



MAYOR
Verne E. Rupright

CITY PLANNER
Tina Crawford

WASILLA PLANNING COMMISSION

Patrick Brown, Seat A
Daniel Kelly Jr., Seat B
Steven DeHart, Seat C
Doug Miller, Seat D
Glenda Ledford, Seat E
Clark Buswell, Seat F
Robert Webb, Seat G

**CITY OF WASILLA
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA
WASILLA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Wasilla City Hall, 290 E. Herning Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654 / 907-373-9020 phone

REGULAR MEETING

7 P.M.

FEBRUARY 28, 2012

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
- V. REPORTS
 - A. City Deputy Administrator
 - B. City Public Works Director
 - C. City Attorney
 - D. City Planner
- VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION *(five minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing)*
- VII. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes of February 14, 2012, regular meeting.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS *(five minutes per person)*
 - A. Committee of the Whole
 - 1. Proposed plans for proposed Parks Highway reconstruction, Lucas Road to Big Lake Cutoff.

2. Discuss proposed scope of work and responsibilities for Sign Code Focus Group (Planning Commissioner discussion only).

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

X. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Permit Information
- B. Enforcement Log

XI. AUDIENCE COMMENTS (*five minutes per person*)

XII. STAFF COMMENTS

XIII. COMMISSION COMMENTS

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Wasilla Planning Commission was called to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 28, 2012, in Council Chambers of City Hall, Wasilla, Alaska by A.C. Buswell, III, Chairman.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners present and establishing a quorum were:

- Mr. Patrick Brown, Seat A
- Mr. Daniel Kelly, Jr., Seat B
- Mr. Steven DeHart, Seat C
- Mr. Doug Miller, Seat D
- Ms. Glenda Ledford, Seat E
- Mr. Clark Buswell, Seat F

Commissioners excused and absent were:

- Mr. Robert Webb, Seat G

Staff in attendance were:

- Mr. Bert Cottle, Deputy Administrator
- Mr. Archie Giddings, Public Works Director
- Ms. Tina Crawford, City Planner
- Ms. Sandi Connolly, Public Works Clerk

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A. Commissioner DeHart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented.

V. REPORTS

A. City Deputy Administrator
Mr. Cottle stated the City Council did not fill open seat and extended the deadline until the next meeting next March.

B. City Public Works Director

Mr. Giddings stated that he has three engineering contracts to bring forward to the March 12th City Council meeting; one is Mack Drive that will affect 37 parcels; secondly USKH, Inc. is getting a proposal for the Airport Road; and lastly repaving of Nelson Road.

C. City Attorney

No report given.

E City Planner

Ms. Crawford stated that:

- a side yard setback variance for an existing home, will be on the agenda in March;
- McDonalds will have a waiver for the open space requirement on the first meeting in April; and
- the final draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan will be forwarded to the State and FEMA for their comments then onto the City Council for their approval.

F. City Council

No report given.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*five minutes per person, for items not scheduled for public hearing*)

No one came forward and Chair Buswell closed public participation.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of February 14, 2012, meeting.

GENERAL CONSENT: Minutes were approved as presented.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS (*five minutes per person*)

A. Committee of the Whole

1. Proposed plans for proposed Parks Highway reconstruction, Lucas Road to Big Lake Cutoff.
2. Discuss proposed scope of work and responsibilities for Sign Code Focus Group (Planning Commissioner discussion only).

MOTION: Commissioner Kelly moved to enter into the Committee of the Whole at 7:07 PM.

VOTE: The motion to enter into the Committee of the Whole, passed unanimously.

Mr. Jim Amundsen, P.E., Project Manager for ADOT&PF, provided a presentation of the project scope for the Parks Highway project.

Discussion moved to the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Kelly moved to suspend the normal Roberts Rules of Order for the Committee of the Whole to allow the audience to ask questions.

VOTE: The motion to suspend the normal Roberts Rules of Order for the Committee of the Whole passed unanimously.

The following people signed up to speak and express concerns about the proposed four-lane divided highway. They feel it will negatively impact commercial businesses along this segment of the Parks Highway and they strongly felt that ADOT&PF needs to design the highway as a five-lane undivided highway.

- Mr. Roger Purcell, former Mayor of the City of Houston
- Mr. Pat Johnson
- Mr. Larry Wright
- Mr. Paul Gardner
- Mr. Robert Friesen
- Mr. Kevin Baker, representative for Gary Lundgren
- Mr. Dallas Massie
- Mr. Denny Boyle
- Mr. Berkley Tilton
- Ms. Taffina Katkus

Ms. Dianne Woodruff stated she appreciated the presentation by ADOT&PF and meeting with the City but she didn't have the same reservations.

Discussion moved to the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Kelly moved to exit the Committee of the Whole at 8:46 PM regarding the Parks Highway discussion.

VOTE: The motion to exit the Committee of the Whole, passed unanimously.

MOTION: Commissioner DeHart moved to enter into the Committee of the Whole at 8:46 PM to discuss the Sign Code Focus Group.

2. Discuss proposed scope of work and responsibilities for Sign Code Focus Group (Planning Commissioner discussion only).

VOTE: The motion to enter into the Committee of the Whole, passed unanimously.

Discussion moved to the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Kelly moved to exit the Committee of the Whole at 8:55 PM.

VOTE: The motion to exit the Committee of the Whole, passed unanimously.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

No statements made regarding the following items.

- A. Permit Information
- B. Enforcement Log

XII. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Purcell stated he provided Mr. Cottle with a copy of a Resolution from the City of Houston opposing the road project. He stated that the City Planning Commission has the authority to say yes or no to the development of a highway and then the governor has a right to override the decision.

Mr. Gardener stated his comments aren't directed to Mr. Amundson personally but they express his frustration with the process. He also asked that the agencies involved in this highway project to listen to the business owners that will be affected.

Ms. Katkus stated that the businesses along the Parks Highway are going to have a lot of road construction coming their way and asked the Commission to make sure there is clear communication regarding this highway project and that the property owners and community are kept up to date on the process.

XIII. STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Crawford stated that the purpose of the meeting was to bring the Planning Commissioners up to speed on the project. She also stated the City has new staff and Commissioners and are now working closely with ADOT&PF to try and identify the issues earlier in the planning stages.

Mr. Giddings stated they are in the early stages of the Main Street couplet project and thanked Commissioner Kelly for his is knowledge with ADOT&PF projects.

XIV. COMMISSION COMMENTS:

Commissioner Miller stated that he:

- sees value in a five lane as well as a four-lane divided highway;

- is concerned about having strip commercial through Wasilla;
- hopes there is more discussion on the road project;
- would like to discuss solutions to keep the speed limit to 45 miles per hour; and
- would like to see what the options are when the population grows.

Commissioner DeHart stated that:

- he was surprised that there would be a divided highway instead of the five-lane highway;
- he would like to know where the businesses are going to stop between here and Pittman; and
- the Planning Commission should consider the businesses and there has to be a trade off.

Commissioner Brown stated that:

- he is excited to hear that we have input on traffic and traffic control;
- it makes sense to have five-lanes and slowing it down and that pedestrian traffic is also an issue; and
- he would prefer to see businesses have the access they need; and
- a half-mile access will make it very difficult for pedestrian traffic.

Commissioner Ledford stated that this is a hot topic and she does not understand why ADOT&PF did not do a traffic impact analyses study and small businesses are the lifeblood of Wasilla and when they are impacted it can affect the City as a whole.

Commissioner Kelly stated:

- small businesses are taken into account when they do the traffic counts;
- he asked Ms. Crawford to talk with the City Attorney regarding what the Commission can or cannot do as far as making recommendations on road projects within the City; and
- that he appreciated the public showing up and providing comments.

Chair Buswell thanked everyone for being here even the citizens that live outside our City limits.

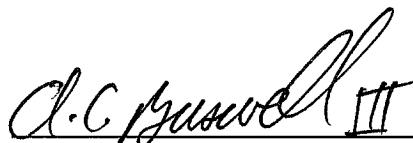
XV. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

ATTEST:



TAHIRIH REVET, Planning Clerk



A.C. BUSWELL, III, Chairman

Adopted by the Wasilla Planning Commission March 27, 2012.