

Meeting began at 6:10 PM

Present: Kellie Ferrell, Toby McElhaney, Tim Scharlach, and Bob Porth.

Discussed adding ducks to the chicken ordinance or giving ducks their own ordinance like chickens do.

Discussed the idea of having a maximum of 6 birds total - no matter if they were chickens, ducks, or a mix-match of both - the limit would still be 6.

Discussed the fact that ducks require a water source in order to stay clean and healthy.

Unanimously decided that this was opening a can of worms and that while we are a rural community, we are not wanting farms in town. Ducks will not be allowed in city limits.

Failed 3-0

Discussed adding poultry to the list of animals that are not allowed within city limits.

Unanimously decided that this was a good change to make.

Passed 3-0

Discussed changing the wall heights for garages from 10' to 12'.

The wall height for garages has come up the most at planning and zoning meetings and seems to be the most common variance being requested lately.

Small discussion on people having living space above their garage and the possibility of this maybe being a factor in some of these cases.

Considered keeping the wall height as it is and just continue making variances, but we all agreed that it would be easier to simply allow a higher wall height.

Passed 3-0

Hoopeston Plaza / Hoopeston Square Discussion

Each person was given time to read every letter that was sent in. The majority of the letters seemed to think Hoopeston Square was a nice idea, but that businesses were desired above everything else in the downtown area.

Some noted under-utilized parks. Some specifically requested different types of businesses such as gas stations or restaurants.

Civic Committee members discussed the fact that The City retaining ownership of the property with Visit Downtown Hoopeston / Dick Doyle being in charge of maintenance left a lot of room for miscommunication and The City picking up any slack in later years.

Mr. Doyle had mentioned raising 1 million in grant funding to have Hoopeston Square built and then raising an additional million to sit in an account for Visit Downtown Hoopeston.

With The City retaining ownership, The City would likely have to apply for the grants and manage the funds - ultimately putting us in a position of being responsible for any possible mishandling of funds.

Discussed whether or not Mr. Doyle's want to put 1 million dollars of grant funding into an account for Visit Downtown Hoopeston was legal - as most grant money must have a specific usage and be applied within a certain time frame.

Discussed what would happen if Visit Downtown Hoopeston ceased to exist in 15 years. Who would do maintenance on these structures - the Pavillion, the bathrooms, landscaping, etc? Repairs would fall back onto The City.

Discussed the vast difference in revenue a park would bring vs. business. It would benefit the city more to have businesses rebuild rather than another park.

Discussed the liability of having pickle ball, bocce ball, and horse shoes so close to traffic on Market and Main as well as storefront windows.

Discussion on the fact that the buildings have only been down for a year - including Mr. Doyle's, which the city paid 75% to have demolished.

Discussed how insurance would be handled for the property.

Mentioned a few residents had verbally expressed their concerns on whether they would be able to utilize the properties during events because of their lack of connection with Mr. Doyle and Visit Downtown Hoopeston members. (This was not a major factor, but was still a concern that was brought up.)

Ultimately it was decided that revenue was more important. That there were too many unanswered questions. The fact that the city has under-utilized parks as it stands. The likelihood that this would ultimately fall back on the city to maintain.

Failed 3-0

Small discussion on the idea that The City just needs to get appraisals for each lot Downtown and put them up for sale - possibly with a stipulation that certain requirements be met within a time frame or the property reverts back to the city. While The City has no personal gain by keeping the property, we understand that the next owners of these properties are important and integral to the revitalization of our Downtown.

Meeting Adjourn at 7:05 PM