

CHAPTER 23

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

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23.01 PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION. There shall be a City Planning and Zoning Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, consisting of nine (9) members. Seven (7) members shall be residents of the City, appointed by the Council. Two (2) members shall be residents of the area outside the City over which the zoning jurisdiction of the City has been extended, appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. Commission members shall be qualified by knowledge or experience to act in matters pertaining to the development of a City plan and shall not hold any elective office in the City government.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 414.6, 414.23 & 392.1)

23.02 TERM OF OFFICE. The term of office of the members of the Commission shall be five (5) years. The terms of not more than one-third of the members will expire in any one year.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 392.1)

23.03 VACANCIES. If any vacancy exists on the Commission caused by resignation, or otherwise, a successor for the residue of the term shall be appointed in the same manner as the original appointee.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 392.1)

23.04 COMPENSATION. All members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, except their actual expenses, which shall be subject to the approval of the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 392.1)

23.05 POWERS AND DUTIES. The Commission shall have and exercise the following powers and duties:

1. Selection of Officers. The Commission shall choose annually at its first regular meeting one of its members to act as Chairperson and another as Vice Chairperson, who shall perform all the duties of the Chairperson during the Chair person's absence or disability.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 392.1)

2. Adopt Rules and Regulations. The Commission shall adopt such rules and regulations governing its organization and procedure as it may deem necessary.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 392.1)

3. Zoning. The Commission shall have and exercise all the powers and duties and privileges in establishing the City zoning regulations and other related matters and may from time to time recommend to the Council amendments, supplements, changes or modifications, all as provided by Chapter 414 of the Code of Iowa.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 414.6)

4. Review and Comment on Plats. All plans, plats, or re-plats of subdivision or re-subdivisions of land embraced in the City or adjacent thereto, laid out in lots or plats with the streets, alleys, or other portions of the same intended to be dedicated to the public in the City, shall first be submitted to the Commission and its recommendations obtained before approval by the Council.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 392.1)

5. Fiscal Responsibilities. The Commission shall have full, complete and exclusive authority to expend for and on behalf of the City all sums of money appropriated to it, and to use and expend all gifts, donations or payments whatsoever which are received by the City for City planning and zoning purposes.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 392.1)

6. Limitation on Entering Contracts. The Commission shall have no power to contract debts beyond the amount of its original or amended appropriation as approved by the Council for the present year.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 392.1)

7. Annual Report. The Commission shall each year make a report to the Mayor and Council of its proceedings, with a full statement of its receipts, disbursements and the progress of its work during the preceding fiscal year.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 392.1)

23.06 BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT: ESTABLISHMENT AND PROCEDURE.

1. Board Created. A Board of Adjustment is hereby established which shall consist of five (5) members. Members shall be appointed for a term of five (5) years. The five member Board shall not carry out its business without having at least three (3) members present. Members shall be removable for cause by the City Council upon written charges and after public hearing. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of any member whose term becomes vacant by the City Council. All members of the Board shall be appointed by the City Council and shall be residents of the City.

2. Proceedings of the Board of Adjustment. The Board of Adjustment shall adopt rules necessary to the conduct of its affairs and in keeping with the provisions of this chapter. Meetings shall be held at the call of the Chairperson and at such other time as the Board may determine. The Chairperson or, in the Chairperson's absence, the Acting Chairperson may administer oaths and compel the attendance of witnesses. All meetings shall be open to the public.

The Board of Adjustment shall, through its Secretary, keep minutes of its proceedings, showing the vote of each member upon each question or if absent or failing to vote indicating such fact, and shall keep records of its examinations and other official actions, all of which shall be immediately filed in the office of the Board and shall be a public record.