

**TOWN OF YARROW POINT
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2010**

The following is a condensation of the proceedings and is not a verbatim transcript. The meeting was not recorded.

CALL TO ORDER:

Acting Town Clerk-Treasurer Claudia Lauinger called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Chairman: David Feller

Commissioners: Richard Cahill
Amy Pellegrini
Dan Williams
Peter Braman (arrived after meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM)

Staff: Mona Green – Town Planner
Claudia Lauinger – Acting Clerk-Treasurer
Wayne Stewart – Town Attorney (Excused)

Guests: None

APPEARANCES:

There were no appearances.

MINUTES:

The minutes from the February 26, 2010, Planning Commission meeting were not available and approval will be deferred to the April meeting.

STAFF REPORTS:

Town Planner Green reported on the May Town Council meeting, explaining that Financial Analyst, John Joplin, gave a fiscal overview of the Town's finances and stated his concern for the Town's financial future. Mrs. Green noted that the Council would continue to study both expenses and revenues and added that a possible increase in the property tax levy was mentioned. Currently Yarrow Point has the second lowest property tax rate in the county.

Mrs. Green also explained that during the Council meeting Town Engineer, Stacia Schroeder, discussed the 42nd Street pipe that had been damaged. A survey is being completed so that the Town will know and understand the situation in that area.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

PC-AB 10-004 – Discussion of Proposed Public Property Tree Code and Tree City Program

Town Planner Green introduced the proposed Public Property Tree Code and Tree City Program ordinance and stated that all comments from the previous meeting with the Planning Commission and Park Board had been incorporated into the current document.

- There had been discussion on the title of the document, with the members wanting to emphasize that the proposed ordinance covered trees on public property only. This was completed.
- Linden Mead from the Department of Natural Resources will review the proposed ordinance and its compliance with the requirements for becoming a Tree City U.S.A. Ms. Mead recommended that Section 4 regarding the designation of Arbor Day be added. This was completed.
- The former Section 4 regarding ownership of trees in the right-of-way was deleted at the recommendation of Attorney Stewart. He had explained earlier that he did not believe the term “ownership of trees” should be included in the ordinance.

Upon questioning by the Commission regarding penalties for cutting trees in the right-of-way and the determination of the value of those trees, Mrs. Green explained that there were books that would help with that determination.

Mrs. Green noted that Linden Mead from the Department of Natural Resources informed her about a grant opportunity which could award up to \$10,000 to the Town for the conducting of a Tree Inventory and Tree Management Plan. The grant application is due in approximately two weeks and Town Planner Green will put the necessary documents together before the due date.

In discussing the date of Arbor Day, Mrs. Green explained that Arbor Day was officially the last Friday in April but the Town could designate any day as the Town’s Arbor Day.

By motion of Mr. Williams and second by Mr. Cahill, the Planning Commission voted to approve the proposed Public Property Tree Code and Tree City Program Ordinance and to place it before the Public at a Public Hearing to be held on Monday evening, April 19, 2010. The vote was unanimous.

OTHER BUSINESS:

In other business, in response to the Commissioners' question regarding the analysis of the shoreline data, Town Planner Green responded that the analysis would be completed in June.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business, by motion of Mr. Williams and second by Mr. Cahill, the Planning Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.

APPROVED:

David Feller, Chair

ATTEST:

Sara McMillon, Clerk-Treasurer

Submitted:

Claudia Lauinger, Acting Clerk
For Sara McMillon