

**PRAIRIE TOWNSHIP ZONING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES: JANUARY 26, 2021**

IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE

Members: Christopher Finn, Chairman; Melvin Jones, Vice-Chairman;
Hulda Moffitt, Secretary; Howard Balzer; Nancy Daniels

Township Staff: Connie Swisher, Zoning Inspector
Dana Scott, Zoning Specialist
Alicia Armentrout, Zoning Specialist

Township Guest: Michael Pollack, Director
Prairie Township Community Center

VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE

Alternate Member: Kevin Dye

Resident Guest: Joe Meijer

CALL TO ORDER

Christopher Finn, Chairman, called the meeting of the Prairie Township Zoning Commission to order at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at the Township Hall, 23 Maple Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43228.

MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Finn asked for action to correct or approve as written the minutes for the February 25, 2020, Prairie Township Zoning Commission meeting. (There has been no meeting since February 25, 2020, because of the COVID-19 virus.)

Meeting Minutes: Corrections

Ms. Moffitt stated that the year in the date printed at the top of page 1, February 25, 2019, should be 2020, not 2019.

Mr. Finn stated that in the second paragraph in the "Meeting Minutes" section on page 1, the year in the date of the minutes printed, December 17, 2020, should be 2019, not 2020.

Mr. Finn made a motion to approve the February 25, 2020, meeting minutes as corrected; motion seconded by Ms. Daniels.

Roll Call:

- 1. Howard Balzer Yes
- 2. Nancy Daniels Yes
- 3. Hulda Moffitt Yes
- 4. Melvin Jones Yes
- 5. Christopher Finn Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021

Mr. Finn stated that the next item of business was to elect officers of the Prairie Township Zoning Commission for the year 2021.

Chairman

Mr. Finn asked for a nomination for Chairman. Ms. Moffitt nominated Christopher Finn as Chairman. Ms. Daniels seconded the nomination. Mr. Finn accepted the nomination. Mr. Finn asked if there was any other nomination for Chairman; there was none. Mr. Finn called for a vote of board members to elect the nominee as Chairman.

Roll Call:

- 1. Howard Balzer Yes
- 2. Nancy Daniels Yes
- 3. Hulda Moffitt Yes
- 4. Melvin Jones Yes
- 5. Christopher Finn Yes

Christopher Finn was unanimously elected as Chairman of the Zoning Commission.

Vice-Chairman

Mr. Finn asked for a nomination for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Finn nominated Melvin Jones as Vice-Chairman. Ms. Daniels seconded the nomination. Mr. Jones accepted the nomination. Mr. Finn asked if there was any other nomination for Vice-Chairman; there was none. Mr. Finn called for a vote of board members to elect the nominee as Vice-Chairman.

Roll Call:

1. Howard Balzer Yes
2. Nancy Daniels Yes
3. Hulda Moffitt Yes
4. Melvin Jones Yes
5. Christopher Finn Yes

Melvin Jones was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman of the Zoning Commission.

Secretary

Mr. Finn asked for a nomination for Secretary. Mr. Finn nominated Hulda Moffitt as Secretary. Mr. Jones seconded the nomination. Ms. Moffitt accepted the nomination. Mr. Finn asked if there was any other nomination for Secretary; there was none. Mr. Finn called for a vote of board members to elect the nominee as Secretary.

Roll Call:

1. Howard Balzer Yes
2. Nancy Daniels Yes
3. Hulda Moffitt Yes
4. Melvin Jones Yes
5. Christopher Finn Yes

Hulda Moffitt was unanimously elected Secretary of the Zoning Commission.

REZONING APPLICATIONS: ZONING DEPARTMENT**Overview of Rezoning Applications: Connie Swisher**

(Ms. Swisher used a computer-generated video to accompany her verbal explanation of the two rezoning applications.)

At this meeting, there are two rezoning applications awaiting the following action from the Zoning Commission:

- (1) To forward application 184-RZ-21, a request to rezone a portion of the property at 6106 Bausch Road to R2, to the Franklin County Planning Commission for its recommendation.
- (2) To initiate application 185-RZ-21, a request to rezone property at 264 Norton Road from R-4 to R-8.

The Township is no longer required to send every zoning application to the Franklin County Planning Commission. However, at zoning staff's discretion, we may do so. Zoning staff has opted to forward the Bausch Road application, 184-RZ-21, to Franklin County for its recommendation.

Following the February 10, 2021, meeting of the Franklin County Planning Commission and the Township's receipt of its recommendation concerning Bausch Road, packets containing detailed information regarding both applications will be distributed to Zoning Commission members and alternate members. These packets will be delivered prior to the February 23, 2021, special meeting of the board.

In accordance with Article 6, Amendment; Section 607, Public Hearing by Zoning Commission, a public hearing must be held by the Zoning Commission to initiate a proposed amendment to the Prairie Township Zoning Resolution.

This is the first time that two hearings regarding rezoning will be heard during the same public hearing held by the Zoning Commission. The standard practice is to consider only one rezoning during a hearing.

Motions: Rezoning Applications

Mr. Finn said that the next order of business was for the Zoning Commission to make motions pertinent to the two pending rezoning applications. The first motion, concerning the applications, is twofold: to forward one of them and to initiate the other. The second motion is about the public hearing.

► **Motion to Forward Application 184-RZ-21 & to Initiate Application 185-RZ-21**

Motion made by Christopher Finn to forward application 184-RZ-21, a request to rezone a portion of the property to R-2 for the purpose of creating three (3) single family home sites to Franklin County Planning Commission for a recommendation, and to initiate application 185-RZ-21, a request to rezone property on Norton Road from R-4 to R-8.

Motion seconded by Hulda Moffitt.

Roll Call:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Howard Balzer | Yes |
| 2. Nancy Daniels | Yes |
| 3. Hulda Moffitt | Yes |
| 4. Melvin Jones | Yes |
| 5. Christopher Finn | Yes |

The motion was passed unanimously by the Zoning Commission.

► Motion to Set Date for Public Hearing

Motion made by Christopher Finn that the Prairie Township Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at a Special Meeting on February 23, 2021, at 7:00 pm, at the Prairie Township Hall, 23 Maple Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43228, in order to consider the following applications and have them placed on the meeting agenda:

- 184-RZ-21 located at 6106 Bausch Road, Galloway, Ohio 43119 and
- 185-RZ-21 located at 264 Norton Road, Columbus, Ohio 43228

Motion seconded by Hulda Moffitt.

Roll Call:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Howard Balzer | Yes |
| 2. Nancy Daniels | Yes |
| 3. Hulda Moffitt | Yes |
| 4. Melvin Jones | Yes |
| 5. Christopher Finn | Yes |

The motion was passed unanimously by the Zoning Commission.

Public Hearing Protocol

Ms. Swisher explained that only applicants and their attorneys will attend in-person in the Township Hall meeting room during the public hearing. Only ten people will be permitted in meeting room at the same time. The applicant groups will be separated: one will be heard at 7:00 pm, the other at 7:30 pm. Individuals will be required to social distance.

Attendance by the public will be virtual.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Finn said that the next special meeting of the Zoning Commission will be a public hearing on Tuesday, February 23, 2020, at 7pm at the Township Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Prairie Township Zoning Commission, Mr. Finn adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Hulda Moffitt, Secretary