

**City of Greensburg Planning Commission
January 30, 2013 6:30 PM**

Location: City Hall Council Chambers- 300 S. Main, Greensburg, KS 67054

Call to Order & Roll Call

Travis Barnes called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call was taken with the following members present: Travis Barnes, Georgina Rodriguez, Shawn Cannon and Loren Campbell. Scott Eller was absent.

Approval of Minutes

Barnes made a motion, seconded by Cannon, to approve the November 7, 2012 minutes as presented. Motion passed 4-0.

Business

Consider calling a public hearing to examine possible changes to the Sustainable Zoning Ordinance regarding farm animals in residential areas.

Planning and Zoning Consultant Mike Gurnee gave a Staff report regarding a request from a citizen for the Planning Commission to amend the Sustainable Zoning Ordinance to allow for the keeping of chickens. When adopted two years ago, the ordinance permitted farm animals as special exceptions, under very limited circumstances. The city's Animal Control Ordinance does not allow for farm animals in city limits. State statutes require that for changes to be made to the code the Planning Commission must call for a public hearing on the matter or the City Council call a public hearing with the Planning Commission. The decision before the Planning Commission tonight is whether or not to call a public hearing to examine possible changes to the Sustainable Zoning Ordinance regarding farm animals in residential areas.

Barnes opened the floor to those in the audience, asking what the requested change was. Ann Dixon spoke for those petitioning the change. She requested that the Commission entertain the idea of allowing domestic chickens in city limits with strict guidelines regarding items such as the number of chickens allowed, roosters, containment, etc. Dixon has researched the ordinances of multiple cities in the state that allow chickens with specific guidelines. She would recommend the Commission consider allowing 0-12 chickens in one location for the production of eggs for a family and as family pets.

Cannon asked additional questions regarding specifics of Dixon's proposal. Questions included if there was a specific type of chicken the group would like to see permitted, specifics on coups, and if there were any chicken related diseases that the Commission should be concerned about. Dixon stated that the group was simply asking for domesticated chickens for eggs and pets. She suggested that the Commission may want to consider regulations such as the construction of coups, whether or not to require a permit and allow inspections if necessary, or to ban the butchering of chickens. Some cities require those with chickens to contain them within a privacy fence so as to keep them on the property and obstruct the view from neighboring properties. Barnes stated that the details of any recommended changes to the code should be discussed at a public hearing.

Barnes made a motion to call a public hearing, to be held February 27, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. Rodriguez conveyed that she did not feel there was a need for a public hearing, that Greensburg is a rural community and that chickens should be allowed rather than the community being micro managed. Barnes disagreed, stating that current codes do not allow for chickens and that according to state statutes proper procedure for considering changing that restriction is to have an advertised public hearing with 20 days notice. Cannon seconded Barnes' motion. Motion passed 4-0.

Dixson offered to draft a proposal of recommended regulations before the public hearing. Gurnee asked that she submit the draft to Staff prior to the hearing so that the Commission will have time to review it.

Staff Items

Gurnee reminded Council that they had previously voted to hold an advertised public hearing on changes to the code regarding temporary RV parks in the R-1A zoning district. Gurnee chose to hold off on the hearing until there was another hearing that could be held simultaneously. Staff will advertise both hearings to be held February 27, 2013.

Adjournment

With no additional items to be discussed, Barnes declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



Christy Pyatt - Secretary