

PLANNING COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 24, 2015

The Gladwin City Planning Commission met in regular session Tuesday, February 24, 2015 at Gladwin City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Chairman Darlington followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Commissioners Darlington, Stout, Clayton, Wenzel, Povey and Alward.

Absent: Commissioners David, English and Wendell.

Also present: Bernadette Weaver, Thom Huber, Kevin Brott, Doug Lewis, Scott Hawblitzel, Chris Overley, Roxanne Hale, Kevin Barnard, Doug Modin, Joe Pleiman, Chris Pleiman, Pastor Phil Hortop, Cari McNichol, Carissa Petherbridge and Philip Wheeler.

Chairman Darlington welcomed Travis Povey to the Planning Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Beyer, supported by Commissioner David to approve the meeting minutes of October 20, 2014. All ayes. Motion carried.

Chris Overley and Doug Lewis from the New Dawn Shelter were present to give an update on the facility's first 2 months of operation. Thirty clients have utilized the shelter. Some have been refused as they either do not want to follow the facility's rules or the shelter does not have the resources to serve them. The shelter has limitations in the scope of mental health services they can provide. There has been a great deal of coordination between mental health and social service agencies in order to better serve the residents. Non-residents of Gladwin County are encouraged to return to their county of residence and assisted with making arrangements to do so. Thom Huber of the Gladwin Police Departments noted some problems the city police had encountered with the shelter. It was noted that strictly adhering to a curfew could eliminate a great deal of problems. Since the beginning of the year, approximately 5% of the complaints were tied to the shelter occupants. Discussion as to residency requirements.

Chairman Darlington stated that there would be "hiccups" with any new facility. Chris Overley stressed that they enforce rules and regulations and have asked some of those staying there to leave as they did not want to follow the shelter's rules. Pastor Hortop noted that prior to the shelter's existence, the same things such as retail fraud occurred within the city, but there was no accountability. If a shelter resident has broken the law, they know there will be repercussions. Kevin Barnard addressed the fact that there has always been a criminal element and cited several statistics as to drug-related activities the last several years. Doug Lewis noted that over time they hope to see a decrease in crime as they will be addressing the problems of homelessness. Kevin Brott noted that communication is vital between all parties so problems can be addressed immediately to alleviate problems. Chairman Darlington shared a positive comment she heard about one of the shelter occupants. Commissioners commented that overall they felt it was a

positive addition to the community. They stated that they looked forward to hearing of the shelter's progress.

Scott Hawblitzel was in attendance to question changes made to the sign ordinance. Discussion. He noted he wanted to get a variance to put up an additional wall sign at Northern Discount Grocery. He noted that the ordinance could be interpreted to allow or disallow many requests. He believes the structure that protrudes from the wall at the aforementioned business could be defined as a canopy. Discussion. He also presented several photos of businesses that he feels are in non-compliance. Motion by Commissioner Clayton, supported by Commissioner Povey that the structure be recognized as a canopy and that a sign allowed to be placed as requested. All ayes. Motion carried.

Commissioners discussed an upcoming Zoning Board of Appeals request from AAA Plumbing & Heating. Motion by Commissioner Alward, supported by Commissioner Wenzel that a favorable recommendation be made to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding AAA Plumbing & Heating's request. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Alward, supported by Commissioner Clayton to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.


Bernadette L. Weaver, Recording Secretary