Johnstown Planning Board

Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, June 4, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

DRAFT MINUTES

The proceedings of this meeting were recorded for the benefit of the City Clerk; because the minute are not a verbatim record of the proceedings, the written minutes are not a word-for-word transcript.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Peter Smith, Chairman

ATTENDANCE – Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Peter Smith, Chairman | Christopher Vose, City Engineer |
| Betsy Camarra | Michael Poulin, City Attorney |
| Jason Mylott | Bruce Heberer, Chief Code Enforcement Officer |
| Terri G. Easterly | Carrie Allen, City Clerk |
| George Nicholas | Kathi Iannotti, Liaison |

ABESENT

Michael Poulin

Kathi Iannotti

APPROVE MINUTES – May 7, 2019

Motion to approve – T. Easterly

Seconded – B. Camarra

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 (Poulin)

ITEM #1: MULTI-FAMILY DEVELOPMENT: 25 NORTH EAST AVENUE

* FULTON COUNTY PLANNING BOARD REFERRAL

Received letter from Sean Geraghty, Senior Planner – no regional implications

* PUBLIC HEARING

Peter Smith opened the Public Hearing at 4:03 p.m.

Speakers:

* Marilyn Poitras of 38 N. East Avenue
* Already have 2 housing complexes in Neighborhood; Hillside Apts. & Maple Knoll Apts.
* His new complex will add at least 30+ cars
* The police do not do anything about traffic
* Has lived on street for 46 years and traffic never this bad
* There are no lights or sidewalks
* Not a good area for this housing complex
* Larry Poitras of 38 N. East Avenue
* You take your life in to your own hands when crossing street
* There are delivery trucks using the road

B. Heberer stated that delivery trucks can use road for local deliveries.

* Land is still very wet where they want to develop

C. Vose stated that drainage requirements will be met\

* Rich Menconi of 2 N. East Avenue
* Traffic is an issue
* Since he spoke with police chief he has noticed that there has more of a police presence but nothing being done
* One of the officers he spoke with was unaware that the truck route had been approved; this needs to be posted
* He has been at a few council meetings and had made at least 20 suggestions as to fixing the traffic issues but only thing that has been done is more of a police presence.
* Roger Eaton of 3 N. East Avenue
* Traffic is an issue. They have nicknamed part of the street as dive bomb hill because people travel up to 70 mph
* His grandchildren can’t ride their bikes on his sidewalk because it’s too dangerous
* This complex will add to more misery
* Nancy Blowers of 30 N. East Avenue
* Proposed development will be right across the street from her house
* N. East Ave is starting to look like the arterial
* The house across the street; grass doesn’t get mowed, equipment has been there for years
* She will have no privacy and her property value will be lowered
* Can development be put anywhere else in the city?
* Hillside Apts have had sewer issues because ground is so wet
* Bruce Menconi of 4 N. East Avenue
* Moved here in August for peace & quiet
* Traffic volume has increased
* If development goes in he’d like to see 3-way stop sign at entry and Prindle Avenue
* He has been to 2 council meetings and received no response. Council needs to listen to the citizens
* He thinks he has made a mistake moving here.

Discussion:

* Peter Smith
* stated that the property is in a commercial zone. The land was never developed because the former owner (Martha Boardman) didn’t want it developed. Zoning permits this use of the property.
* P. Smith agrees that the truck traffic needs to be dealt with and he will bring it to the attention to Mayor.
* As the planning board they need to follow zoning code but needs to have the traffic laws followed.
* Developer
* Feels adding stop signs is a good idea
* Siedwalks can be added on N. East Ave. in front of development; would be maintained by owner
* Can add more trees as buffer between development and N. East Ave.
* Can ask Hillside Apts to connect to added sidewalk
* Wetlands can’t ever be touched or developed
* Rents will be between $900-$1100/mo

No further comments or discussion.

Peter Smith closed the Public Hearing at 4:45 p.m.

* NEGATIVE DECLARATION – ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Discussion:

C. Vose stated that Page 5, Section D. needs to be changed:

* not in Montgomery County
* not in sewer district

Motion to approve – C. Vose

Seconded – G. Nicholas

Ayes: 1

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 1 (Poulin)

Motion Carried

* Conrad Stergas of 46 S. East Avenue asked to make a comment.

Peter Smith opened the Public Hearing back up at 4:47 p.m.

* He would like to see No Thru Traffic on North east Avenue.

No further comments or discussion.

Peter Smith closed the Public Hearing at 4:47 p.m.

* APPROVE SITE PLAN

Motion to approve – G. Nicholas

Seconded – C. Vose

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Yes | No |  | Yes | No |  |
|  |  | Peter Smith |  |  | Christopher Vose |
|  |  | George Nicholas |  |  | Michael Poulin |
|  |  | Betsy Camarra |  |  |  |
|  |  | Terri Easterly |  |  |  |
|  |  | Jason Mylott |  |  |  |

Discussion: T. Easterly would like to recommend that stop signs be added to North east Avenue and traffic be enforced.

B. Heberer & C. Vose will address the issues and recommendations brought up at the meeting with the Mayor and Council

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: 6  
Noes: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Absent: 1 (Poulin)  
Motion Carried

MOTION TO ADJOURN @ 4:51p.m.

Motion – B. Camarra

Seconded – J. Mylott

Ayes: 6

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Poulin)

Respectfully submitted

Carrie M. Allen

City Clerk