

CITY OF OLNEY
PLAN COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2018

AGENDA #1 “CALL TO ORDER” The meeting of the Plan Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Olney City Hall, 300 S. Whittle Avenue, Olney, Illinois, with Wesley Tolliver presiding.

AGENDA #2 “ROLL CALL” The following Plan Commission members were present: David Abell, Greg Eyer, Vicki Lobacz, Scott Jones, Wesley Tolliver, Belinda Henton, and Pat Everette. Barb Roberts and Steve Eichhorst were absent. Also present were Mayor Mark Lambird, Councilwoman Morgan Fehrenbacher, Code Enforcement Officer Mike Mitchell, City Attorney Bart Zuber and City Clerk Kelsie Sterchi.

AGENDA #3 “APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PLAN COMMISSION MEETING ON AUGUST 7, 2017” Mrs. Henton moved to approve the minutes of the Plan Commission meeting on August 7, 2017, seconded by Mr. Abell. Mr. Abell, Mr. Eyer, Mrs. Lobacz, Mr. Jones, Mr. Tolliver, Mrs. Henton, and Mr. Everette voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

AGENDA #4 “SWEARING IN” Mr. Tolliver asked that anyone wishing to testify on behalf of the item being discussed to stand and be sworn in. City Clerk Sterchi asked those standing to raise their right hand and “swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help me God.” RCDC Executive Director Courtney Yockey, Avery McKinney, and Anthony Gibson were sworn in.

AGENDA #5 “SPECIAL USE PERMIT: PLACEMENT OF AN AIRPORT, LANDING FIELD, OR LANDING STRIP FOR AIRCRAFT ON 3666 N. IL 130” Avery J. McKinney came before the Plan Commission to request a Special Use Permit for 3666 N. IL 130. Mr. McKinney was requesting the Special Use Permit in order to locate a helicopter landing pad for the operation of an air medical transport business.

Mr. Tolliver asked if the Olney/Noble Airport had been approached as a possible location for the landing pad. Mr. McKinney replied the airport had not been approached. A representative from the air medical company had been driving along Route 130 and noticed the “For Rent” sign on his property, and felt that the location would be appropriate.

Mrs. Henton wondered if employees of the air medical business that resided in Olney could transfer to the potential Olney location instead of traveling out of town. A representative from the air medical business was in the audience, and indicated that such transfers could be a possibility.

Mr. Everette inquired as to how many jobs would be created if the air medical business came to town. Mr. McKinney estimated anywhere from 12 to 15 new jobs.

Mr. Tolliver asked if a concrete pad would be placed to help with dust circulation. The air medical representative confirmed.

Mr. Jones was aware that many other approvals would be needed through offices such as the Illinois Department of Aeronautics. He wondered if anyone had been in touch regarding necessary approvals. The air medical representative told that such processes would be on behalf of his company and not Mr. McKinney. If the Special Permit was approved by the City, the next step would be to secure the additional approvals.

Mr. Eyer asked if the City Clerk had received any written or oral opinions from citizens on the proposal. Mrs. Sterchi replied that she had not received anything, but judging by the attendance in the room, there may be some comment. Mrs. Sterchi did add that while Plan Commission member Barb Roberts could not be in attendance, she did send an e-mail commenting that she would be in favor of the request for Special Use Permit.

From the audience, Mr. Gibson explained that his home and business were both within a half mile of the proposed landing pad. He did not want to hear helicopter sounds all day, every day. He also could not understand why anyone would want to locate a helipad near a blind curve where drivers would be paying more attention to helicopters than other drivers.

Additionally, Mr. Gibson felt that other businesses within the Industrial Park would not want to listen to helicopter sounds all day. Mr. Gibson also felt that it would hinder future development in the area.

Mr. McKinney replied that none of the surrounding businesses had any negative comments about the proposal. He added that helicopter noises would not be taking place all day, every day. Many residents hear air medical helicopters come and go from Carle Richland Memorial Hospital (CRMH) with no complaints. Mr. McKinney was excited to have additional jobs come to Olney, and felt it would be foolish to deny the opportunity.

Mrs. Henton commented that the entire proposed area was zoned M-2 (Heavy Industrial). Any business coming into that area would have fumes and noise. Mrs. Henton lived a bit farther east of Mr. Gibson and could still hear noise from the Industrial Park.

Mr. Tolliver added that a trucking company had plans to move into the Industrial Park with 120 reefer trucks that would be running all day, every day. He felt that the noise from that trucking company would cause more of a noise disturbance.

On average, Mr. Everette wondered how many helicopters would come and go per day. The air medical representative estimated about 30 helicopters per month. Mr. Tolliver felt that more helicopters came and went from the hospital alone than 30 per month.

Mr. Abell wondered if the proposed helipad would improve service time to CRMH. The air medical representative confirmed that response time to CRMH would improve substantially. The new helipad would also decrease the amount of "dead area" between locations.

Mrs. Lobacz asked how far off of Route 130 the pad would be located. The air medical representative indicated that the pad would be placed behind the building, on the East side. The pad would not be visible from the highway.

Mrs. Henton moved to approve the Special Use Permit for placement of an airport, landing field, or landing strip for aircraft at 3666 N. IL 130 for the purpose of locating a helicopter landing pad for the operations of an air medical transport business, seconded by Mr. Eyer. Mr. Abell, Mr. Eyer, Mrs. Lobacz, Mr. Jones, Mr. Tolliver, Mrs. Henton, and Mr. Everette voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried.

The recommendation would be presented to the City Council for final approval on Monday, February 12, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA #6 “PUBLIC COMMENTS/PRESENTATIONS” No one from the public wished to speak under this item.

AGENDA #7 “ADJOURN” Mr. Everette moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Abell. Mr. Abell, Mr. Eyer, Mrs. Lobacz, Mr. Jones, Mr. Tolliver, Mrs. Henton, and Mr. Everette voted yes. There were no opposing votes. The motion carried. The Plan Commission meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Kelsie J. Sterchi
City Clerk