CITY OF MONTELLO

PLAN COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Members Present: Gary Doudna, Jim Houdek, Ken Streich, Ron Knutson, Barb Jordan, Thorne Wittstruck.

Others Present: Mike Kohnke, Adam Barlow, Richard and Sheeley Dufour, Tom Bowman, Greg Erickson, Rebekah Higgins

1. Public hearing on re-zone request from AMPI of Portage for 497 S. Lake Street from B-3 General Commercial, to R-3 Multifamily Residential. Greg Erikson, and Rebekah Higgens, from AMPI Human Resource Department, explained that they are looking to provide housing for new employees at this location. They are currently recruiting employees from other states that have higher unemployment rates and relocating them to Wisconsin. Most will be 3rd shift employees, and AMPI would provide them housing for a year so they can get settled in Wisconsin. These are not migrant workers. AMPI would pick most of them up in a 15 passenger van, and then return them home at the end of their shift. There would be no families, and no children. Only single employees or married couples. All would have been drug screened, and background checked before employment was offered to them. An HR employee would be utilizing the office at this location at least once a week. They expect few, if any problems since the occupants at this address would have their housing and employment on the line. They have rented 24 apartments in Wisconsin Dells for a similar program with the biggest problem being someone parking in front of the dumpsters.
2. Public Hearing opened at 6:35 pm. – The Dufours expressed concerns about kids riding bikes, increased traffic, and the potential problems with up to 16 news residents in their diverse neighborhood. Erickson assured them that he lives in the Monello area and doesn’t want to do anything that would be negative for this community. He sees this as up to 16 new residents who would be contributing to the local economy by shopping at area businesses, enjoying our local parks, etc. He assured the Dufours that he would be their contact and would like them to notify him of any issues or problems. A letter received from the Dufours was read and entered in the file. Public hearing closed at 6:50 pm.
3. Committee discussed, Doudna congratulated AMPI for their out of the box thinking on solving their employee recruitment effort. Motion by Streich, second by Jordan, to approve rezone to R-3 Multifamily Residential District. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing on Conditional Use Permit request from Adam Barlow, owner of Integrated Metal Designs LC for a building at W3731 State Highway 23. Owner explained that he creates custom metal range hoods, residential and commercial handrails, as well as repairs and custom metal fabrication. He has outgrown his garage and needs to expand.

Public Hearing opened at 6:58 pm – No one present to speak for or against, and no emails, phone calls, or letters received by any committee members regarding the request. Public Hearing closed at 6:59 pm.

Committee discussed, Doudna asked if work would be done inside or outside, and hours of operation. Barlow stated all work would be done indoors, and nothing earlier than 7 AM nor later than 9 PM. Houdek stated if motion was made for approval, he would like a “review in 1 year” added to motion. Jordan made motion to approve Conditional Use Permit, Streich seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Doudna, second by Knutson. Meeting adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Minutes by Houdek