

**BROOKS TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**February 19, 2024 @ 7:00 PM**  
**APPROVED**

**Members Present:** Mark Guzniczak, Pat Baker, Phil Knape, Mark Pitzer, Ryan Schultz, Karl Frederiksen

**Members Absent:** Chris Wren,

**Staff Present:** Jerry Tuin

Chairman Guzniczak, called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. This meeting was properly posted and a quorum of the Brooks Township Planning Commission was present.

**Approval of Agenda: Moved** by Guzniczak, **seconded** by Schultz to approve the agenda with the amendment to adjust Public Comment time allowance from two (2) minutes to three (3) minutes per person. **Unanimously Approved**

**Approval of Minutes: Moved** by Pitzer, **seconded** by Knape to approve the minutes of the regular PC Meeting of January 8, 2024. **Unanimously Approved**

**Public Hearing:** Chairman Guzniczak provided an overview of the public hearing process along with the Public Participation Guidelines noting the three minute change for public testimony. He asked that the speaker state their name and address (including city and state) and complete the Public Hearing Testimony Register located on the podium. He added that comments need to be addressed to the Planning Commission and that no responses would be provided by Planning Commission members to testimony.

The Hearing was opened for the following by Chairman Guzniczak at 7:04 PM for the amendments outlined as follows:

- a. Amendments to the Brooks Township Zoning Ordinance including:
  - i. New and additional Section 1.05 regarding ordinance interpretation
  - ii. New and additional Section 3.28 prohibiting cemeteries.
  - iii. Replacement language for existing Section 2.10 regarding institutional or public uses.

Chairman Guzniczak confirmed that all required meeting notices were issued and placed in the local paper. He also provided a synopsis of the ordinance changes and the purpose for the changes. The Township Attorney, Cliff Bloom, summarized the changes further and provided supporting documents to the public, including Michigan Supreme Court ruling SC:165878, Brooks Township Ordinance 2023-100, and Brooks Township Ordinance section 2.10, all of which are part of the public record. He also clarified that several items of correspondence were received by the public. These will not be reviewed in the interest of time but will become part of the public hearing record.

Planning Commission Members were given the opportunity to question the township attorney.

- Mark Pitzer questioned whether the changes would prevent churches from establishing new cemeteries in the future. All new cemeteries are banned based on clarified and revised ordinance changes per Attorney Bloom.

**Public Comment:**

The following individuals provided testimony either opposing or supporting the proposed changes

- Katrin Marquez, Miami, FL
- Peter Quackenbush, Grand Rapids, MI
- Anika Quackenbush, Grand Rapids, MI
- Gary Adams -Newaygo, MI
- Rod Geers, Newaygo, MI
- Mitch George, Newaygo, MI
- Tammy Tindall – Newaygo, MI
- Charles Vanneth, Newaygo, MI
- Rebecca Clement- Newaygo, MI
- Sally Wagner – Newaygo, MI
- Marcia Reeves – Newaygo, MI
- Jason Wightman – Newaygo, MI
- Doug Rainey – Newaygo, MI
- David Fouless – Fremont, MI
- Sandra Kush – Newaygo, MI
- Jon Bumstead, Newaygo, MI
- Jennifer Rainey, Newaygo, MI

The Public Hearing was closed by Chairman Guzniczak at 7:48.

**Correspondence:** Public Hearing testimony was submitted and will become part of the record

**Reserved Time** – None

**Unfinished Business** - None

**New Business:**

- a) Amendments to the Brooks Township Zoning Ordinance including:
  - i. New and additional Section 1.05 regarding ordinance interpretation
  - ii. New and additional Section 3.28 Prohibiting cemeteries
  - iii. Replacement language for existing Section 2.10 regarding institutional or public uses.

**Moved** by Ryan Schultz, **seconded** by Karl Frederiksen to recommend to the Brooks Township Board to approve new and additional Section 1.05 regarding ordinance interpretation, new and additional section 3.28 prohibiting cemeteries, and replacement language for existing Section 2.10 regarding institutional or public uses, as presented.

**Approved by Roll Call Vote – Yea’s – Guzniczak, Knape, Baker, Frederiksen, Schultz  
Nays - Pitzer**

**Staff Report:**

- Zoning Report was submitted for the period through the end of January 2024. No comments were noted.

**Public Comment:** None

**Planning Commission Member Comments –**

Ryan Schultz noted he was happy with the decision to approve the ordinances.

Mark Guzniczak noted that Stand Alone, Police Power Ordinances do not require a public hearing. He also thanked everyone present for their differing opinions.

**Adjournment: Moved** by Baker, **seconded** by Knape, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.  
**Unanimously Approved**

Respectfully Submitted,

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Pat Baker  
Planning Commission Secretary

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Dianna Schaafsma  
Recording Secretary