



Village of Savoy

Savoy Municipal Center

611 North Dunlap Avenue, Savoy, IL 61874

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND
PLANNING COMMISSION**

DATE: October 24, 2016

PLACE: Savoy Municipal Center
611 North Dunlap Avenue
Savoy, IL 61874

**PLANNING
COMMISSIONERS
PRESENT:**

Chairman Bob Bash
Michelle Henderson
Larry Kienzler
Bill McNamara
Jackie Martin
Bill Vavrik
Joshua Young

**PLANNING
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

None

**TRUSTEES, OFFICERS
AND STAFF PRESENT:**

Dick Helton, Village Manager
Dan Davies, Zoning Administrator
Trustee Jan Carter Niccum, BOT Liaison to Plan Comm.
Dennis Donaldson, Director of Planning & Economic Development
Trustee Dee Shonkwiler
C. David Well, Village Treasurer
Billie Jean Krueger, Village Clerk

GUESTS:

Mindy Basi, County Star
Andrew Larson, 1011 Declaration, Savoy
Stefanie Pratt, 1019 Declaration, Savoy
Mike Hutjens, 1115 Declaration, Savoy

**CONVENED:
ADJOURNED:**

7:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

1. PUBLIC HEARING– REQUEST TO ADOPT A NEW SECTION 6.04.095 OF THE SAVOY MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED “HENS”, TO PERMIT SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE OWNERS TO KEEP UP TO SIX (6) HENS ON THEIR PROPERTY UNDER LIMITED CONDITION

Chairman Bash opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m. and stated that the notice of this public hearing was duly published in the News-Gazette on October 9, 2016, was available if anyone wanted to see it and asked for public comment.

The Village Clerk stated she had not received any written comments on this public hearing request.

Chairman Bash asked for public comment on this request. No public comment was received.

Plan Commissioner Kienzler moved to close this public hearing on “hens”, seconded by Plan Commissioner Henderson; By Plan Commissioner vote: Henderson, yes; Kienzler, yes; Martin, yes; McNamara, yes; Vavrik, yes; Young, yes; and Chairman Bash, yes; Motion carried.

Chairman Bash closed this public hearing at 7:02 p.m.

2. PUBLIC HEARING – REQUEST TO AMEND CHAPTER 15.30 FENCES OF THE SAVOY MUNICIPAL CODE TO PERMIT THE VILLAGE OF SAVOY TO ALLOW HOMEOWNERS CONTIGUOUS TO VILLAGE OR PUBLIC EASEMENTS TO BUILD THEIR REAR YARD FENCES ON A PUBLIC EASEMENT IF GRANTED A LICENSE FROM THE VILLAGE OF SAVOY. THIS PROPOSED AMENDMENT WOULD APPLY TO ALL LOTS CONTIGUOUS TO THE PUBLIC TRAIL/EASEMENTS AROUND LAKE LOTS 301 LAKE, 583 AND 583 OF LIBERTY ON THE LAKE SUBDIVISION, INCLUDING EXISTING FENCES AND FUTURE FENCES TO ANY SIMILARLY SITUATED PROPERTIES.

Chairman Bash opened the public hearing on this request at 7:02 p.m.

Chairman Bash asked for public comments on this request.

Public Comment was as follows:

Andrew Larson, 1011 Declaration, Savoy – Stated he had a fence installed in 2013 when he moved into his home at 1011 Declaration right up against the sidewalk and he did not realize the fence encroached beyond his rear lot line, and it had been approved by the developer, Bill Peifer, and he had a fence permit. Larson also stated he had recently met with Savoy’s Village Manager, Dick Helton, and he believed this meeting was very productive and he understands that the Village will pay to move his fence 5 feet back and he has no problem with the Village moving it back and he will pay for any landscaping changes, but he would just like to move forward on this issue where 8 properties at Liberty on the Lake Subdivision that have fences that encroach beyond the rear lot line. He also stated that his neighbors at 1013 Declaration (Johnsons) are also in favor of the proposal submitted by the Village of Savoy.

Dick Helton stated there never was a final inspection on the fence of this property, only a depth of the hole inspection.

Stephanie Pratt, 1019 Declaration – Stated the owners in Liberty on the Lake are in the process of forming a homeowners’ association and she and all of the owners affected by the proposed Amendment on Fences are in favor of the resolution of moving the affected fences back 5 feet and agree with the Village of Savoy attorney’s recommendations. Also, everyone just wants everything to be maintained to look nice and be able to enjoy their property.

Mike Hutjens, 1115 Declaration – Stated he did not have a fence, but believed everything is maintained and looks nice on everybody’s property in Liberty on the Lake Subdivision and he is enjoying his property.

End of public comment.

Plan Commissioner Kienzler moved to continue this public hearing until the next Planning Commission meeting on November 28, 2016, seconded by Plan Commissioner Vavrik; By Plan Commissioner vote: Henderson, yes; Kienzler, yes; Martin, yes; McNamara, yes; Vavrik, yes; Young, yes; and Chairman Bash, yes; Motion carried.

3. CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM DECLARED

Chairman Bash called the meeting of the Plan Commission to order at 7:20 p.m. Roll was called with all Plan Commissioners being present. Chairman Bash then declared a quorum present.

4. BUSINESS

A. APPROVAL OF PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES OF 9-26-16

Plan Commissioner Vavrik moved to approve the Planning Commission Minutes of 9-26-16, as presented, seconded by Plan Commissioner Henderson. By Plan Commissioner vote: Henderson, yes; Kienzler, yes; Martin, yes; McNamara, yes; Vavrik, yes; Young, yes; and Chairman Bash, yes; Motion carried.

B. RESOLUTION OF PLANNING COMMISSION ON REQUEST TO ADOPT A NEW SECTION 6.04.095 OF THE SAVOY MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED “HENS”

REVIEW OF PROPOSED BOARD OF TRUSTEES ORDINANCE NO. 2016-10 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAINTENANCE OF FEMALE CHICKENS, OR HENS, IN THE VILLAGE OF SAVOY, AS CHAPTER 6.04.095 OF THE SAVOY MUNICIPAL CODE

Plan Commissioner Kienzler asked if there was a current Savoy ordinance allowing chickens “hens” in the Village of Savoy. Dan Davies stated no.

Dick Helton stated that originally this proposed “Hens Ordinance” was presented to the Trustees by only two Trustees wanting to raise chickens and really only will affect “Old Town” in Savoy, since all other subdivisions in Savoy have HOA (Homeowners Associations) that prohibit raising chickens in the Village of Savoy and Savoy Staff is concerned about who, how and when would enforce such an ordinance, and he also concerned about preying animals.

Plan Commissioner Bill McNamara stated his concern that this would only affect “Old Town” in Savoy and not the entire Village and stated the following:

“I like fried chicken – especially the white meats.”

I will vote “No” on this proposal for a variety of reasons.

I spent a career working with farm and urban populations while in the Cooperative Extension Service (U of I).

I worked with farmers with tens of thousands of laying hens in confined operations.

I worked with rural homeowners who raised a few chickens in the backyard for meat and eggs.

I am against the raising of chickens in our Village for the following reasons:

--Few people truly understand the nutrition, feeding, housing, health care, life-cycle, manure handling and eventual disposition aspects of poultry management.

--Chickens need to be fed a diet of non-urban landscape concentrates on a daily basis to thrive and produce. They need proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals and vitamins. We don't grow corn and necessary protein supplements in our landscapes.

--Chickens have specific health needs that require professional attention. They are susceptible to many diseases and parasites, many of which are transmissible to humans. These diseases and parasites must be addressed by professionals who can provide the necessary inoculations. These diseases and parasites can be spread by the many birds, waterfowl, domestic mammals (such as dogs and cats) raccoons, and other rodents. They can be spread by mosquitoes, and can be harbored in puddles, pools of muddy water and crates and boxes holding the poultry.

--Chickens require a sanitary housing and free-range environment in order to remain healthy and productive. Where will the manure, feathers, bedding and spoiled feed be stores and what disposal of waste be reasonable? Sanitary is a daily task for even a few chickens when they are impacting your neighbors.

--Chickens normally produce from the time they are about 20 weeks old until they are 2 to 3 years of age. Then their future needs to be addressed.

--Economic food source? No.

I don't believe the urban environment is suitable for raising chickens and maintaining relationships with neighbors of varying ages and outdoor living habits in the Village of Savoy.

Trustee Jan Niccum stated that he has a serious concern about disposal of waste from chickens.

Plan Commissioners Henderson wondered why there was no one at the Plan Commission to promote raising chickens in Savoy. Henderson also stated she agrees with what Plan Commissioner McNamara just stated.

Plan Commissioner Josh Young asked how the Village would enforce the Ordinance on “Hens”.

Village Manager Dick Helton stated that Savoy does not have the personnel to enforce this proposed Ordinance on “Hens”.

Plan Commissioner McNamara moved to recommend to the Board of Trustees that the draft Savoy “Hens Ordinance”, as presented, not be approved and adopted by the Village of Savoy Board of Trustees, seconded by Plan Commissioner Vavrik; By Plan Commissioner vote: Henderson, yes; Kienzler, yes; Martin, yes; McNamara, yes; Vavrik, yes; Young, no; and Chairman Bash, yes; Motion carried. (See Planning Commissioner Resolution Regarding “Hens” attached and made a part of these Minutes.)

C. AMENDMENT TO CHAPTER 15.30 FENCES OF SAVOY MUNICIPAL CODE – DISCUSSION ONLY

Chairman Bash stated it was his personal belief that all fences in the Village of Savoy that are out of compliance should be placed back on the owner’s lot line by the owner and I am unhappy about this resolution presented.

Village Manager Dick Helton stated he did not disagree with Chairman Bash, but this whole fence situation at Liberty on the Lake Subdivision started three years ago and the Village Staff and Village Attorney have finally come up with a solution that will not financially hurt anybody and we need to put a stop to it and make it right in the future. Helton stated the Village has already spent legal fees of \$10,000 and will spend \$2,000 to get it done and move the fences five feet back with the property owners taking care of their own landscaping.

Dan Davies stated that permits were given, but no inspections were given, only the depth of the hole inspections, but since then we now require any fence permit to show the lot pins on their property before giving approval for the fence company to install the fence.

Trustee Jan Niccum stated he believed this proposed amendment on fences was setting a precedent in this Subdivision by allowing eight property owners to continue to encroach beyond their real lot lines, and do the other 46 lot owners get to increase their lots?

Chairman Bash stated that Village Staff should make sure all of the property owners of the affected lots in Liberty on the Lake be notified that they will have to obtain a license as proposed in the amendment.

Chairman Bash stated that discussion and action on this Amendment on Fences will be continued to the November 28, 2016 Planning Commission.

5. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Planning Commission, on motion to adjourn by Plan Commissioner Vavrik, seconded by Plan Commissioner Kienzler, Chairman Bash adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Billie Jean Krueger

Billie Jean Krueger, Village Clerk

This meeting was recorded.

Approved 11-28-16

**PLANNING COMMISSION
VILLAGE OF SAVOY
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

October 24, 2016

RESOLUTION REGARDING "HENS"

WHEREAS, the Village of Savoy is considering passage of an ordinance allowing citizens to keep female hens in the Village under certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees asked the Village staff to prepare a such an ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the staff prepared such an ordinance which was reviewed by the Plan Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Plan Commission conducted a public hearing on said Ordinance October 24, 2016.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF SAVOY, ILLINOIS, THAT IT RECOMMENDS TO THE SAVOY PRESIDENT AND VILLAGE TRUSTEES THAT:

1. The draft Savoy "Hens Ordinance" ~~[be]~~ [not be] approved and adopted by the Village of Savoy Trustees.

2. The draft Hens Ordinance should be revised as follows:

- (1) _____

- (2) _____

- (3) _____

3. The Plan Commission also recommends to the Village Trustees that these conditions and requirements apply to said ordinance:

- (1) _____

- (2) _____

- (3) _____

- (4) _____

- (5) _____

October 24, 2016.

APPROVED:

Robert Bash
Robert Bash, Chair
Savoy Plan Commission