City of Montgomery City Council Public Hearing Minutes December 18, 2019 City Council Members Present Present Brian Riblet, City Manager Chris Dobrozsi, Mayor Terry Donnellon, Law Director Lynda Roesch Lee Ann Bissmeyer John Crowell, Police Chief Mike Cappel Gary Heitkamp, Public Works Director Tracy Roblero, Asst. City Manager/Acting Comm. Dev. Dir. Gerri Harbison Katie Smiddy, Finance Director Ken Suer Matthew Vanderhorst, Community and Information Services Director Paul Wright, Fire Chief City Council Members Absent Faith Lynch, Community Engagement Coordinator Craig Margolis, Vice Mayor Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council Shawn Cooper, Customer Service Representative

City Council convened in Council Chambers at 6:45 p.m. with Mayor Dobrozsi presiding.

ROLL CALL

 Mayor Dobrozsi conveyed that Vice Mayor Margolis previously notified City Council he would be unable to attend and asked for a motion to excuse him from the meeting.

Mr. Cappel moved to excuse Vice Mayor Margolis's absence. Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Harbison, Dobrozsi, Roesch, Suer
(6)
NAY:
ABSENT: Margolis
(1)

Recommendation from Planning Commission on a series of text amendments to Chapter 151 of the Land Usage Code regarding the Heritage Overlay District Regulations.

Ms. Roblero explained the background of the recommendation. She stated the Commission has been working on this for quite some time. The Landmarks Commission met on July 11, 2018, August 8, 2018 and October 10, 2018 to discuss proposed text amendments to Chapter 151 of the Land Usage Code suggested by Staff regarding the Heritage Overlay District Regulations. After three months of discussion, at the October 10, 2018 meeting, the Landmarks Commission voted to recommend approval of the proposed text amendments to the Planning Commission. She added due to the heavy workload of the Planning Commission, the Planning Commission did not consider the recommendation from the Landmarks Commission at that time.

Ms. Roblero further explained in April of 2019, the owner of the James Ayers Landmark applied for consideration of solar panels on the roof of the Landmark building. Solar panels are not currently addressed in the Heritage Overlay District Regulations. After much discussion, the Landmarks Commission agreed upon a location for solar panels on the roof of the Landmark and recommended that Staff suggest language to be included in the Zoning Code specific to solar panels in the Heritage District and on Landmark buildings.

Ms. Roblero stated staff brought revised text amendments to the Landmarks Commission on June 12, 2019 to include language regarding solar panels. The Commission had a good discussion at the meeting and voted to table the proposed text amendments in order to give Staff time to incorporate suggestions from the Commission on solar panels. The Landmarks Commission met to consider the proposed text amendments again at their meeting on July 17, 2019. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Landmarks Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the proposed text amendments to the Planning Commission.

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Planning Commission Recommendation

Ms. Roblero explained the Planning Commission met on November 4, 2019 to discuss the proposed text amendments as recommended by the Landmarks Commission. After discussion, the Planning Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the text amendments to Chapter 151 of the Land Usage Code as recommended by the Landmarks Commission.

Ms. Roblero stated staff supports the recommendation of the Landmarks Commission and the Planning Commission to approve the proposed text amendments to the Heritage Overlay District Regulations. Staff believes the proposed text amendments provide clarity to the regulations and allow for more flexibility in building materials while respecting the historic nature of the District.

No Public Comments.

Mr. Suer commented this was a very thorough review from both the Landmarks and Planning Commissions. After reading through all the minutes and discussions both groups had presented, Mr. Suer gave kudos for a great job.

Mayor Dobrozsi seconded Mr. Suer's remarks. Mayor Dobrozsi also commented on the importance of updating our regulations as technology changes.

With all discussion complete, Mr. Cappel made the motion to approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission to allow the series of text amendments of Chapter 151 of the Land Usage Code regarding the Heritage Overlay District Regulations.

Mrs. Bissmeyer seconded. City Council unanimously agreed.

The roll was called and showed the following vote:

AYE: Cappel, Bissmeyer, Harbison, Dobrozsi, Roesch, Suer
(6)
NAY:
ABSENT: Margolis
(1)

Mayor Dobrozsi asked if there was any further business to be heard in the Public Hearing. There being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn from the Public Hearing.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Cappel and seconded by Mrs. Bissmeyer. City Council unanimously agreed.

 The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Connie Gaylor, Clerk of Council