

City of Mora Planning Commission
Minutes
5:30 p.m. Monday, September 11, 2023
Mora City Hall, 101 Lake St, Mora, MN 55051

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof Sheldon Shepard called to order the regular meeting of the Planning Commission at 5:34 p.m. Monday, September 11, 2023, in the Mora City Hall council chambers.

2. Roll call:

Commissioners present: Sheldon Shepard, Tim Dahlberg, Jody Anderson and Lance Strande

Commissioners absent: Sara Treiber

Staff present: City Administrator Glenn Anderson, Public Works Director Joe Kohlgraf, Community Development Director Kirsten Faurie

3. Adopt Amended Agenda: MOTION made by Dahlberg, seconded by Strande and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda as presented.

4. Approval of Minutes: MOTION made by Dahlberg, seconded by Strande and unanimously carried to approve the July 10, 2023 minutes as presented.

5. Open Forum: No one spoke during open forum

6. Public Hearings: None

7. Other Business:

- a. Discuss potential truck weight restrictions on city streets: The commission discussed issues of commercial truck traffic along Maple Avenue East as drivers make deliveries to industrial businesses. The residential street is unique in that it is sandwiched between two industrial zones. Residents asked the city make an effort to reduce commercial truck traffic along the route. At its Sept. 5 meeting, the City Council tasked the Planning Commission with creation of an ordinance to restrict commercial trucks along Maple Avenue East.

The Commission discussed if an ordinance should apply to a singular street or the entire city; whether or not an ordinance would be effective in accomplishing the goal; and alternative options that could show good-faith to the residents, but not cause hardship for the truck drivers or businesses.

Rather than banning trucks from the street, the Planning Commission made a plan to educate drivers and the businesses about preferred routes for trucks through signage and direct communications. If these efforts do not create a positive result, the Planning Commission will re-consider creating an ordinance.

MOTION by Dahlberg, seconded by Strande and unanimously carried to recommend the city council take the following action:

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1. Install "TRUCK ROUTE" signs encouraging drivers to use Highways 23 and 65 to access Industrial Park Road. Staff will install signage near intersections of East Maple Avenue and Industrial Park Road; and East Maple Avenue and North Walnut Street.
 2. Direct city staff to encourage Commercial Plastics Inc. to change its address from "Maple Ave. E." to "Industrial Park Road."
 3. Direct city staff to communicate directly with the industrial businesses and their drivers, providing letters and maps showing the preferred routes for commercial trucks.
- 8. Reports:** G. Anderson updated the commission regarding complaints of activities taking place at a Maple Avenue East property. G. Anderson said the issue has been addressed and does not expect those activities to continue. G. Anderson reported there have been discussions around adding signage near the intersection of South Union Street and Highway 65/23. The signs would encourage drivers into downtown Mora. Conversations should also be had regarding similar signage near Ole Park.
- Shepard expressed concerns about access to Union Street if MnDOT rebuilds the Highway 65/23 corridor. Staff has been communicating with MnDOT and have been advocating for good access to Union Street. Staff encouraged commission members to communicate their concerns directly to MnDOT through the MnDOT website.
- J. Anderson noted some of the city's ordinances are outdated and need modernizing. J. Anderson suggested the Planning Commission work with the city attorney to start going through the ordinances. The commission's consensus was to begin slowly working through the ordinances, especially when there is not other business for the commission to address.
- 9. Adjournment:** MOTION to adjourn by Dahlberg, seconded by Anderson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting at 6:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for **5:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.**



Commission Chair

Attest: _____



Kirsten Faurie
Community Development Director