

Athens Township Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2024

Opening

The regular meeting of the Athens Township Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on April 18, 2024 and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Planning Commissioners Present

Todd Christensen, Marlys Balfany, Jack Cole, Jason Ross, AJ Ondrey, Billy Larson, Township Clerk Diane Carpenter and Mike Jungbauer

Guests Present

Several residents attended.

Approval of Minutes

M/S Jason Ross/ Jack Cole to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2024 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Forum

Public Hearing

PH open regarding an IUP for Jose Pesina for a roofing/siding company. He is a new resident @ 25355 Jamestown St NE and has three trailers and is working from his home. No additional residents spoke. This is a continuation from last month as Jose was unable to attend. His son attended and answered additional questions presented by the board and Mike reviewed the restrictions on the resolution with him.

M/S Jack Cole/AJ Ondrey to move resolution 24-02 forward to the board for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Jack Cole/Marlyns Balfany to close the PH. Motion passed unanimously.

PH open for Gabriel Hanson from Loon Labs. He is located where Knapp used to be. He is licensed by the dept of agriculture to extract oils etc. from crops like lavender, mushrooms, CBD etc. There are no retail sales, he just works for growers. This is a home business out of an accessory building on 20 acres and he is applying for an IUP. No odors or by products are produced by what they do and no residents spoke on the issue.

M/S Jack Cole/Jason Ross to move Resolution 24-03 forward to the board for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Jack Cole/Marlyns Balfany to close the PH. Motion passed unanimously.

PH for 24-04 septage application for an ordinance change was opened. Currently our ordinance only allows spreading of septage in Athens if it comes from Athens. The recommendation is to adopt the ordinance of Isanti County. Carpenters explained the system and how it works. Mike would also have approval of sites and permits would be issued per site. No residents spoke.

M/S Marlyns Balfany/Billy Larson to move Resolution 24-04 forward to the board for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Jack Cole/Jason Ross to close the PH. Motion passed unanimously.

PH for Andrew Robinson 25651 Jamestown St NE was opened. He is requesting an IUP for a home cement business. He will need to build a building to park equipment within one year. No residents spoke.

M/S Marlyns Balfany/Jason Ross to move 24-05 forward to the board for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Jack Cole/Jason Ross to close the PH. Motion passed unanimously.

PH for Josh and Erica Rhodes was opened. They would like to open Bill Bune Enterprises at 26355 Hwy 65. This is a small engine repair/machine shop. It is mainly e-commerce and after market parts. Several residents spoke in support of this endeavor.

M/S Jack Cole/AJ Ondrey to recommend approval for business on the lot, subject to building application and site plan and completion of the commercial ordinance update. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Billy Larson to close the PH. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike reviewed final recommended revisions for the commercial zoning ordinance. Mike will make the recommended changes and forward for inspection.

M/S AJ Ondrey/Jack Cole to forward the ordinance to the board for approval with the discussed changes. Motion passed unanimously.

M/S Marlys Balfany/Jack Cole to close the PH. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

New Business

- Work sessions for P&Z to work on tiered zoning will be scheduled at the next meeting.

M/S Jason Ross/Marlys Balfany to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Diane Carpenter