

Athens City Planning Commission
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thursday, February 21, 2019, 12:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Athens City Planning Commission was held in City Council Chambers, third floor, at City Hall on February 21, 2019.

Attendees: Robert Delach

1. Call to Order

RJ Sumney called the regular meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 12:09 p.m. There was no one who wished to speak in the live audience to administer the oath to. Quorum was established.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS:

RJ Sumney, Chair.....Present
Christy Zempter.....Present
Nancy Bain, Vice Chair.....Present
Steve Patterson, Mayor.....Present
Andrew Stone, Service-Safety Director.....Absent

STAFF:

Paul Logue, City Planner.....Present
Rick Sirois, Code Enforcement Director.....Present

2. Election of Officers

Mayor Steve Patterson moved to nominate current Chair RJ Sumney and current Vice-Chair Nancy Bain to continue to serve in 2019. Christy Zempter seconded. Mayor Patterson shared an email communication from Service-Safety Director Andrew Stone expressing his support in having the current Chair and Vice-Chair continue to serve. All present voted aye. Motion passed 4:0.

3. Disposition of Minutes

Christy Zempter moved to accept the January 17, 2019 minutes. Steve Patterson seconded. RJ Sumney abstained. Motion passed 3:0.

4. Cases

**Case 19-01 Title 43 Wireless Communication
AT&T Tower Modification
20A Monticello Drive**

Rick Sirois/Synopsis

In accordance with Athens City Code 43.07. Special use permit application, AT&T Mobility is proposing to upgrade at the 135' level, their system on the existing 190' telecommunication tower. The project consists of removing and replacing 6 existing antennas, removing and replacing 9 existing Remote Radio Heads (RRHs), installing an additional 9 various Remote Radio Heads (RRHs), installing support fiber and cables and support electrical equipment. Proper supporting documents were provided. After a review of the documents it was determined that it met with Code requirements under Title 43.

Facts

Applicant: AT&T/Brent Lord Auth Agent

Property Owner: Tom Willoughby

Tower Owner: SBA Communication

Site Location: 20A Monticello Drive, Athens

Site Number: SOH3969

Engineer: Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.

Project Description: Modify an existing wireless installation.

Zoning: R3

Estimated Cost of Project: \$15,000

Discussion

RJ Sumney: The footprint of the tower is not changing.

Steve Patterson: We have and will continue, to see a lot of similar straightforward tower modification applications.

The group discussed revisiting how these straightforward applications are handled administratively moving forward. Everyone agreed that it would be more efficient to review/approve these applications at the level of the Code Office/Service-Safety Office. If tower modification requests include changing the footprint or are more involved, then they could continue to be brought to the Planning Commission for approval. Paul Logue and Rick Sirois will look at City Code and submit a recommendation to the commissioners.

Christy Zempter moved to approve the Title 43 Wireless Communication Tower modification application. RJ Sumney seconded. All present voted aye. Motion passed 4:0.

5. Communications

Steve Patterson discussed scheduling a Community Development Implementation Strategy (CDIS) meeting at the April 4, 2019 Planning Commission meeting. The CDIS meeting is an odd-year requirement of the state for CDBG funding. Stakeholders will be invited to attend and the meeting will be open to the public.

6. Report from City Planner and Director of Code Enforcement

Paul Logue

- Comprehensive Plan: Currently there is an online survey being distributed. They are collecting information on diversity, inclusion & accessibility issues. As of this morning 115 surveys have been completed. Has been working with the Government Channel to push the surveys out even more. There are also online videos that the Government Channel has produced with him about the city corridors. His interns are working on this section of the plan to identify key issues.
 - RJ Sumney asked what is being considered a corridor. Madison Avenue is a heavy traffic connector from Glouster and The Plains - people us Terrace, Joneswood & Madison to connect to E. State Street. Would that be considered a corridor in the future? The route needs improvement in the street, drainage, walkways.
 - Paul Logue noted that the corridors included in the Comprehensive Plan are the economic development areas of the city: Richland, Union, E. State, Stimson and Columbus Road. Other streets are included in the plan, and when they engaged with the community comments were received about Madison. City Council has a Complete Streets policy that they are reviewing, which addresses how to slow down traffic and make streets more pedestrian and bike friendly. Madison, Columbia and Mulligan are all unique because of topography. There are things can be done to make it better – narrow the street and add sidewalks.
 - Nancy Bain mentioned that Madison is about the only viable street to go down when there is bad weather (Cable Lane is not safe). Ground water seepage is an issue.
 - Paul Logue said the plan will make recommendations.

Rick Sirois

- Thanked the Mayor for his support of the Code Enforcement Office to purchase electric vehicles to replace their aging fleet. Code is now equipped with three Nissan Leafs – the 1st electric vehicle fleet in the city.

7. **Opportunity for Citizens to Speak**

None

8. **Announcements & Other Business**

- The next meeting will be March 7, 2019.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

RJ Sumney, Planning Commission

Patricia Witmer, City of Athens