

Village of Newberry Planning Commission  
Minutes: Continuation of Public Hearing from 1/22/18 – to hear comments on the Master Plan  
February 26, 2018  
302 East McMillan Ave.  
6:00 p.m.

**Present:** Chairperson Vincent, Members: Brown, Dishaw, Hardenbrook.

**Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Village Manager - James-Mesloh, Clerk - Schummer, Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement – Watkins, Don Ratliff, A. J. Downey, Mike Schnorr, Don Jones, Bruce Lane, Buzz Medelis, Kip Cameron, Chuck Pipes, Tina Pipes, Steve Stiffler, Eric Buckler, Susan Jewell, Lori Stokes, Donald Wright.

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Vincent called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Village of Newberry Administration Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Agenda:** Moved by Brown, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to strike #5 – Approval of Minutes, as previous Hearing was incomplete, so those minutes are ongoing. #7 – Read: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS. Now reads: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS. Ayes: Brown, Hardenbrook, Vincent. Abstain: Dishaw.

**Chairperson Announcements:** Chairperson Vincent stated that after the conclusion of the Public Hearing there will be a five-minute recess and will then continue with unfinished business. He also stated that during the continuation of the Public Hearing, those that spoke at the January 22, 2018 Hearing, had their three minutes to speak already and would not be allowed to speak again. They would however have opportunity to speak during the other two Public Comment periods in the meeting.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items:** Comment was heard from the following: Eric Buckler – 412 W. Ave. C.

**Resume Public Hearing on Master Plan:** Chairperson Vincent reopened the Public Hearing as a continuation of the Public Hearing to hear comments on the Master Plan, which originally began on January 22, 2018.

**Public Comments:** The following is a synopsis of a comment heard:

Eric Buckler – Stated that there couldn't have been a meeting (Jan. 22, 2018) because there was no quorum present. He feels that a person sitting on the Commission, as well as a letter in the Newberry News, written by a consultant for the Village from Beckett and Raeder, had shown complete animosity to the public's engagement. He states that a grievance was presented to Council and wasn't even given a hearing, partly because of people that are on both the Planning Commission and the Council. There was a petition signed by over 140 people stating they did not want to become a City specifically and secondly they wanted zoning to be open to business. He feels the Master Plan is not reflective of the public's will or interest. He feels the

Commission does not want the public to have any engagement on this issue. He stated that other members of the Commission have been driven off because the Village Manager set the meeting times. He believes people on the Commission have a conflict of interest. He stated that the 140 people demand that the Commission consider changing those two points (stated on the petition) before moving forward and they also demand that there be a reconciliation of who is on the Planning Commission, with the conflict of interest and the propriety under Michigan law.

As no one else wanted to make a comment, Vincent closed the Public Hearing at 6:11 p.m.

6:11 – Recess began.

6:16 – Resume meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Master Plan Memo from Beckett & Raeder: Claire Karner, a consultant from Beckett & Raeder, gave a presentation regarding the Master Plan. She advised that the Planning Commission received, for their review, 4 written comments, a petition titled “Save our Village”, along with the written transcript from the beginning of the Public Hearing held on January 22, 2018. She stated she identified some components of the Master Plan that she believes addresses the most of the public concerns. She recommended that the Commission adopt amendments to the Master Plan to include: preserving the cottage industry element in the land use portion, state with clarity that the Village is only exploring the possibility of becoming a City, emphasize the collaborative nature with other entities regarding recreation areas located outside of the Village. Discussion followed. She will have the changes done for the next Planning Commission meeting.
2. Planning Commission Deliberation on Edits to Master Plan: Corrections and edits were pointed-out and discussed.
3. Planning Commission Action on Master Plan: Action delayed until edits are made.

**New Business:** None.

**Public Comments:** Comments heard from: Donald Wright – 8358 Co. Rd. 387, Don Jones – 514 E. Ave. B, Eric Buckler – 412 W. Ave. C., Charles Medelis – 218 E. McMillan, Michael Winn – Newberry Ave., A.J. Downey, Terese Schummer – 214 W. Truman, Donald Ratliff – 309 E. Truman.

**Adjournment:** Moved by Brown, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m. Ayes: All.

These minutes are unofficial until voted on at the next meeting.

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Terese Schummer, Clerk

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Lawrence Vincent, Chairperson