

Denton Planning Commission

Minutes

Town of Denton

October 25, 2011

Planning Commission Members:

Doris Walls, Chairperson*
William Quick**
Sue Cruickshank*
Marina Dowdall*
Matt Breedlove**
Brian Tyler* - arrived at 6:10 p.m.

* Those Present
** Excused

Visitors:

Robert Clendaniel, Mayor
Don Mulrine (Town Administrator)

Dean Danielson, Council Member

Commission Attorney:

None

Recording:

William Kastning (Director of Planning and Codes Administration)

PROCEEDINGS

Call to Order:

The regular meeting was called to order by Chairperson Walls at 6:00 p.m., on October 25, 2011, at the Denton Town Office and followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Walls asked for any corrections, deletions, or additions to the September 29, 2011, Planning Commission meeting minutes. The minutes were approved as presented.

Old Business:

Mr. Kastning advised the Commission that Brodie - Legion Road revised concept plan will be on the November 2011 agenda.

Other Old Business - none

New Business:

Ordinance 640 - Recommendation to Town Council

The purpose of this ordinance was to close the west end of Bank Alley between First and Second Streets due to traffic issues on First Street. It was noted that the ordinance's title incorrectly stated that Bank Alley would be closed between First and Second Streets. [Further investigation by planning staff determined that the title and some of the content, as written by the Town Attorney and reviewed by certain Town departments, were misstatements. Ordinance will be amended for adoption consideration.]

For the record, it was noted that Commissioner Tyler was the owner of the Pub at the corner of Market and Second Streets. Discussion ensued about various options to alleviate traffic issues: 1) making First Street one-way, 2) disallow parking and 3) closing Bank Alley as recommended by the ordinance.

It was suggested based upon a traffic study conducted by DPW and DPD that making First Street one-way would substantially increase traffic on Second Street. Although a traffic study had been performed analyzing volume and speed on First and Second Streets, Mr.

1 Kastning commented that the traffic study was incomplete and naïve because it failed to monitor
2 the traffic on Bank Alley. Mr. Mulrine expressed the concern of Harry Weir, owner of Harry's
3 on the Green, regarding disallowing of parking on First Street for his business. The Commission
4 discussed Harry's on the Green hours of operation and whether parking for his restaurant could
5 be accommodated on the library parking lot at the corner of First and Franklin Streets. Except for
6 Fridays, when the library has evening hours, their entire library parking lot would be available
7 for Harry's on the Green patron use. It was stated that parking for Harry's on the library lot
8 would require the library staff permission.

9 Mr. Kastning identified the businesses and two residences utilize Bank Alley. Discussion
10 identified only two businesses that expressed concern about First Avenue closure and parking
11 (Harry's and Moore Funeral Home). It was not indicated by anyone in attendance whether the
12 other businesses or residents had been contacted or commented on closure of one end of Bank
13 Alley.

14 Commissioners Marina Dowdall and Susan Cruickshank indicated they were supportive
15 of Bank Alley closure at First Street. However, many Commissioners expressed the need for
16 further study.

17 Mr. Kastning stated the recommendation options available to the Commission were: 1)
18 passing a resolution recommending adoption of the ordinance as written, 2) passing a resolution
19 recommending not adopting the ordinance as written, 3) passing a resolution requesting more
20 information to make a more informed decision, 4) passing a resolution recommending adoption
21 of the ordinance with changes, or 5) taking no action (i.e., offer no recommendation).

22 Chair asked for a motion. Marina Dowdall made the motion to recommend Town
23 Council's approval of the ordinance as written and requested further study of First Street traffic
24 to be undertaken by the Town. The motion was seconded by Susan Cruickshank and approved
25 3:1 with Chairperson Doris Walls voting nay.

1 **Ordinance 641 - Recommendation to Town Council**

2 The purpose of this ordinance was to create red speed school zones and allow placement
3 of speed monitoring devices. As introduced, the ordinance proposed to establish one-half mile
4 red speed zones around Denton Elementary School and Lockerman Middle School.

5 Subsequent to the ordinance’s introduction, residents along Camp Road filed a petition
6 with the Town to address “aggressive speeding” on Camp Road. Discussion ensued about
7 establishing a third red speed school zone for the Wesleyan School.

8 Mr. Kastning discussed three maps created by the planning staff showing the one-half
9 mile buffer around each of the three schools. He indicated that areas outside of the Town
10 corporate limits and state roads do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Town and speed
11 monitoring devices cannot be placed in these areas/roads. Placement of the speed monitoring
12 devices would be at the discretion of the Denton Police Department, however would be targeting
13 speeding mostly on Sharp, Lockerman, Caroline, and Camp Roads.

14 It was noted that speed monitoring device civil fines (in the absence of a police officer)
15 would be assessed to the vehicle owner and would not be considered a moving violation. If
16 unpaid at the time of vehicle’s registration, a renewal would not be granted. After activation of a
17 speed monitoring device, a violation recorded by such a system would result in issuance of a
18 warning.

19 Chair asked for a motion. Marina Dowdall made the motion to recommend Town
20 Council’s approval of the ordinance including the Wesleyan School as a red speed zone. The
21 motion was seconded by Susan Cruickshank and approved unanimously.

22 **Ordinance 636 - Discussion for Input to Town Council**

23 The purpose of this ordinance was to replace the current ethics ordinance with one
24 required by the state based upon recent state legislation. Town Council asked that all Town board
25 and Commission members, as well as Town employees, be given the opportunity to comment.

1 Discussion ensued as to whether the financial disclosure requirements applied to
2 volunteer appointees. There was disagreement of opinion among the Commissioners; however,
3 Don Mulrine indicated that the financial disclosure section of the ordinance did apply to
4 appointees. Mr. Mulrine indicated that the Town has requested an exemption from the State. The
5 ordinance will be tabled until the State responds.

6 **Other New Business - None**

7 **Staff Items - None**

8 **Adjournment**

9 The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.