

ARLINGTON CITY PLANNING & ZONING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 6, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Acting Chairman Kreft presiding.

Members present: Acting Chairman Kreft, Grabitske, Hislop, Kramer, Scharping
Members absent: Councilmember Reetz, Nagel
Also Present: Mayor Czech, P&Z Administrator Jenness, James Soeffker, Grant Bening

Motion by Grabitske, seconded by Hislop, and passed by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2006 meeting as presented.

Jim Soeffker and Grant Bening were present to discuss the proposed weed ordinance. They expressed concern about being forced to cut alfalfa and other grasses that they use for hay when it gets taller than 12 inches.

Chairman Kreft called the public hearing to order to discuss the proposed Telecommunication Tower Ordinance. It was noted that there was no one present. Jenness explained that he had been contacted by a couple of companies who were interested in putting up towers within city limits/residential areas. He obtained a copy of an ordinance from the League of MN Cities and revised it to fit Arlington's needs. He pointed out that towers would be permitted in the industrial areas or on city property subject to Council approval. Jenness reviewed the different parts of the ordinance. Hislop questioned what, if any, setbacks there were. Jenness explained that in a residential area the setback is the length of the tower plus 100 feet, otherwise it is the length of the tower plus 10 feet.

Chairman Kreft adjourned the public hearing.

Motion by Kramer, seconded by Grabitske, and passed by unanimous vote to accept and recommend to the City Council to adopt the proposed Telecommunication Tower Ordinance.

Chairman Kreft called the public hearing to order to discuss the proposed Weed Ordinance. It was noted that there was no present. Jenness explained that this ordinance was a revision of an older ordinance that had been done back in 1987. He stated that the older ordinance allowed people to maintain weeds by just spraying them and not have to cut them down, which is unsightly. The new ordinance says that they can be sprayed, but must also be cut down if they are over a certain height; it is also more up-to-date as far as State Statutes. Kreft questioned if the City had a weed inspector. Jenness explained that the Mayor is the weed inspector for the city, but has the authority to designate someone else in his place, which last year he was designated by Mayor Czech for this. Scharping suggested adding something that exempted agricultural grasses (used for cattle) so they do not violate the nuisance portion of the ordinance (Section 1.03), as these types of grasses need to grow more than 12 inches before they can be cut. After considerable discussion, it was suggested and agreed to add "non-agricultural" in front of grasses in Section 1.03.

Chairman Kreft adjourned the public hearing.

Motion by Hislop, seconded by Scharping, and passed by unanimous vote to accept and recommend to the City Council to adopt the proposed Weed Ordinance with the above amendment.

Jenness reviewed the building permits issued in March. Kreft questioned the values for the Drake Construction homes going on along Olive Street in the Meyerson addition. Jenness explained how the values are determined. Scharping questioned what the quality is of the homes. Jenness stated that people are getting what they pay for; they are orientated towards first-time home buyers.

Kramer commented that he had recently taken a trip to Hutchinson and could not believe the garbage strewn around and weeds (the overall appearance of the area). He hopes Arlington never gets this way. Jenness explained that he is continuously working with Chief Rovinsky on problem properties.

Scharping questioned why the trailer that Bobby Meyers had for iron was gone. Jenness stated he was told to remove it because it was against the nuisance ordinance (in public view); but he was told that he could get a dumpster instead (not visible to the public). Scharping feels that there should be a dumpster somewhere in town for people to put scrap metal into throughout the year, not just during Spring Cleanup, as this would be an asset to help keep the town looking neater. He recommended down by the City Shop, wastewater treatment plant, or somewhere within the City. Kreft commented that dumpsters cost quite a bit and it was handier to put things on the trailer. He suggested putting up some kind of screen around the trailer. Jenness commented that Meyers has limited space and a fence would not work well. Jenness will look into this further.

Kreft commented that Lot 21, Block 4 in the High Island Creek Addition is landlocked. He expressed concern about getting access to it. Jenness said that the Soeffker/Schwartz group is working on a proposal to re-plat Lots 1, 2, 3, 20, and 21, Block 4.

Kreft questioned if the City has a forester. Jenness will look into this.

Motion by Hislop, seconded by Grabitske, and passed unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

P&Z Administrator Harry Jenness

Acting Chairman Arden Kreft