

Walker County Planning Commission
Minutes

April 20, 2023
Walker County Civic Center
6:00 PM

ATTENDEES:

Planning Commission Members

Cindy Askew
Jon Hentz
Michael Hicks
Zack Chapman
Stan Porter
John Morehouse
Michael Haney

Walker County Planning Staff

Jon Pursley, Planning Director
Kristy Parker, Planning Commission Secretary

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Haney called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL

III. READING & APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 16, 2022 MEETING MINUTES:

Chairman Haney asked if there was a motion to approve or deny the minutes. Stan Porter made a motion to approve. John Morehouse seconded the motion to approve. The vote was six in favor of approving the minutes and Zack Chapman abstained due to missing that meeting. Motion to approve minutes passed.

IV. MOTION TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Haney asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Michael Hicks made a motion to open the public hearing. John Morehouse seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Motion to open the public hearing carried.

V. PUBLIC HEARING:

Variance:

1. Jose & Damaris Martinez: Chairman Haney asked if there was anyone present for the Martinezes. Jose Martinez came forward and stated that he would like to put another home on his property for his mother who lives in Florida. He said that he already has his mother-in-law living with them and would just like to be able to have his mother closer so he could help take care of her. He stated that he has talked to some of his neighbors and they said they did not have a problem with it and provided a sheet with some signatures on it. Jon Pursely looking at an ariel map asked Mr. Martinez if in 2011 were there two mobile homes on the property and Mr. Martinez said yes and those were owned by the previous owner but there are two septic tanks there and if approved he was hoping to use one of those. Jon then asked how long the mobile homes have been gone and Mr. Martinez said he has been there for two years and they were gone then so he did not know when they were moved. Zack Chapman asked which property was for sale by him and he said he was not sure. Chairman Haney asked if his mother was in bad health and he said yes that her cancer was in remission and she has a heart problem. He stated that she has to be out of the place she is in now by June 3rd. He said that he had put down a payment on a mobile home but did not realize he needed a variance so he let that home go because he could not move it at the time and go against the process. Chairman Haney asked if he had any documentaion stating that this could be a medical hardship. Mr. Martinez stated not at the time but he could get them. Chairman Haney then told the board that with these documents that it would fall under a medical hardship type variance. John Morehouse asked Mr. Martinez if he had purchased the home and he said no that he had put down money on one but let it go because he didn't realize he needed a variance at the time. John Morehouse then asked if he could not build onto his existing home and Mr. Martinez stated that they already have is mother-in-law who has dementia living with them plus he has his own issues such as PTSD and that would be a lot in one house. Chairman Haney then explained that he did have a couple of options such as building on to the existing house or having a medical hardship. Stan Porter asked how soon he wanted to get his mother here and he said she has to move by June 3rd. Cindy Askew asked if anyone lived in the mobile home beside him and he said he was not sure. Cindy Askew stated that it was just a couple of months ago that the board denied the same request just up the road and that it was not a hardship but still that was denied. Stan Porter asked if he went with the hardship that would still have to be recommended to the Board of Commissioners and Chairman Haney said yes.

VI. MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Haney asked if there was a motion to close the public hearing. Stan Porter made a motion to close the public hearing. Michael Hicks seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion to close the public hearing carried.

VII: MOTION TO OPEN NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Haney asked if there was a motion to go into new business. John Morehouse made a motion to open the new business. Cindy Askew seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion to open new business carried.

III: NEW BUSINESS:

Variance:

1. Jose & Damaris Martinez: Chairman Haney asked if there was a motion to approve or deny the variance request. Stan Porter made a motion to approve contingent upon Mr. Martinez providing documentain for a medial hardship. Michael Hicks seconded he motion. Michael Hicks, Michael Haney and Stan Porter voted in favor to approve with medial hardship. Zack Chapman, John Morehouse, Jon Hentz and Cindy Askew voted to deny the request. Chairman Haney then said that the motion to approve failed with a three to four vote. With a lack of votes to approve was there a motion to deny. Jon Hentz made a motion to deny the request and John Morehouse seconded the motion to deny. Members in favor to deny was Zack Chapman, Jon Hentz, John Morehouse and Cindy Askew. Members that voted against the denial was Michal Hicks, Michael Haney and Stan Porter. Vote was four to three in favor to deny the request. Motion to deny carried.

IX: ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman Haney adjoined the meeting.

05-18-23

Date Submitted:



Planning Commission Chairman

5-18-2023

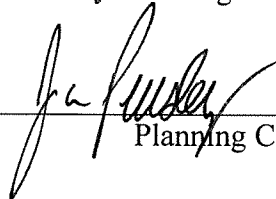
Date Submitted:



Planning Commission Secretary

5-18-2023

Date Submitted:



Planning Commission Director