

The Houston City Council met in regular session on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Houston City Hall. Present were: Mayor Connie Edwards and Council members Cheryl Sanden-Beth, Joe Krage, Tony Schultz and Eric Jerviss. Also present were Larry Jerviss, Audrey Hegland, Rich Carr, Randy Thesing, Chief David Breault, Ellyn Baumann, Brandon Olson, Dean Welper, Ron Hewes, Brad Dennis and Cindy Laitinen.

Mayor Edwards called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were no additions to the agenda. Public Comment: None.

**2010 Appointments:** The 2010 City appointment list was distributed. Changes were as follows: Planning Commission: Troy LeJeune; one vacancy remains. EDA: Liz Benedum; two vacancies remain. Valley View Manor Board: Peter Johnson. Park and Rec Board: Lisa Myran-Schutte, Eric Jerviss, Marlene Schultz, Jay Wheaton and Mark Olson will serve on this newly created board. Library Board: In accordance with its by-laws term limits, two members had to step down from the Board; they were Shelley Jerviss and Ellyn Baumann. Faye Owens and Jan Stremcha are new members. MOTION MADE BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY SANDEN-BETH TO ACCEPT THE 2010 MAYOR'S LIST OF APPOINTMENTS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Personalty:** Mayor Edwards invited those present to address the Council about recent personalty letters they received. They were: Brandon Olson, Ron Hewes, and Brad Dennis. An additional letter regarding personalty issues had been received from Owen Onsgard. After hearing everyone who spoke, the issues that caused the violations were discussed and solutions agreed upon, they are on file in the City Administrator's Office. Onsgard will be contacted regarding his letter. Considering the recent snowfall and cold weather, an extension to the clean-up deadline may be necessary; Mayor Edwards stated that it is important for everyone who received a letter to contact the City Administrator as to when they will get their property cleaned up.

**OHV Park Update:** A meeting with legislators will be scheduled with Houston and the County's EDA's to keep the project moving forward.

**Ball Field Project:** Two lots needed for the ball field have been deeded to the City by Jack Edwards. There is good support for this project and Field I should be ready in time for Hoedown.

**Transition to ARMER Radio System:** Chief Deputy Scott Yeiter presented an overview of the County's recommendation to transition the County's radio system to ARMER at the Fire Board meeting, which followed the Council meeting (see minutes from that meeting). Yeiter requested a Council resolution or motion of support for the project by the end of March.

**EDA:** The EDA is working with Yaggy & Colby Associates to determine the best bike trail route through Houston; some options have been identified and will be forwarded to the County EDA for the grants.

**Planning and Zoning:** Minutes from previous meetings were available. To be in compliance with the MN Basic Code, the City's zoning map was revised, and the changes recommended to the Council to be adopted. MOTION MADE BY SANDEN-BETH, SECONDED BY E. JERVISS TO ADOPT THE NEW ZONING MAP AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. L. Jerviss will send the revised map to Davy Engineering to be updated and then will be recorded.

**CMS:** A letter was sent from CMS-Rochester to one of our town residents regarding unsafe condition of an uninhabited home that they own. As per state statute 1300.0180, any unsafe buildings or structures must be either repaired or removed. In this particular circumstance, the owners were directed not to use the unsafe part of the house and also provide a caution fence or tape to alert the public of the unsafe condition of the structure until it is abated.

2002 Ellsworth Street Project bond will be paid up in 2012, and the refinanced levy project has two years until paid.

**Energy Conservation:** Mayor Edwards said that in these difficult economic times, cities are doing what they can to conserve, one being using lower wattage bulbs wherever possible. She asked Thesing to check with Hoskins regarding any energy saving bulbs or measures that could be used throughout town including the street lights.

## HOUSTON PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

### Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2009, 6:00 p.m. – City Hall

Present were Jim Edwards, Joe Krage, Rich Carr, Cheryl Sanden-Beth, Randy Steinfeldt, Brian, Grant and Vicki Olson.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Chairman Jim Edwards. The main objective of the meeting is to review the current zoning map and make whatever changes are necessary to better reflect the MN Basic Code and current usage of the zoned areas. Olson's will determine the exact area of the street they will request closed but thought it would be from the north end of McEver's property and back to the end of the street.

**Zoning Review:** The MN Basic Code no longer has a Highway Commercial zone so these areas will have to become C-2. There is also no Agricultural so it will be zoned C-2, although it can also be included in R-1. Land around the Nature Center and park, levees and on the fringes of town need to be rezoned; the Council will be asked to create a sixth zone termed, "Resource Conservation District" which will allow for changes as necessary, over time. See revised City map for complete zoning, including those that were changed to be in compliance with MN Basic Code and current usage. Any permits already underway, such as the Yohe property on Cedar Street, will be grandfathered in. Current houses that are now used as businesses will revert back to residential when no longer used as a business. In a re-zoned area, the pre-existing zoning will remain in force until properties are sold or disposed of.

The Commission completed its work on the rezoning and MOTION WAS MADE BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY CARR, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY CREATE A SIXTH ZONE TITLED "RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT"; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION MADE BY CARR, SECONDED BY KRAGE, TO RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THEY ACCEPT THE NEW ZONING RECOMMENDATIONS; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Jerviss will be asked to send the revisions to Davy Engineering.

MOTION MADE BY CARR, SECONDED BY KRAGE, TO SET THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 30, 2009; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Further discussion: Determine what constitutes "accessory buildings" since the setback requirements for these structures are different than for R-1.

MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 7:20 P.M. MADE BY KRAGE, SECONDED BY CARR; MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
ADOPTION OF CITY OF HOUSTON ZONING MAP**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Commission for the City of Houston, Minnesota will meet at City Hall, 105 W. Maple Street, on Monday, December 28, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose to present information and solicit comments on proposed zoning map amendments and adoption of the official zoning map for the city of Houston per state statute §462.36. You are invited to be present and to express your opinions, and/or, present such in writing.

By order of the Planning and Zoning Commission  
Jim Edwards, Chairman  
December 8, 2009