Parish, stated that no emails or calls were received for this item. With no comments, Chairman Jordan closed the public hearing. Commissioner DeGroat moved to be approved. Commissioner Green seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

Jim Wilbourn, Secretary