

**CITY OF ISANTI  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 9, 2013**

**1. Meeting Opening.**

**A. Call to Order.**

Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**B. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Everyone rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**C. Roll Call.**

**Members Present:** Dave Englund, Kristi Gordon, Sue Larson, Cindy Lind-Livingston, Steve Lundeen, Sean Stevens, and Michael Streiff III.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Lisa Wilson, Planning and Parks Director.

**D. Agenda Modifications.**

Wilson stated that she had none.

**2. Approval of Minutes from June 11, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting.**

Stevens questioned if there were any comments or changes on the minutes.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to approve the June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes. Motion was unanimously approved.

**3. Public Hearings.**

**A. Request from the City of Isanti to Amend Ordinance No. 445 Zoning, Section 18 Site Plan Review, Subdivision 16 Performance Bond and other associated sections to include provisions for the authority to request a financial surety for site plan approval.**

Wilson presented the staff memo and outlined the ordinance provisions.

Stevens opened the public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

Streiff questioned how the wording of the ordinance was put together. Streiff questioned if the language is similar to that used in other communities. Streiff questioned if Mr. Joslin had been involved.

Wilson stated that the language exists now in other sections of the ordinance. Wilson stated that Mr. Joslin did help with the language originally and had recommended that the same be used in this section of the code.

Stevens stated that no members of the public were present. Stevens closed the public hearing at 7:03 pm.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to recommend approval of the amendments to Ordinance No. 445 Zoning, Section 18 Site Plan Review, Subdivision 16 Performance Bond to include provisions for the authority to request a financial surety for site plan approval based upon the Findings as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

B. Request from the City of Isanti to Amend Ordinance No. 536 Subdivision and Platting of Lands for the City of Isanti, Article 7 Design Standards, Subdivision 6 Lots and Article II Required Improvements, Subdivision 2 Required Improvements (B)(2) and other associated articles to include provisions to prohibit storm water facilities from being located on residential and commercial lots.

Wilson presented the information within the staff memo and outlined the provisions of the ordinance.

Stevens questioned how many publically cared for ponds we have.

Wilson stated that she did not know the exact number off the top of her head. Wilson stated that the system goes beyond even the ponds. Wilson stated that Mr. DeWolf had created a map for City staff which showed the location of various components of the storm water system.

Stevens questioned if homeowners were caring for 10 percent.

Wilson stated that she did not know what the percentage would be.

Stevens stated that there is no grandfathering here, this is a straight change.

Larson stated yes.

Wilson stated that moving forward any plats that the City reviews for residential or commercial development, those storm water facilities would need to be placed within an outlot to be deeded to the City. Wilson stated that the facility will no longer be located on the private homeowner's property, where the resident is required to maintain the area.

Lundeen questioned what would happen to the ones that are currently located on private property.

Wilson stated that they will remain as such. Wilson stated that through the storm water ordinance, we are permitted to enter the property should there be issues. Wilson stated there was a notification process for doing so. Wilson stated that if the homeowner does not address the issue, we would.

Stevens stated that this was a big political point a few elections ago. Stevens questioned if there was a notification process that the City is required to participate in stating that a formally held public pond that became private should be taken care of in a certain manner. Stevens questioned if there will be information provided to the public regarding the upcoming changes and requirements.

Wilson stated that the City is looking into establishing a storm water utility. Wilson stated that there may be an education component to that process. Wilson stated that despite education, many people do not grasp the ramifications of what they do or do not do in these areas. Wilson stated that most residents view this area as their yard.

Larson stated that was true.

Stevens stated that they just keep mowing it until it gets wet.

Lundeen stated that this is not the City doing this. Lundeen stated that the state is mandating these requirements. Lundeen stated that Mr. DeWolf gave a presentation on this item at their previous meeting. Lundeen stated that Mrs. Larson had attended a conference that further discussed these issues and requirements. Lundeen stated that Mr. DeWolf only touched a tip of the iceberg. Lundeen stated that there is a lot more to it than meets the eye. Lundeen stated that he has been explaining this to residents. Lundeen stated that the City has to implement the necessary requirements to address storm water issues.

Streiff questioned what will happen to the ones that have received no maintenance up to this point.

Larson stated that the City may need to go in and verify that maintenance is completed.

Streiff questioned if it would be completed regularly.

Wilson stated that the intent is to have a scheduled maintenance routine and to be able to fund the program necessary to meet requirements.

Larson stated that if the City does go in, the City would charge back to the resident. Larson stated that it would be on their property and they are responsible.

Streiff stated that he was happy he did not have one of these in his neighborhood.

Lundeen stated that they did, but it was a publically held pond at the end of the street. Lundeen stated there are quite a few that will have it. Lundeen stated that they will be happy to turn it over to the City for maintenance.

Stevens opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m. Stevens stated that there was no public present for the item. Stevens closed the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Motion by Stevens, second by Lundeen to recommend approval of the amendment to Ordinance No. 536 Subdivisions and Platting of Lands for the City of Isanti, Article 7 Design Standards, Subdivision 6 Lots; Article 11 Required Improvements, Subdivision 2 Required Improvements (B)(2) to include provision to prohibit storm water facilities from being located on residential and commercial lots based upon the Findings as presented. Motion was unanimously approved.

#### **4. Other Business.**

##### **A. Review of Chapter 227 Parking and Storage of the Isanti City Code.**

Wilson stated that City staff had tried to look at what could be parked or stored on either a percentage of the total lot area or a percentage of the allowable impervious surface area. Wilson stated that in doing so, it is time consuming. Wilson stated that City staff first needs to determine lot size; and once that is completed either the percentage of the lot that we would be looking to allow vehicles on or one step further and determine impervious surface area and then the percentage that would allow for vehicles storage.

Wilson stated that there were a number of concerns as to how we would choose which percentage to use. Wilson stated that staff also has concerns about trying to explain this concept to the resident. Wilson stated that staff also questioned whether or not the intent was to still cap the number of vehicles permitted. Wilson stated that if we did so, there are some questions as to whether or not a resident that still has "room" to park a vehicle would argue against being capped. Wilson questioned if we have the staff time to complete these types of calculations for each lot. Wilson stated that Ms. Nuss is a trained planner, so she understands these concepts and calculations. Wilson stated that someone different with a different background may be sitting in that seat someday. Wilson stated that the ordinance needs to be easily enforced by numerous individuals and understandable to the public that must follow the provisions.

Wilson stated that the moratorium on this ordinance provision has expired. Wilson stated that the City does not meet the statute requirements for an extension. Wilson stated that the Mayor did question where the ordinance was at the last Council meeting. Wilson stated that the group must make a recommendation on this item for the upcoming Council meeting. Wilson stated that the group must first decide whether they want to allow commercial vehicles, yes or no. Wilson stated if the answer is yes, the group needs to determine how they will be permitted and what parameters should be placed on their parking and storage.

Wilson stated that as mentioned, the regulations need to be easily enforced staff and understood by the public.

Wilson outlined some examples that staff had found, in communities that allow for commercial vehicles. Wilson stated that each may have enforcement issues. Wilson stated that it comes down to what the Planning Commission and City Council envision for the City. Wilson stated that this will establish the character of the community.

Lundeen stated that he liked what Mr. Lorsung had to say the other day when he was in the office. Lundeen stated that maybe the simple solution was to just grandfather in those that have them currently. Lundeen stated that whoever comes next can't have them.

Wilson stated that her only concern with that is that staff is going to have a very hard time verifying who had a commercial vehicle on their property before the ordinance. Wilson stated that even with the grandfather clause we currently have for the driveways, it can be very difficult for City staff to make that determination, even when using an aerial photo. Wilson stated that she fears sending the letter to someone and they will argue that they have been doing it for years; and there is no way to prove that. Wilson stated that even if staff takes a window survey and drives around town, with these vehicles coming and going, someone is going to be missed.

Lundeen stated that it is a tough one to do.

Englund stated that what happens when I have been a resident for 20-years and I change jobs and have to bring a big company vehicle home. Englund questioned if you were grandfathered in because you have lived there for a long time or not.

Lundeen stated that was the point he was trying to make. Lundeen stated that if you drive a bigger truck for work, then you would be adamant on bringing a vehicle home. Lundeen stated that we are messing with someone's livelihood. Lundeen stated that we need to set our own standards. Lundeen stated that you can do something that is allowed in the code, which may be irritating to someone else. Lundeen stated that he hates seeing someone with five vehicles in the driveway, but it is allowed by code.

Lind-Livingston questioned what the restrictions were for the city that allowed the commercial vehicles.

Wilson stated that it has to be in the driveway, there had to be a setback between the vehicle and the street, cannot idle for a period of time, etc. Wilson stated that there were quite a few standards. Wilson stated that the group had requested permitting information at the last meeting. Wilson stated that she has provided an example in the packet from a community that is out-of-state for their review. Wilson described where in the packet it could be found. Wilson stated that the applicant has to meet specific standards. Wilson stated that if the standards are not met, then it can be revoked by the City Administrator. Wilson stated that there were 11 conditions that were required to be met before the permit could be issued.

Stevens stated that they have gone around this issue a number of ways. Stevens stated that his intent with the percentage was to find a middle-area for the issue. Stevens stated that he has always been a bit skeptical of the issue. Stevens stated that given the preliminary time that staff has put into it, not even thinking about enforcement, he comes back to the point that we do not have a way to implement this correctly. Stevens stated that going back to the Comprehensive Plan and getting the sentiment from people around town, this is not something that residents are interested in having in the community. Stevens stated that staff was probably looking for a motion.

Wilson stated yes. Wilson stated that the Planning Commission needs to provide a recommendation on the chapter. Wilson stated that it is her understanding that otherwise, the Commission is fine with the

other changes that have been made to the code. Wilson questioned if the commercial vehicle point was the only area in which the group was undecided. Wilson questioned if she had that correct.

Stevens stated that in summary he would say that based upon the information and research provided from prior months, is that we do not have a good way to implement this and that we would not allow for this.

Streiff questioned if by commercial we mean anything over 12,000 GVW.

Wilson stated that it would be anything over 15,000 GVW. Wilson stated that the current ordinance uses this number and the proposed would continue to do the same for the cut-off point. Wilson stated that if you still have a company vehicle; you would be fine. Wilson stated that for example Mr. Lundeen has a company van. Wilson stated that as long as that was under the 15,000 GVW, then it would be permitted.

Streiff questioned why other communities have 9,000 or 12,000. Streiff questioned a one-ton or  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton pick-up.

Lind-Livingston stated that one of the charts provided showed the size of vehicles and some examples.

Streiff pointed out that on page 6.

Stevens stated that he did not think that could be accurate. Stevens stated that he used to run huge box trucks that were 18,000 GVW and they were huge. Stevens stated that he did not think that there was any way you could get up there with a one-ton truck.

Streiff stated that the 12,000 GVW is more what we are looking to do then.

Stevens agreed.

Streiff stated that he did not want to get into a weird area where we are between a 1 ton and something more.

Lundeen stated that when you have a one-ton vehicle, you need a commercial plate.

Stevens stated that there may be road standards in these communities and that is why they do not allow for more.

Lundeen questioned if we did follow a similar permitting process would that be a nightmare for staff.

Wilson stated that when adding permit requirements and a process, there is staff time that will need to be expended. Wilson stated that we are going to need to make sure that they applied for a permit, can meet the requirements, and continue to meet the requirements. Wilson stated that there will be follow-up time, enforcement time, and time associated with tracking the permits. Wilson stated that the more of these that need to be issued and followed, the more staff time.

Lundeen stated that it shouldn't be as hard as the dog licenses.

Englund stated that he likes the idea of having someone filling out an application to have one vehicle in their yard. Englund stated that the ordinance should be maintained as a 12,000 or 15,000; but if someone wants or needs one oversized vehicle as long as they meet requirements, fine.

Lundeen questioned what Mr. Anderson stated his vehicle had weighed.

Wilson stated that she thought Mr. Anderson had stated that the empty weight of the vehicle was 26,000. Wilson stated that staff was finding that most tractors weighed over 33,000 GVW.

Englund stated that he does not know what the tractor would be alone without the trailer. Englund stated that every vehicle would be different.

Lundeen stated that Mr. Anderson's has a sleeper on it, so his would weigh more. Lundeen stated that if it would make them happy and they are going to be in compliance, then what difference would it make. Lundeen stated that he does not see 150 people lining up to register a vehicle with Mrs. Wilson. Lundeen stated that he does not see 100 people deciding to move in with a tractor either.

Englund stated that there will be bigger box trucks and if they can keep a distance between the back and the street, then why not.

Lundeen stated that other than being an eye sore to people, he agrees with Mr. Stevens, is that he does not necessarily want to look at it. Lundeen stated that we allow for individuals to have five vehicles in their driveway; and to him that is an eye sore, but we allow it. Lundeen questioned how we deter someone from making a living.

Lind-Livingston stated that her neighbor does have a box truck. Lind-Livingston stated that she doesn't even really notice it. Lind-Livingston stated that it is just another vehicle. Lind-Livingston stated that she doesn't live right next door to it. Lind-Livingston agrees that it should be an option to those individuals that have a commercial vehicle for their livelihood. Lind-Livingston stated that her son could come over with a plumbing truck and park at the house.

Stevens stated that this would be by permit. Stevens stated that her son is not going to stop and get a permit.

Lind-Livingston stated that he would not be there more than 15 days.

Englund stated that visiting is one thing and living there is another. Englund stated that if he lives there, then he needs a permit.

Lundeen stated that the original proposal stated something about 15 consecutive days.

Wilson stated that after the last Planning Commission discussion, it appeared that the consecutive days would not work and should be removed.

Lundeen stated that we should go with a permit if it is going to sit there for more than 15 consecutive days. Lundeen stated then it is storage at that point. Lundeen stated that if they drive truck, then they will be moving it often. Lundeen stated that if they are going on vacation, they can find another place to park. Lundeen stated that there are people that he has spoken to that could care less. Lundeen stated that we are not going to please everyone. Lundeen stated that by giving them a permit, they can be responsible and come in and get it. Lundeen stated that it would not be a big deal for them to do it.

Streiff questioned what all these other cities around us see that we don't know. Streiff stated that Princeton does not allow for it, and everyone and their grandma drives a truck. Streiff stated that St. Francis does not allow for it either.

Stevens stated that there is probably a lot of looking the other way.

Lundeen stated that by making it a rule to have a permit, now you are giving it away to enforce it if they do not have one. Lundeen stated that lots of people do not look when they drive by. Lundeen stated that

if you want something in your yard, he could care less. Lundeen stated that if you had a lot of garbage in your yard, he would say something. Lundeen stated that he doesn't think there should be parking on the streets in his neighborhood. Lundeen stated that there is a neighbor that has a few cars in the driveway and some in the street. Lundeen stated that code allows for this to happen.

Streiff questioned if we had more time for enforcement.

Wilson stated that spring, summer, and fall are all busy. Wilson stated that we have a lot of complaints. Wilson stated that people are out in their yards, they are noticing what is happening on the property next to them or in the neighborhood. Wilson stated that in the winter, we do not receive many complaints. Wilson stated with code enforcement, we have lulls and peak times. Wilson stated that the permit process will require staff time.

Lundeen stated that is why the CSO's hours were increased, so as to keep up with these calls.

Streiff stated that as the community grows, our staff is going to need to choose between reviewing the plans for a new development or trying to keep up with enforcing semi-tractor parking in town.

Lundeen stated that plans for a new development head to a different department.

Streiff stated that there are limited resources to go through something like this. Streiff stated that in looking at these other communities, there appears to be an angle that we are not seeing. Streiff stated that these are very similar communities. Streiff stated that they may have been down this road and had this same issue; and they have decided not to do this.

Lundeen stated that in Cambridge there is a place to park the trucks.

Streiff stated yes, but everyone you talk to, they do not park there because vandalism is so high. Streiff stated that the parking lot is vacant.

Lundeen stated that was why people want to be able to park their trucks here. Lundeen stated that no one is going to take a new truck and park it on the street and have it vandalized.

Streiff stated that if he bought a new semi, he would not get himself into a spot where he didn't have a place to put it. Streiff stated that he wouldn't think that he could just place it at his house, it wouldn't add up over time. Streiff stated that it is hard to think that you are going to buy a semi and just park it at your house; that is your long-term idea. Streiff stated that you are either going to get a neighbor that doesn't like it. Streiff stated that they are just opening up a can of worms. Streiff stated that we either go down the road and try it out for a bit or we just say no. Streiff stated that this is all Mrs. Wilson will be spending her time on.

Lundeen stated that he doubted that.

Streiff stated that we need to think about the individual that is renting a place in Cambridge, and you don't have a spot for your truck, why would you not come rent a place in Isanti so you could keep your truck.

Lundeen stated that as long as he has a permit, why should it matter.

Streiff stated yes, but that is someone we are not considering. Streiff stated that all of the communities around us do not allow this, so the potential for this to take off is there. Streiff stated that he could be wrong. Streiff stated that we are going to make some people happy and make some people mad, no matter which we go.

Stevens stated that he would like to hear from the members that have not spoken. Stevens stated that we seem to have Commissioners Englund, Lundeen, and Lind-Livingston vying for a permit. Stevens stated Mr. Streiff is on the side of not having an allowance.

Larson stated that she is sitting with the permitting process. Larson stated that she is wondering if we are going to need screening. Larson stated that is a real issue with boats and vehicles.

Lundeen questioned if there are screening changes.

Wilson stated that if things are in your side and rear yard, we are still requiring screening. Wilson stated that we are not going to allow a commercial vehicle to try to fit along a garage with a 10 foot side yard. Wilson stated that if we require it to be parked in the driveway, you are not permitted to have a 6 foot privacy fence extended past the corner of your home into the front yard. Wilson stated that these will be very visible to the neighbors.

Lundeen stated that we cannot allow it in the side yard.

Larson stated that if we follow the 11 example requirements that were provided, the vehicle would have to be parked face forward. Larson stated that the example spells it all out, in terms of what they can do or cannot do.

Stevens questioned what we would be thinking in terms of a permit fee for this.

Wilson stated that would need to be determined by the City Council.

Stevens questioned if there was a standard that we could identified.

Wilson stated that we could look at a sign permit or kennel permit fee. Wilson stated that these are staff level reviews.

Lundeen stated that there has to be a fee on it, as staff has to put time into the review.

Stevens stated that if he is hearing this correctly, we are looking to allow for one vehicle with a permit, if parking for over 15 consecutive days; and can only be up to 15,000 GVW. Wilson stated that it would be larger than 15,000 GVW.

Lundeen stated that if it is over 15,000 GVW, then they need to head to the permitting process.

Stevens questioned if there would be a maximum.

Larson stated that they differ too much to place a maximum.

Lundeen stated that you are not going to be able to pull in a very long vehicle. Lundeen questioned the existing setback.

Wilson stated that for recreational vehicles, the setback from the curb or sidewalk is ten feet.

Lundeen stated with ten feet, most driveways are around 30 feet long. Lundeen stated that it can't be over 30 feet if there is a 40 foot driveway. Lundeen stated that he would like to make a motion to follow the permitting process. Lundeen stated that the fees would need to be determined by City Council. Lundeen stated that maybe he misunderstood Mr. Stevens, but if the vehicle is over 15,000 GVW, then it must be permitted and cannot be there over 15 consecutive days.



Stevens stated that there is a misunderstanding. Stevens stated that if he brings a big rig for two weeks, then he wouldn't need a permit; but if he was taking it each day, then he would need a permit.

Wilson stated that will not work. Wilson stated if we work it that way, there are going to be a lot of individuals that will claim it being there temporarily, so they do not need a permit. Wilson stated that will be an enforcement nightmare.

Stevens questioned the 15 day standard.

Gordon questioned how staff was going to keep track of that.

Wilson stated that it will be very difficult.

Englund stated that the vehicle would have to sit in a spot for two weeks straight without moving.

Larson and Lundeen stated that you could check their logs.

Englund questioned how staff would do that.

Wilson stated that the drivers are not going to let staff check their log books. Wilson stated that people do not like that staff uses the right-of-way in front of their home to check a violation.

Gordon stated that staff is not going to knock on doors and request that the log books be turned over. Gordon stated that no one is going to do that.

Lundeen stated that it would discourage them from just keeping it there.

Streiff stated that anything up to 15,000 GVW is okay. Streiff stated that anything over that would require the permit. Streiff stated that as part of the process, the vehicle cannot be kept on the property longer than 15 consecutive days in a month along with the other requirements.

Lundeen stated that would be his motion.

Wilson requested clarification on how the commission wanted to handle commercial trailers with construction equipment.

Lundeen stated that no trailers are allowed.

Wilson stated, not the semi-trailer. Wilson stated we are referring to the long flat bed trailers that have a bobcat or a skid loader sitting on them. Wilson questioned if the group wants to define these as a commercial vehicle or do we want to say no, you can't have them. Wilson stated that this was brought up at a previous meeting; and staff would need clarification.

Lundeen stated that if it fits in their driveway, then they could have it. Lundeen stated that they could have the permit as well. Lundeen stated that he would not want a rendering truck next door.

Larson stated that years ago there was discussion on this item. Larson stated that not a lot of them look good. Larson stated that people place additional items on or under the trailer. Larson stated that in the past, the City had said no to these, as there were aesthetic issues. Larson stated that when she was in construction, they would place the equipment, but boards and materials would then also be stored on or under the trailer. Larson stated that we do not want this to be an eyesore. Larson stated that if it is a nice looking bobcat and a trailer, it is fine. Larson stated that it is just a can of worms.

Streiff stated that the permit is for one vehicle. Streiff stated that if you had a truck that was oversized, this would be a second vehicle.

Wilson stated that only one or the other would be permitted.

Stevens stated that you would need a huge driveway for some of these items.

Lundeen stated that as long as it meets the setback and they can get it in the driveway.

Stevens questioned if this would affect a boat or camper.

Wilson stated no. Wilson stated that this would be considered a recreational vehicle. Wilson stated that you could still have those along with your one commercial vehicle, providing you did not exceed five vehicles.

Gordon questioned how this is going to get policed. Gordon stated that she does not care what people have in their yard. Gordon stated that people could look out their window and say they do not like her flowers.

Lundeen provided information regarding landscaping issues between property owners. Lundeen stated that there is nothing the City can do about it. Lundeen stated that the police cannot police everything either. Lundeen stated that it will keep the honest people, honest. Lundeen stated that if there is a complaint and no permit was issued, they will need to comply or face a citation.

Streiff stated that there are people out there doing bad stuff with this. Streiff stated that there are people that are good about the rules, but there are many that are not.

Lundeen stated that he has a good deal, as he has 2.5 acres. Lundeen stated that his property is set-up for this type of parking situation. Lundeen stated that he listens to the issues in his neighborhood.

Lind-Livingston stated that when you live in a small community, you notice your neighbors doing lots of crazy stuff. Lind-Livingston stated that she is willing to give, so that someone can park their truck for their livelihood. Lind-Livingston stated that we all deal with issues in our neighborhood. Lind-Livingston stated that if you live in town, you need to give and take.

Stevens stated that once enforcement starts, we will see the issues that have arisen. Stevens questioned if City staff understood the direction.

Wilson stated that she would like clarification that the group is open to staff's draft 2, with the inclusion of the information provided within the discussion this evening. Wilson briefly identified the changes made.

Stevens stated that seemed correct.

Motion by Lundeen, second by Larson to recommend that commercial vehicles be permitted through a permit process, allowing for one vehicle larger than 15,000 GVW within a residential area, meeting setbacks and requirements described in the discussion; based upon the second draft provided by City staff. Motion was unanimously approved.

B. Amendments to Ordinance No. 445 Zoning, Section 6 Residential Districts; Section 13 Use Regulations, Article 4 Accessory Buildings, Structures, and Uses; Section 15 Fencing, Screening, and Landscaping; and Section 17 Off-Street Parking and Loading to require zoning permits.

Wilson outlined the information.

Streiff questioned when a permit would be necessary.

Lind-Livingston questioned the replacement of an existing fence.

Wilson stated that she believe that would still require a building permit.

Streiff questioned if we had time for this.

Wilson stated that staff has been trying to work with residents without having the permit. Wilson stated that some people call and ask questions, others just complete the job and ask for forgiveness later when it does not meet code.

Streiff questioned the turn-around time.

Wilson stated that they can be relatively quick.

Englund stated that it could be approved in the same time period.

Wilson stated that with some it would be easy. Wilson stated that some would require some time and research.

Lundeen stated that in his area, it would be more difficult. Lundeen stated that it would be finding your survey pins and pulling a line across.

Lind-Livingston questioned the fee.

Wilson stated that the fee is for staff time. Wilson stated that we have people that add things as they construct them. Wilson stated that if it does not meet code, then I have to tell them it has to be removed. Wilson stated that the City has on file what was approved for that property. Wilson stated that having that information helps staff in the long run.

Lind-Livingston stated that she is still stuck on the fee.

Wilson stated that the fee shown is a placeholder, and Council may choose to do something different.

Lind-Livingston stated that they had put up some fence last year. Lind-Livingston stated that the fee for the permit was almost as much as the fence. Lind-Livingston stated that she did not feel that the City should be involved in saying when they can improve their property.

Englund stated that the fee covers the cost of staff to go out and do the job.

Stevens stated that he is torn on this one as well. Stevens stated that he has some examples of people in other communities that needed permits and fees for things that should have been simple. Stevens stated that he is all for working with people up front. Stevens stated that he feels staff will be buried with these. Stevens stated that there are some things that staff could discuss to head off issues.

Streiff stated that if anyone does decide to add a pad, they know there are different regulations that need to be followed. Streiff stated that he just feels like we are a different city once we start adding this.

Lind-Livingston stated that with her situation, she has a difficult neighbor. Lind-Livingston stated that she wanted to be sure that she was placing the fence where she should and prevent issues with the neighbor. Lind-Livingston stated that staff even came out to help.

Lundeen stated that there are a lot of people that finish basements, but do not pull a permit. Lundeen stated that people do things on the weekend. Lundeen stated that he does a lot of work in other areas, and they do not require some things that others do. Lundeen stated that he is not always one that would stand up and say, he is going to get a permit. Lundeen stated that he inadvertently replaced a water heater without getting a permit. Lundeen stated that he got a call from Rick saying that he needed a permit. Lundeen stated that he had to pay a fine and pull a permit. Lundeen stated that it was an oversight and the last thing that entered his mind. Lundeen stated that it would not have been noticed, if Rick did not have to head over there for something else. Lundeen stated that this is a can of worms, but also has been brought to staff attention, as people are doing things against code.

Lind-Livingston stated that she thinks the cost of the project should determine what is paid. Lind-Livingston stated that if there is more staff time for a large project, then a larger fee is charged.

Wilson stated that Council could review that.

Stevens stated that it seems that the nature of the proposal is to have the City be a clearing house, so people can understand what they can or cannot do. Stevens stated that they are trying to represent the savings that may come, if you are in violation and have to rip up your work. Stevens stated that is more of an issue to get people to understand that they should see the City before they do something.

Lind-Livingston stated that she thinks it is needed, but the fee needs to justify what is being done.

Stevens stated that he would agree. Stevens stated that in his examples, these were things that needed a permit, but residents did not even know that.

Lind-Livingston questioned how people are educated about this.

Lundeen stated that every city's policies are different.

Stevens stated that is it difficult to educate the resident to speak with the City before they do something on their property.

Larson stated that there are people that will do that. Larson stated that people that already do it will come in and people that don't, won't.

Lundeen stated that the Code book is thick. Lundeen stated that he has read maybe five pages in that book.

Streiff stated that he lived in Roseville; and that is why he wanted out of Roseville. Streiff stated that there is a little freedom to do things on your property here.

Lundeen provided some background information about Athens Township. Lundeen stated that staff has a good intent on this, but how are we going to police this and get this done. Lundeen stated that it could be on the website, but people will not see it. Lundeen stated that there will be more work for staff and residents.

Streiff stated that staff should establish the top 5 issues that are happening.

Wilson stated that we could tailor things down, as to when we require a permit.

Streiff stated that he would like to see that first.

Lind-Livingston questioned the driveway requirements.

Wilson stated that we are not changing them, just moving them, so that they make more sense within the ordinance. Wilson stated if we are making amendments, we should do it all at once. Wilson stated that staff will tailor things down and bring it back for further discussion.

**5. Discussion Items.**

**A. Update on Sign/Aesthetics Committee.**

Wilson stated that the group had made some decisions on some of the issues that were identified within the ordinance. Wilson stated that the temporary signage issue has varied opinions amongst the members. Wilson stated that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Zoning Ordinance Amendments.**

Wilson stated that the attachments included zoning ordinance amendments recently approved by the Council. Wilson stated that they should be added to their personal copies.

**6. Adjournment**

Motion by Englund, second by Lundeen to adjourn the July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting of the Planning Commission. Motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Dated at Isanti, Minnesota this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

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Lisa M. Wilson, AICP  
Planning and Parks Director