

**MINUTES**  
**CITY OF LONSDALE**  
**REGULAR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING**  
**AUGUST 20, 2015**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Voting Members: Jim Freid, Joe Kodada, Dave Dols, John Duban, and Ben Sticha  
Council Representative Scott Pelava

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**STAFF PRESENT:**

City Planner Benjamin Baker

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dols called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm in the Council Chambers at 415 Central Street West.

**2. AGENDA**

Dols asked if anyone had any additions or deletions to the agenda.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Duban to approve the agenda as presented.  
Vote for: Freid, Kodada, Dols, Duban, and Sticha; Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The June 25, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes will be reviewed at the next Planning Commission meeting.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**5. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

## 6. GENERAL BUSINESS

### a. City/Project Updates

Baker provided the latest information and details on the following City projects/items:

- Veterans Memorial & Main Street Plaza
- Rezac Nature Preserve Archery Range
- Fishing Pier & Boardwalk Project
- Park Board Budgeting & Planning
- WeatherBug
- Kalina Park Wetland Enhancement Project
- Kalina Park to Rezac Nature Preserve Grass Trail Connection
- Dollar General
- Caseys General Store
- TMI
- Lonsdale Feed Mill
- Rice County GIS services partnership
- 408 Pondview Drive SE Boundary Adjustment land use application
- Building Permit statistics
- City Council 2016 Annual Budget Meeting
- Area No. 5 Project
- 2016 Comprehensive Plan
- Chicken Article in Lonsdale Area News Review

### b. LMNC Zoning Decisions Webinar – Part 5

In the interest of time, the Planning Commission decided to table the LMC Zoning Decisions Webinar until their next meeting.

## 7. MISCELLANEOUS

- Pelava stated that the Lonsdale Boy Scouts will be picking up garbage along the new trail in the Rezac Nature Preserve on October 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Freid asked if the City had any brightness regulations for digital signs similar to Lonsdale Hardware's new LED sign along Hwy 19. Baker stated that dynamic/digital signage is restricted to 32 sq. ft. per side, but he said that he would research Freid's question further.
- Baker stated that City Administrator Joel Erickson and he had a meeting, prior to the Planning Commission meeting, with Billie Sayer, 639 Elm Street NE, and James Vosejka, 210 Ash Street NW, regarding the keeping of urban chickens in Lonsdale. Baker stated that Sayer had requested to be on the next Planning Commission Agenda to make a presentation on urban chickens. The Commissioners asked if Sayer was still housing chickens on her property. Baker stated that the Police Department and City Attorney were currently handling that issue. The Commissioners all stated they felt education on the matter, and they informally indicated that it was unlikely that the 2010 Prohibited Animals Ordinance Amendment would be changed to allow for the keeping of urban chickens. However, the Planning Commissioners stated that it was only fair to allow Sayer to give a short educational presentation on the subject.

The Planning Commission discussed the subject further. Fried stated that some people are allergic to chickens and that chickens should not be allowed in town due to the hassle, foul smell, and health concerns. Kodada stated that dogs already cause enough problems in town, so he questioned why farm animals should be allowed. The rest of the Planning Commissioners agreed that most residential lots in Lonsdale are too small for keeping backyard chickens and that farm animals belong on large-acreage rural agricultural properties. The Commissioners stated that many people tend to live in town to get away from farm animals and associated smells. Sticha suggested that the City include a specific question pertaining to the keeping of urban chickens on a future citywide survey. Pelava provided information on ordinances adopted by other Minnesota municipalities. Baker stated that he would relay the Commission's comments on the matter to Sayer.

- Fried stated that the City and Planning Commission should work on creating a permitting process for temporary outdoor events such as the Downtown Farmers Market.
- The Planning Commission asked if Police Chief Schmitz could provide information on the legality of golf carts on City streets. They specifically requested information on licensing, signage, and age requirements. The Commissioners suggested that the City and Lonsdale Area News Review work together to post an informational article on the subject.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Sticha to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Freid, Kodada, Dols, Duban, and Sticha. Against: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Benjamin Baker, City Planner