

WATERLOO PLAN COMMISSION – MINUTES
May 28, 2019

PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION, AT&T TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER.

1. CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC HEARING – CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT SAC Wireless, on behalf of AT&T, requests a conditional use permit to allow for the construction of a 260 foot telecommunications tower at 333 Portland Road. Mayor Quimby called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Plan Commissioners attending: Leisses, Crosby, Reynolds, Quimby, Butzine, Lannoy and Petts. Absent: none. Others attending: Eric Rhynes; Ron & Tama Griffin; Craig Strobel; Jim Jermain & Daniel Kalina, representing AT&T; Catherine Kleiber; Fire Chief Wes Benisch; Diane Graff; and the Clerk/Treasurer.
2. PUBLIC HEARING COMMENT – Ron Griffin asked if he would get cancer; if the value of his land would decrease; and who would be responsible for ice falling on a vehicle? Jim Jermain said the tower is set back from the road to minimize ice falling; referenced a UW-Whitewater study concluding complete cell coverage is what the younger generation demands and may help property values. Jermain added cancer has been studied for years, the project would follow FCC standards for RF emission. Lindsay Reynolds said her research showed certain people have sensitivities to power lines and similar. Jermain said the tower would aid future 5g network buildout, further answering a Lannoy question, saying the tower would not become outdated. Lannoy questioned the number of pads for generators, saying the park plan showed four and this plan showed one. Jermain said per state statutes, the City could deny future co-locates. Butzine questioned the aesthetics. Catherine Kleiber referenced material she had previously sent to the Plan Commission. She spoke in opposition to the tower; said property values drop 20%; towers cause cancer clusters; real estate agents don't want to touch it. She said AT&T was pushing it 5g services on firefighters. Vern Butzine said the Fire Department had separate frequencies and would not be affected. The assess easement was described as not being for exclusive AT&T use, rather just an access easement.

Jermain described examples of how the FirstNet program had benefitted first responders. Eric Rhynes asked what type of light would be on the tower? Would it flash or not flash at night? Kalina responded saying final information from the Federal Aviation Administration was not in-hand. He said a light of some type would top the tower.

In reply to a Griffin question, service quality near the tower was confirmed. Wes Benisch said he was not against the tower location, but questioned retention of the land if someone would buy an adjacent area, getting it back on the tax roll. He suggested looking at other locations. Benisch said the tower would not interfere with WFD signals.

3. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING. Without objection, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:55 pm.

PLAN COMMISSION REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL. Mayor Quimby called the regularly scheduled meeting to order at 7:56 pm.
2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES: April 23, 2019. MOTION: Moved by Crosby, seconded by Reynolds approving the minutes. VOICE VOTE: Motion carried.
3. CITIZEN INPUT. None.
4. COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT REPORT. DISCUSSION: Hansen gave a brief verbal report saying primary activity was focused on blight and other violations at 120 West Madison Street. MOTION: Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Petts to table acceptance of the report. VOICE VOTE: Motion carried.
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Discussion/Recommendation: Application For Conditional Use Permit, SAC Wireless (on behalf of AT&T) to allow for the construction of a new 260 foot telecommunications tower at 333 Portland Road. MOTION: Moved by Petts, seconded by Reynolds to recommend Council approval of the application as presented. VOICE VOTE: Motion carried with Lannoy recorded as voting no. Motion carried.
6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS & ANNOUNCEMENTS. Items a-d below noted.
 - a. Draft Ordinance Revising The Special Assessment Policy
 - b. Regulating Non-Motorized Scooters In The Downtown
 - c. Zoning & Planning Map Updates
 - d. Forms Updates

7. ADJOURNMENT. MOTION: Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Petts to adjourn. Approximate time: 8:05 p.m.



Mo Hansen
Clerk/Treasurer