

MINUTES OF THE WHITSETT PLANNING BOARD

**January 6, 2010
Whitsett Town Hall**

The monthly meeting of the Whitsett Planning Board was held at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 6, 2010 at the Whitsett Town Hall. In attendance: Board Chairman Bob Maccia, Board Vice Chairman Joe Wheeler, Board member Ella Efird, and Council member liaison Jerry Rice. Absent: Board member Patrick Hickey, Jr., and Board alternate Homer Moser.

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia called the meeting to order, noting that a quorum was present. Council member liaison Jerry Rice offered the invocation.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Adoption of Minutes

Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia asked for any changes to the minutes from the Planning Board meeting on November 4, 2009. [NOTE: With the subsequent December meeting cancelled, minutes could not be approved until January.]

With no comments made, a motion was made by Board Vice Chairman Joe Wheeler to accept the minutes of the November 4 meeting as written; motion seconded by Board member Ella Efird. Adoption of the minutes carried by unanimous vote of those present.

2. Any Other Old Business

Board Chairman Maccia asked for any other old business; and there was none.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Board Chairman and Board Vice Chairman

Current Board Chairman Maccia announced that the floor was open for nominations for the two offices of Chairman and Vice Chairman to serve through 2010.

Motion made by Board member Ella Efird to nominate Bob Maccia to again serve as Chairman; motion seconded by Board Vice Chairman Joe Wheeler. Motion carried unanimously by quorum vote.

Board member Ella Efird then made a motion to nominate Joe Wheeler for Vice Chairman; and Board Chairman Maccia seconded the motion. Motion passed by a unanimous vote of those present.

2. Review of Development Ordinance Article VIII on Administration

Chairman Maccia asked for any comments or questions concerning Article VIII. With no remarks forthcoming, Board Chairman Maccia pronounced Article VIII on Administration accepted by the Planning Board.

3. Distribute Additional Articles for Review

Following acceptance of the above Article, the Board briefly discussed the necessity to review any additional Articles since those remaining had been either (1) intact for years with no amendments made, or (2) so recently adopted, too new in practice to need changes.

The Board concluded to dispense with further review of current ordinances; and plans for final electronic formatting would move along.

4. Continue Discussion on Lawn Maintenance (Appearance) Ordinance

Chairman Maccia opened the floor to continued discussion on the Town's need to enforce a lawn maintenance/property care ordinance, based on the recommendation of Board Vice Chairman Joe Wheeler. At the previous Board meeting, copies of the pertinent "nuisance" general ordinance currently on the Town's books were distributed along with copies of Sedalia's existing ordinance—for the purpose of comparison.

With both documents being very similar in nature, Vice Chairman Wheeler suggested that some of Sedalia's wording could be borrowed and meshed with the Town's current ordinance to better delineate the intent of the ordinance. These insertions would be typed up and sent out to the Board in next month's packages prior to the meeting.

Meanwhile, talk turned to what actually constitutes a "nuisance." Council member liaison Jerry Rice stated that, with varying viewpoints on the term "nuisance," he could see the need for a clear definition, which even so would likely vary with interpretation. Ordinances should be so clear cut that enforcement can be imposed and well supported; a definition may be needed for additional clarity.

Since enforcement of these suggestions may be a complex issue, Board Chairman Maccia would consult Enforcement Officer Gary Deal on how best to approach this aspect.

6. Any Other New Business

Chairman Maccia asked for any other new business; and there was none. In closing, Chairman Maccia asked those present to think on some 2010 objectives for the Board to undertake, e.g., continue to improve the Town ordinances, etc.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Planning Board Chairman Bob Maccia invited a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Board member Ella Efird to adjourn; motion seconded by Board Vice Chairman Joe Wheeler. By unanimous vote, the January 6 meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

The next meeting of the Whitsett Planning Board is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 3 at the Town Hall.

/s/

/s/

Jo Hesson, Town Clerk

Bob Maccia, Planning Board Chairman

APPROVED: February 3, 2010