

**City of Alma
Planning Commission Minutes
September 11, 2023**

Chairperson Heather Therrien called a regular meeting of the Alma Planning Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Alma Municipal Building. A quorum of the Planning Commission was present.

Present: Justin Fonley, Jessica Gilkins, Sonia Gibson, Greg Mapes, Michelle Pitts, and Heather Therrien.
Absent: David Justin (arrived after roll call) and Ellen Richter.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mapes, seconded by Pitts, to approve minutes of the June 5, 2023, regular meeting. Motion carried.

**Yes: Fonley, Gibson, Gilkins, Mapes, Pitts, and Therrien.
No: none.
Absent: Justin and Richter.**

County-Wide Master Planning Steering Committee

Motion by Pitts, seconded by Gilkins, to nominate David Justin for the County-Wide Master Planning Steering Committee and recommend his appointment to the Alma City Commission. Motion carried.

**Yes: Fonley, Gibson, Gilkins, Mapes, Pitts, and Therrien.
No: none.
Absent: Justin and Richter.**

Fireworks Prohibition Ordinance

City Manager Aeris Ripley explained that Labor Day was inadvertently omitted from the list of required federal holidays for the current fireworks ordinance and needed to be added as well as Juneteenth. He asked if, in addition to adding the required holidays, the Commission would want to consider a change to the permitting process to allow for staff approval, or Commission approval on site plans, rather than a special use permit for fireworks vendors. Therrien noted she would support site plan review, as there was a chance they could receive several applications.

Commission member David Justin arrived at 6:07 p.m.

Mapes suggested a review of the fee schedule as well. Gilkins spoke in support of staff review, provided it is not a burden on staff. Additional brief discussion followed.

Solar Ordinance Sample Review

Ripley explained he had received some information indicating interest in locating a solar farm within city limits. He suggested review of nearby ordinances and development of an ordinance for Alma to have in place, in case an opportunity presents itself. He noted some concerns brought up in surrounding areas included glare from solar panels and diminished farming opportunities. Discussion followed. Members indicated support for moving forward on development of an ordinance. Additional brief discussion followed regarding issues faced by other townships.

Commission member Pitts left the meeting at 6:17 p.m.

Other Business

No business was put forward.

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Invitation to Public

No comments were offered.

Adjourn

Motion by Justin, seconded by Mapes, to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 p.m. Motion carried.

Yes: Fonley, Gibson, Justin, Mapes, Pitts, Richter, and Therrien.

No: none.

Absent: Gilkins.

Sara Anderson, Alma City Clerk

Date of Approval

DRAFT