

City of Norton
PLANNING COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 8, 2014

The Planning Commission of the City of Norton, Ohio, convened for a public meeting in Council Chambers at the Safety Administration Building. Chairman Spisak called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Mark Spisak, Ralph Dowling, Larry Chiavaroli, Bill Courson

EXCUSED:

ALSO PRESENT: Russ Arters, Superintendent of Building & Zoning

II. PUBLIC APPLICATIONS:

None

III. OLD BUSINESS:

None

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Spisak started discussion on Portable Storage Containers–(PODS). Chairman Spisak asked Mr. Arters the purpose of this discussion. Mr. Arters stated he had distributed to the Board a document that the City of Lakewood had drawn up on Portable Storage Containers. He stated he had also distributed a draft for the Board to review for the City of Norton. He stated he would like to have this issue discussed tonight because there was a resident complaint to a Council member and a few complaints phoned into City Hall. He stated residents are using these PODS more and more and there are no restrictions on them. He said the Board may possibly want to look at some of these issues. He stated the Board may want to set a time limit on PODS or require a monthly permit fee. He said the Board could discuss the issue and do what they feel is necessary. There was general discussion on Portable Storage Container size, usage, fees, and restrictions. The Board discussed storage areas on different lots, a hard surface

being required, possible neighbor issues, and abuse of storage containers. Mr. Dowling stated they would need to define a definition for a "Temporary Structure". Ms. Charlotte Whipkey , 4624 Albert Avenue, Norton, OH, 44203, approached the podium. Ms. Whipkey stated she was not in favor of this issue. She stated that a few complaints into City Hall a year were not a lot of complaints. She said legislation should not be created because of a few complaints. She said the City would also have to pay a lawyer to write the legislation up. She stated the City already has restrictions written up on what can be stored near a street or right-of-way. She said these restrictions could also possibly apply to the Portable Storage Containers. She stated the real reason for these complaints was probably because of an issue with a neighbor. Chairman Spisak thanked Ms. Whipkey for her comments. Mr. Paul Tousley, 4536 Garrett Drive, Norton, OH, 44203, approached the podium. Mr. Tousley asked the Board what abuse meant with storage containers. Chairman Spisak stated it was when a portable storage container was kept in a yard for too long. Mr. Tousley stated he has had a swing-set in his yard for many years. He asked if that was the same. Chairman Spisak stated the City has a need to make rules and laws. Mr. Dowling asked Mr. Tousley if his neighbor had 3 storage containers in his front yard, would that be an issue. Mr. Tousley stated, no, but if it was an issue, he would go and talk with his neighbor. Mr. Dowling stated he had not seen a lot of storage containers in the City but he will take a drive and look around for them. Mr. Tousley stated he felt the residents feel the City wants every penny from them and this would upset them more. Mr. Dowling stated if the value of the neighborhood was affected then this could be an issue. Mr. Arters stated that was the reason for this meeting. He said this issue was up for discussion and he would like the Board to research this and let him know their thoughts. Ms. Charlotte Whipkey , 4624 Albert Avenue, Norton, OH, 44203, approached the podium. Ms. Whipkey stated she thought a lesser monthly fee would not help the issue. She stated it would be an inconvenience for a resident to have to go to the City every month to ask permission to go month to month on these containers. Mr. Arters stated they could also pass legislation that a Portable Storage Container can be on a property for 60 days, for example. He stated this could just be a tool of enforcement so the issue does not have to go up the chain at City Hall. Mr. Courson stated this was just a draft document for everyone to look at and examine. Mr. Arters stated that was correct. It is just information for the Board to look at. Chairman Spisak asked if there was any other business to discuss. There was none.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

Chairman Spisak asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from March 11, 2014. Being none, Chairman Spisak asked for a motion. Mr. Dowling made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Courson seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL: Mr. Dowling-Yes, Mr. Courson-Yes, Mr. Spisak-Yes, Mr. Chiavaroli-Yes. Motion to Approve passed 4-0.**

V. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Commission, Chairman Spisak announced the next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, April 22, 2014.

Planning Commission Chair/
Vice-Chair

Planning Commission Vice-Chair/
Member

Date

*** ORIGINAL SIGNED DOCUMENTS ON FILE WITH THE CLERK OF COUNCIL ***