

**MINUTES
CITY OF GOOSE CREEK
PLANNING COMMISSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019, 6:30 P.M.
GOOSE CREEK MUNICIPAL CENTER
519 N. GOOSE CREEK BLVD.**

I. Call to Order – Chairman Josh Johnson

Action: Chairman Josh Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Present: Gary Berenyi, Paul Connerty, Judie Edwards, Joshua Johnson, Jeffrey Smith, John Starzyk
Absent: None
Staff Present: Daniel Moore, Brenda Moneer

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion: Made a motion to accept the Agenda with the revision of striking the review of the December minutes., **Moved by** Judie Edwards;
Seconded by Paul Connerty
Discussion: There was none.
Vote: All voted in favor. The motion carried. (6-0)

III. Review of Minutes from January 7, 2019

Motion: Made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted., **Moved by** Jeffrey Smith; **Seconded by** Paul Connerty
Discussion: There was none.
Vote: All voted in favor. The motion carried. (6-0)

IV. Discussion – Zoning Ordinance Section 151.080 Use of Land or Buildings, specifically tree ordinance language.

Mr. Johnson stated this was a continuing discussion. He outlined proposed revisions to the Commission along with a summary sheet to compare the major items for proposed language to the existing ordinance. Mr. Johnson noted that Staff was applying the current ordinance as it exists to better identify the gaps needed for modifications to the language, and work with the new Planning Director in moving forward to City Council. He invited the members to provide feedback or comments. Ms. Edwards inquired if the intent is to remove protection from all conifer trees, except for 24” or more. Mr. Johnson stated that it is the intention to remove protection from pine and sweet gum trees. He added that this was typical practice with most municipalities within the area. There was discussion regarding the registered architect, and or engineer to the tree survey, taking the measurement of the 2 largest trunks of a single tree when calculating the DBH of grand trees. Mr. Berenyi inquired about the discussion of the tree fund. Chairman Johnson stated that he preferred to keep the tree ordinance language separate from the language outlining the regulations of tree mitigation to the tree fund. Mr. Moore stated that

the tree trust fund has been established and is reported within the budget. Mr. Berenyi inquired at whose discretion would the plans for how the tree fund is utilized fall under. Mr. Moore stated Council would vote to determine how funds are utilized for trees, and just trees with the tree trust fund.

Chairman Johnson inquired to Mr. Moore how the current ordinance language is currently being applied. Mr. Moore stated Staff was recently able to apply the current language to mitigate trees with a project for the tree trust fund. He added he felt it was effective for this size project, and the proposed language modifications would be a beneficial addition to the tree ordinance. Mr. Berenyi inquired if the language would address “grading” of trees. There was a brief discussion regarding not mitigating diseased trees, a grading system, and the responsibility of working with the zoning administrator in determining those trees considered for removal. Mr. Moore stated concern for adding language requiring an arborist. Ms. Edwards inquired about the term “well formed”, and what would define and specify it. Mr. Moore stated it may be an item to consider on a case by case basis. There was discussion regarding damage to trees during construction, and what measures would be taken; i.e. fines, fee or contingencies placed in order to grant a C.O. There was also a detailed discussion pertaining to the required materials to be installed to protect trees, the potential fines associated with damages, root zone protection and the role of the Architectural Review Board. Chairman Johnson and Mr. Moore discussed the next steps to hold a public hearing for the proposed modifications for the tree ordinance, and recommendation to City Council. The Commission agreed to review the ordinance with suggested modifications in its entirety at the next Planning Commission meeting.

- Motion:** Made a motion to continue the discussion of the tree ordinance language at the next Planning Commission meeting., **Moved by** Jeffrey Smith; **Seconded by** John Starzyk.
- Discussion:** There was none.
- Vote:** All voted in favor. The motion carried. (6-0)

V. Election of Vice Chair

Chairman Johnson opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chair.

Mr. Smith volunteered to take the position of Vice Chair should no other members wish to serve in that capacity. Mr. Connerty made a motion to nominate Mr. Smith as Vice Chair. Mr. Smith accepted the nomination. Chairman Johnson inquired if there were any additional nominations. Hearing none he closed the nominations and requested a vote. All voted in favor of Mr. Smith as Vice Chairman of the City of Goose Creek Planning Commission for the 2019 Calendar year. (6-0) The nomination carried.

VI. Comments from the Commission

Chairman Johnson opened comments to the Commission. Mr. Smith inquired about the status of the Commission vacancy. Mr. Moore stated Council is currently reviewing 2 applications, and applications are still being accepted.

VII. Comments from Staff

Mr. Moore updated the Commission with the status of the applicants for the position of Planning Director.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Connerty made a motion to adjourn, and Ms. Edwards seconded. All voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:20pm.

Mr. Josh Johnson, Chairman

Date: _____