

Bennet Planning Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 1, 2023
(Rescheduled from October 18, 2023)

The Bennet Planning Commission held a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall, 685 Monroe Street in the City. The session was open to the public and proceeded by advance publicized notice duly given in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 84, Article 14, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska by posting at the City Clerk Office, the Post Office, and First Nebraska Bank.

Vice - Chairperson Greg Pohl called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and announced the Open Meetings Act was posted. Michele Lincoln, City Clerk/Zoning Administrator conducted roll call and recorded the minutes. Roll call: Kevin Hiatt, Marilyn Maney, Boyd Batterman and Greg Pohl present. Josh Buck & Alternate Matthew Tyler absent.

Maney moved and Hiatt seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the September 20, 2023, Regular Meeting. Roll call vote: Maney, Hiatt, Batterman, Pohl voted YES. Motion carried.

Pohl announced that public comment would be received on agenda items 7, 8, and 9 with a five-minute time limit.

Keith Marvin and Mason Herrman with Marvin Planning Consultants (MPC) were in attendance to review Chapter 1 Introduction, Chapter 3 Population, Chapter 4 Housing, Chapter 6 Public Facilities, Chapter 7 Public Safety and Chapter 8 Energy of the draft Bennet Comprehensive Development Plan. Herman stated that they were looking for accuracy in the background information before moving on to the goals and policies which will be after receiving the UNL student results with the Downtown Revitalization Plan. UNL student Kyle McLaughlin is working on the transportation part of it and Chapter 2 will include the survey results. Marvin pointed out that Chapters 3 through 5 show that Bennet is much more dynamic than a lot of communities with a good dependency ratio, the number of people moving in, the number of 3-4 people households and the number of 75 and older residents still living in owner occupied homes. Marvin iterated that it is important to do an annual review of the Comprehensive Plan to look at the issues in the community and determine if the goals, projected forecasts, or zoning regulations need amended and to make those changes accordingly.

The UNL students working on the Downtown Revitalization Plan sent a slide show of the public responses gathered from the Open House/Town Hall Meeting held at the Legion Hall on October 10th that the Commission reviewed. Marvin and Herman were both impressed with the turnout and said per capita it is the best community engagement with excitement that they have seen.

Batterman moved and Hiatt seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. Roll call vote: Pohl, Maney, Hiatt, Batterman voted YES. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2023, at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

Michele Lincoln, CMC
City Clerk/Zoning Administrator