

**MINUTES OF THE
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION AND CITY COUNCIL
Monday, April 4, 2022
JOINT WORKSHOP 5:30 p.m.**

The joint workshop of the Decatur City Council was called to order by Mayor McQuiston at 5:31 p.m. Mayor McQuiston declared a moment of silence. Mayor McQuiston led the pledge. Those present included Planning and Zoning Commissioners: Chairman Cecil LeMond, Vice-Chairman Curtis Creswell, Commissioners, Terry Berube, John Lanier, Eileen Cross, Will Klose and Mason Woodruff. Mayor Mike McQuiston, Council members, Eddie Allen, Will Carpenter, Jake Hayes and Melinda Reeves. Council members Ben Bennington and Darlene Hilton were absent. Staff members present: City Manager Brett Shannon, Fire Chief Nate Mara, Police Chief Delvon Campbell, Public Works/Airport Director Greg Hall, Main Street Director Frieda Lasater, IT Director J.B. McKenzie, Technology Services Technician Sebastian Davis, Planning Coordinator Cheryl Fuss, City Secretary Asucena Garcia, Attorney Patricia Adams and Richard Greene representing the Wise County Messenger. Connected via videoconferencing: City Engineer Earl Smith and Planning Director Dedra Ragland.

ITEM 1: Discussion regarding proposed three (3) year period of effectiveness for Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Variances when property use remains the same; discussion regarding Council's direction to Public Works regarding establishment of a Curb, Gutter and Sidewalk Plan for the City.

City Attorney Adams stated a two year variance was appropriate to streamline the process. Council Member Allen stated he would prefer a three year time period. Council member Hayes made a motion to approve a policy establishing a three year time period for sidewalk, curb and gutter variances to remain in place after Council approval. Council member Allen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ITEM 2: Discussion regarding the roles of and processes used by the Commission and City Council in making recommendations and final decision making on agenda items, including the review of plats, zoning matters, and specific types of variances/special exceptions as provided in the Zoning and Subdivision Regulations.

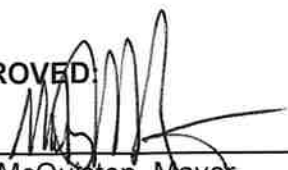
Council Member Allen would like staff to make more decisions regarding requests instead of sending them to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

ITEM 3: Discussion regarding the Decatur development process, visions for growth and development within the City, including downtown and other areas and regarding future collaboration between P&Z, Council and the Main Street Board.


Council Member Reeves stated it was imperative to have sidewalks in the historic downtown district. City Engineer Earl Smith presented a plan for the City to construct sidewalks in the Main Street District and then Historic Overlay District, along Main and Walnut Streets and between Trinity and State Streets. Smith suggested the City develop an annual budget to construct sidewalks in a target area with it likely taking years to complete construction in the area. Smith also suggested tackling the Downtown Strategic Investment Area third, but members of the Planning and Zoning Commission and Council suggested a focus on thoroughfares as identified by the 2050 Long Range Master Plan. The group also wanted to give the staff more ability to approve sidewalk variances if it did not conform to the area.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor McQuiston declared the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVED: 

Mike McQuiston, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Asucena Garcia, TRMC, City Secretary

