

AMERY PLAN COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS
September 28th, 2023

The Plan Commission for the City of Amery met on Thursday – September 28th, 2023 at City Hall. Mayor, Rick Van Blaricom; called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Mayor, Rick Van Blaricom; and Members – Paul Shafer, Eric Elkin, Paul Isakson and Patty Bjorklund.

Staff present: Clerk-Treasurer, Ben Jansen; and Deputy Clerk, Taylor Larson.

Others present – School District Administrator, Shawn Doerfler, Connie Jorgenson, Eric Wjocik, Erik Henningsgard & Brea Grace (S.E.H.), and Members of the Public.

- 1. Public Hearing: Proposed Wastewater Treatment Plant Buffer Zone Ordinance** – S.E.H. has created this ordinance to comply with state statutes requiring a 500 foot setback from Wastewater plants. Upon a motion made by Bjorklund; and seconded by Isakson; the public hearing was opened at 9:01 A.M. Erik Henningsgard and Brea Grace gave a brief overview of the history of the project and how we got to this point. They also were available to answer questions from the public. Comments were heard from numerous members of the public and most were concerned with the expansion of the plant in its current location. The homeowners around the plant would rather see it move somewhere south to promote future expansion. This was apparently the “intent” of the City for years.

Motion by Riemenschneider; seconded by Elkin; to close the public hearing at 9:51 a.m.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

Elkin motioned to recommend approval of the ordinance to the council and was seconded by Riemenschneider; but withdrew his motion.

Motion by Elkin; seconded by Riemenschneider; to recommend to the Council that a new location and cost for the Wastewater Treatment Plant be explored and to revisit the ordinance for the buffer zone in the future.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

- 2. Public Hearing: Jorgenson Field Acquisition with Amery School District** – Upon a motion by Isakson; seconded by Riemenschneider; the public hearing was opened at 10:03 A.M. School District Administrator, Shawn Doerfler gave a brief overview of why the School District is interested in acquiring Jorgenson Field and what their plans for it would be. They would like to resurface and renovate the entire field as well as add lights. Eric Wjocik and Connie Jorgenson also spoke about their wishes for the field and about the endowment fund that is available for improvements.

Motion by Isakson; seconded by Elkin; to close the public hearing at 10:28 A.M.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

- 3. Public Hearing: Possible Sale of City Property at 750 Sundance St. (Parcel ID 201-01045-0230)** – This item was already heard once at a public hearing in front of the Plan Commission. Matt Sagendorf is again requesting to purchase the property at 750 Sundance. He intends to build an ammunition manufacturing facility. Upon a motion by Isakson; seconded by Riemenschneider the public hearing was opened at 10:33 A.M. Mr. Sagendorf spoke to the commission and answered numerous questions. His original offer is now expired. He explained that he has approx. \$20,000 in environmental studies to complete on the parcel and would like to subtract that amount from his original offer.

Motion by Elkin; seconded by Riemenschneider; to close the public hearing at 10:58 A.M.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

Motion by Bjorklund; seconded by Shafer; to recommend the sale of 750 Sundance to the Council at a price of \$20,000.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

- 4. Public Hearing: Rezoning Application for Parcels 201-00031-0200 & 201-00031-0100 from R1-Single Family to R2-Two Family Duplex** – Upon a motion by Riemenschneider; seconded by Elkin; the public hearing was opened at 11:05 A.M. Nicki Cook, the owner of the 2 parcels, wishes to rezone her parcels from R1 to R2 for the purpose of building duplexes. Some comments were heard from her neighbors, mostly concerned with the amount of traffic that would be added to the road.

Motion by Riemenschneider; seconded by Isakson; to close the public hearing at 11:21 A.M.

Ayes – 6

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

Motion by Bjorklund; seconded by Riemenschneider; to recommend passage of the rezoning application to Council.

Ayes – 5 (Shafer Abstained)

Nays – 0

Motion Carried.

Motion to adjourn by Isakson, seconded by Shafer at 11:25 a.m.

Ayes - 5

Nays - 0

Motion Carried

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Jansen, MPA
Clerk-Treasurer
September 28th, 2023