

# Zoning Board Meeting Newcomb Community Center

May 15, 2023 at 7pm

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## MINUTES

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1. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Jesse James Garetson called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Zoning Board members Doug Bower, Ed Herman, and Gayla Gibb were present. Zoning Board member Rodger Lull was present via telephone. Minutes taken by Clerk Sara Gibb.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Jake Schellenberg

Chairperson Jesse James Garetson apologized to the people who have submitted verbal complaints. He has not been documenting and filing the complaints as required. He is very concerned for the Town of Pitkin. It appears that the list of verbal complaints is endless. He is concerned about opening Pandora's box. Two people have complained about dogs running loose without leashes and not under verbal control. Three people have complained about expired registrations on vehicles parked on Town property. One complaint about home demolition, one complaint about a "rat harbor spilling onto the street," owners parking trailers on public streets, several campers on one parcel of land, fixed assets permanently on street right-of-ways, etc.

Mr. Garetson has some suggestions. He quoted several verses from the Bible. If people think they know Pitkin's ordinances well enough to use them against their neighbors, they should apply them to themselves. He stated that if there is a health issue, let's fix it.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discuss and vote to approve minutes from the 2-20-2023 Zoning Board Meeting

**Motion to approve the minutes from the 2-20-2023 Zoning Board meeting made by Zoning Board member Ed Herman. Seconded by Zoning Board member Gayla Gibb. Motion carried 5-0.**

- Discuss and vote on a response to a complaint(s) received by the Zoning Board

**Motion to ask the Clerk to write a letter to make the owners of this property aware of their violation and include other appropriate language in the letter made by Gayla Gibb. Seconded by Zoning Board member Ed Herman. Motion failed 2-2. Zoning Board member Doug Bower abstained.**

Gayla Gibb filed a complaint regarding "junk" vehicles parked in a vacant lot on Main Street. Per the Zoning Code, junkyards are not permitted in Town.

Zoning Board member Doug Bower stated that he sees vehicles parked in various places around Town. Zoning Board member Ed Herman asked if there were other violations in Town or if this was cherry-picking. Zoning Board member Gayla Gibb stated that beginning with one violation and then moving on to others is not cherry-picking. The Board needs to decide if it wants to address violations or throw out the Zoning Code. Probably everyone's property has a violation. Is the Board going to be serious about keeping Pitkin looking nice? There are a lot of things to clean up around Pitkin and this is just maybe a place to start. Zoning Board member Doug Bower stated that he isn't opposed to clearing some stuff out. He is willing to address possible violations on his own property. Chairperson Jesse James Garetson stated that his concern about Pitkin is based in scripture – a house divided will fall. That house can be Pitkin. He would like people to cut each other some slack and encourage each other. We have many projects that can be considered unsightly. He would be pleased if we would all try to dot our own I's and cross our own T's.

The Zoning Board requested that Clerk Sara Gibb compose a letter informing the owners of the Zoning violation. Clerk Sara Gibb will compose a letter and send it to the Zoning Board prior to mailing it to the property owner.

Zoning Board member Ed Herman asked why there is an ordinance if it isn't going to be enforced.

Chairperson Jesse James Garetson stated that junkyards are not addressed within the Zoning Code except in the definition section.

Public Comments: Ramon Reed, Tom Gibb, Todd Adams, Ed Pianalto, Pete Olson

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn made by Zoning Board member Ed Herman. Seconded by Zoning Board member Doug Bower. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm**

