

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF UNION
Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes

A regular meeting of the Charter Township of Union Planning Commission was held on March 19, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Union Township Hall.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: Buckley, Gross, LaBelle, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, Squattrito, and Thering

Excused: Albrecht

Others Present

Peter Gallinat, Zoning Administrator; Tera Green, Administrative Assistant

Approval of Agenda

Gross moved McDonald supported to approve the agenda as presented. Vote: Ayes: 8. Nays: 0. Motion Carried

Approval of Minutes

Gross moved Lapp supported to approve the February 20, 2024 regular meeting minutes as presented.

Vote: Ayes: 8. Nays: 0. Motion carried.

Correspondence / Reports/ Presentations

- A. Presentation by Dr. Senter – Provided an overview and discussion of the final report findings for the 2023 Township Survey of Residents.
- B. Board of Trustees updates by Thering – Gave updates on the March 13th Board of Trustees Meeting.
- C. ZBA updates by Buckley – No updates were given.
- D. Community and Economic Development Monthly Report
- E. Other Reports by Squattrito – Gave an update on the March 5th Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) Workshop in Grayling, MI.

Public Comment

Open 8:04 p.m.

Ben Gunning, 2270 E. Broomfield Rd, asked that the Planning Commission look at the Sidewalk Ordinance as it relates to improvements for existing business owners.

Closed 8:09 p.m.

New Business

A. Annual Election of Officers

- a. Chair

LaBelle moved Buckley supported to appoint Commissioner Squattrito as Chair per the Planning Commission bylaws. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Buckley, Gross, LaBelle, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, and Thering. Nays: 0. Abstained: Squattrito. Motion carried.

b. Vice-Chair

Lapp moved **Shingles** supported to appoint Commissioner Buckley as Vice-Chair per the Planning Commission bylaws. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Gross, LaBelle, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, Squattrito, and Thering. Nays: 0. Abstained: Buckley. Motion carried.**

c. Secretary

Thering moved **Gross** supported to appoint Commissioner LaBelle as Secretary per the Planning Commission bylaws. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Buckley, Gross, Lapp, McDonald, Shingles, Squattrito, and Thering. Nays: 0. Abstained: LaBelle. Motion carried.**

d. Vice-Secretary

Buckley moved **McDonald** supported to appoint Commissioner Lapp as Vice Secretary per the Planning Commission bylaws. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Buckley, Gross, LaBelle, McDonald, Shingles, Squattrito, and Thering. Nays: 0. Abstained: Lapp. Motion carried.**

B. Review of the Proposed New Private Road Ordinance for Recommendation to the Board of Trustees

- a. Introduction by staff
- b. Commission discussion and Questions
- c. Deliberation and action (recommend to the Board of Trustees for adoption, adoption with additional recommended changes, or rejection; or to postpone action)

Rodney Nanney, Community & Economic Development Director joined via zoom to introduce the proposed New Private Road Ordinance. Nanney explained that the proposed ordinance is necessary to resolve limitations that have affected administration and enforcement of the current Ordinance 2000-09 and that it would protect public health, safety by establishing a minimum maintenance standard for existing roads.

LaBelle wanted clarification on who would be liable if something happens on a private road and what is considered a private road. Squattrito asked if there is any liability or risk to the Township if a contractor does not do a satisfactory job as it relates to section 7.0 Special Assessment District. Buckley asked if this ordinance would permit the Township to enforce lot owners to fix the roads if they deteriorate to the point of violation determined by the fire department or otherwise. Gross commented private road safety is important but would like a little more time to study the ordinance.

LaBelle moved **Gross** supported to postpone action until the April 16th meeting for further clarification to questions that arouse during the discussion. **Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Buckley, Gross, Lapp, LaBelle, McDonald, Shingles, Squattrito, and Thering. Nays: 0. Motion carried.**

Other Business

A. Discussion of accomplishments, projects, desired outcomes, and other topics of discussion to share with the Board of Trustees during the 4/17/2024 Annual Joint Meeting

Chair Squattrito asked the Commissioners for input on what to discuss with the various Boards at the Annual Joint Meeting on April 17th. Buckley would like to revisit the Sidewalk and Pathways Ordinance. Shingles would like to discuss reinstating the Sidewalk and Pathways Committee.

Extended Public Comments

Open: 9:20 p.m.

No comments were offered.

Closed 9:20 p.m.

Final Board Comment

Chair Squattrito – asked for clarification on a question that was asked during public comment regarding the Sidewalk & Pathway Ordinance.

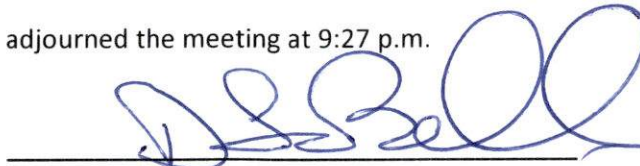
Shingles – Commented on the Mid Michigan Aquatic Recreation Authority and thanked the Township, City and Public School for their support.

Thering – Glad that the Commissioners will bring forth a discussion regarding the Sidewalk Ordinance initiated from the public comment made.

Adjournment – Chair Squattrito adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

APPROVED BY:

(Recorded by Tera Green)



Doug LaBelle – Secretary

Tera Albrecht – Vice Secretary