

**MINUTES**  
**Blue Earth County Planning Commission**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday May 6, 2015**  
**7:30 p.m.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Lyle Femrite. Planning Commission members present were Bill Anderson, Kurt Anderson, Kip Bruender, Lyle Femrite Chuck Grams, and Berry Jacques. County staff members Mike Schulte, Ben Effa and George Leary were also present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Bruender made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2015 Regular Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**3. AGENDA APPROVAL**

Mr. Leary indicated there were two additional items to discuss.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**PC 04-15**

**Deeann Thomas and Robert Grover** - Request for a conditional use permit to construct one total confinement swine finishing barn capable of holding 3,300 finishing pigs or 1,320 animal units. Said request will utilize a below-barn liquid manure storage area. The site is located in the Agriculture District in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 07, Ceresco Township.

Mr. Schulte presented the staff report.

The applicants were present and had no initial comment.

Rodney Gens advised the commission that he and his family live north of the proposed facility. He added that his parents live straight north of the facility. He questioned the location chosen for the project and the impact the odors from the site will have on neighbors. He acknowledged it met all of the setback requirements but wanted the commission to know his concerns.

Brenda Gens echoed Rodney Gens comments. She asked for a copy of the attachments and the attachments were provided to her.

Mr. Femrite thanked the concerned citizens for showing up and expressing their comments. He encouraged all of them to communicate and respect each other's interests.

Deeann Thomas stated they have known the Gens for a long time. She added that her son is interested in adding livestock to his farming operation and the site chosen works the best.

There was no other public comment.

Mr. Femrite stated that livestock operations are an allowable use in the Agricultural District. N There was no further discussion by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Bruender made a motion to forward a recommendation of approval of the request to the County Board.

Mr. Bill Anderson seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**PC 06-15**

**Blue Earth County**, Notice of intention to enact amendments to the Blue Earth County Zoning Ordinance also known as Chapter 24. Proposed amendments includes the adoption of a Solar Energy Ordinance and an update of definitions.

Mr. Leary presented the staff report.

There was little discussion of the proposed ordinance. The commission thanked the staff for the work that had been done to complete the ordinance.

Mr. Kurt Anderson made a motion to forward a recommendation of approval of the request to the County Board.

Mr. Jacques seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Manderfeld, Deputy Assessor for the County, advised the commission that a study had been conducted to determine the impact of hog barns on property values. He indicated there does not appear to be any impact on the property values of property located near feedlots.

**ADJORNMENT**

There was no further business. Mr. Kurt Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Mr. Bill Anderson and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Planning Commission Chair

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Date

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Planning Commission Secretary

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Date