

INDIANOLA PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
REGULAR SESSION
JULY 10, 2012
6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Duane Dixon and on roll call the following members were present:

Tiffany Coleman
Mike Coppess
Duane Dixon
Mary Donaghy
Doug Opie
Bob Ormsby
Rich Piper
Karla Roush
Dan Wood

Also present: Approximately 45 residents, John Hoyman, Mindi Robinson and Chuck Burgin.

Chairperson Dixon welcomed Doug Opie to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

The minutes of the April 10, 2012 meeting were approved on a motion made by Donaghy and seconded by Roush. Question was called for and on voice vote Chairperson Dixon declared the motion carried unanimously.

Consider request from Simpson College to close and vacate North C Street from West Clinton Avenue to West Girard Avenue.

Mike Coppess stated he would be abstaining from discussion and voting on the issue due to a work relationship conflict.

Chuck reviewed the request from Simpson College.

Mayor Ken Bresnan spoke in favor of the request stating city officials need to look toward the future good of Indianola and see the benefit of closing C Street.

Simpson President, John Byrd, gave a proposal on Simpson's vision for closing C Street. The proposal highlighted other streets that have been closed around Simpson that are now a part of the Simpson campus including Detroit Avenue, Euclid Avenue and Franklin Avenue. The proposal also shared the C Street future concept if the street were to be closed. President Byrd shared Simpson's rationale, addressed the impacts of Irving Elementary, emergency access and parking and discussed the benefits of the city, economy and neighborhood if C Street were to be closed.

Commission members discussed public access issues and time frame estimations.

The following members of the audience spoke in favor of closing the street stating they support the closing of C Street for reasons including safety of students due to traffic issues, beautifying the campus and benefiting the City for local businesses and economic issues.

Marc Strohshein, Executive Director, The Village
Joanna Freeland, Simpson College Student Body President
Kathy Goodwin-Brackney, resident of 801 Scott Felton Road

The following members of the audience spoke against closing the street stating they do not support the closing of C Street for reasons including the safety at Irving Elementary School students, parking issues around the campus, handicap parking issues to campus facilities, traffic flow to the northwest portion of the city and the City's comprehensive plan recommendations.

Kathy Stanfield, resident of 407 West Ashland Avenue
Susan Glick, resident of 511 West Boston Avenue
Michelle Bradford, resident of 311 West Clinton Avenue
Charlotte Guilford, resident of 407 North B Street
Jeff Wren, resident of 108 West Kentucky Avenue
Jim Jauron, resident of 1203 West 2nd Avenue
Sally Johnson, resident of 306 North D Street
Irene Case, resident of 907 North D Street

Commission members discussed the private property ownership of the Delta Delta house and the implications that closing C Street would have on their property. President Byrd stated Simpson is working with the Tri Delta organization to move the house to another property near the campus and buy their current location. If the property title is transferred, Simpson would then own the Tri Delta house.

Commission members also discussed public access, public parking on campus, comprehensive plan recommendations and future traffic and planning issues that need to be considered if C Street were to be closed.

Motion was made by Wood and seconded by Opie to approve the request from Simpson College to close and vacate North C Street from West Clinton Avenue to West Girard Avenue subject to Simpson's acquisition of all adjoining property on both sides of C Street. Question was called for and on roll call vote Ayes: Ormsby. Nays: Coleman, Dixon, Donaghy, Opie, Piper, Roush, Wood. Abstain: Coppess. Chairperson Dixon declared the motion failed.

Consider two-way traffic on North D Street from West Detroit Avenue to West Girard Avenue.

Chuck reviewed the issue stating that if City Council were to close C Street it is good planning to consider two-way traffic on North D Street. The Indianola Code of Ordinances requires the Planning and Zoning Commission review and comment for any street, park, parkway, boulevard, traffic-way, river front or other public improvement affecting the city plan.

The following members of the audience spoke against two-way traffic on North D Street if C Street is closed because turning D Street into a two-way traffic street will not reduce safety concerns for students at Irving Elementary. Residents felt that increased traffic due to C Street closing poses a bigger problem than a two-way D Street can solve.

Sam Martin, resident of 1102 Stephen Court
Jim Jauron, resident of 1203 West 2nd Avenue

Motion was made by Wood and seconded by Ormsby to approve two-way traffic on North D Street from West Detroit Avenue to West Girard Avenue if C Street were to be closed. Question was called for and on roll call vote Ayes: Coleman, Coppess, Dixon, Donaghy, Opie, Ormsby, Piper, Roush, Wood. Nays: none.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Coppess and seconded by Donaghy.

Duane Dixon, Chairperson

Mindi Robinson