

MEETING MINUTES-DRAFT

Augusta Charter Township

Regularly Scheduled Planning Commission Meeting

April 19, 2017

1. Call to Order

In the absence of the Chairperson Gerald Chie, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Jack Lauderman Jr. at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Dwight Bennett

3. Roll Call and Recognition of Visitors

In Attendance: Bennett, Howard, Lauderman Jr., Newsome. Absent: Chie, Selter, and Spence
Planner Krepps was in attendance and Township Clerk Belynda Domas, and Deputy Clerk Kim Gonczy were in the audience to observe and introduce themselves to the Planning Commission. William Tobler was videotaping the meeting.

4. Appointment of a Temporary Secretary

In the absence of Secretary Selter, Cath Howard agreed to record the minutes of the meeting.

5. Approval of the Minutes

Motion by Bennett to approve the agenda with the following amendment provided by Planner Kreps to "include the Letter from Nextera requesting an extension of the Special Land Use Permit for 6 months. 2nd by Newsome. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of the Minutes

ATPC Regular Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2017. Motion by Howard, support by Newsome to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Hearings

A Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance Amendments was publicized and held: Vice Chair Lauderman Jr. opened the Public Hearing at 6:33 p.m. Planning Consultant Laura Krepps summarized all of the amendments made to the Zoning Ordinances. Some were updates per law and others were changes submitted for consideration by the Planning Commission. There were no questions or comments regarding the changes by the public. The hearing was closed at 6:37 p.m.

The Township Clerk and Deputy Clerk introduced themselves and gave a brief description of what they have been working on, on behalf of the township.

8. Business Items

- a. Adoption of the Comprehensive Zoning Amendments. Motion by Bennett to approve the Zoning Ordinance Amendments and recommend their adoption to the Township Board of Trustees. Support by Lauderman, Jr. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Motion by Bennett, support by Newsome to accept the Nextera request for a 6 month extension of the Special Land Use Permit. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Opened at 6:50. There were a few questions about the next steps for Nextera including how the rezoning would effect any projects that might follow it in the future. There would be none if it were another solar farm that might buy take over for Nextera in the future. If Nextera were to leave and another business that met the zoning requirements were to apply for that property they would have to submit new site plans and approvals would be specific to them. Landscaping has been a significant concern for residents living near that property who have not wanted to have their "scenic views impaired". The planner stated that efforts will be made to accommodate those residents' concerns as much as possible. The Clerk also explained how she is still accepting the monies from Nextera and any other firms that have fees for the planning process and will continue to do so. She also informed ACTPC that the Township purchased 2 of the MTA's Planning Books for them to review. Public Comment closed at 6:57 p.m.

Communications

Communication opened at 6:57 p.m. Cath Howard asked if the members were still interested in receiving some training from Carlisle Wortman along with the Board of Trustees and the Zoning Board of Appeals. All expressed interest and that will be brought up with the Board. Planner Krepps recommended that we consider joining the Michigan Association of Planning as they provide opportunities to meet with other members of planning commissions and to get feedback on planning issues. Communications closed at 7:07:

Adjournment

Vice Chair Lauderman Jr. asked for a motion. Motion by Bennett, support by Newsome to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Cath Howard, Board Liaison to the ATCT Planning Commission

Cathryn Antkowiak-Howard *Cath Howard* *4/23/17*

Cathryn Antkowiak-Howard (Cath Howard)

4/23/17