

Memo



To: Howard Village Board
From: Burt R. McIntyre - President
CC: Paul Evert - Village Administrator
Date: July 22, 2013
Re: Public Appearance

At the June 24th meeting of the village board a representative of a local business came to our meeting with the expectation of addressing the board concerning a unanimous decision of the plan commission (within the "consent agenda") not to give that business a conditional use permit. Because of the way the chair invited comments at the PUBLIC APPEARANCE (see below) the individual didn't speak and assumed, I believe, they would be given opportunity at some point to address the board in hopes of having the village board decide otherwise the recommendation of the plan commission.

"Pursuant to Section 2-81(6) of the Howard Code, the Village Board will hear comments of interest from the public which are not located elsewhere on this agenda. Specific factual information or an explanation of current policy may be made in response to an inquiry, but any discussion or decision must be limited to a proposal to place the item on a future agenda."

What I believe should have happened was that the individual should have contacted the appropriate trustee (or any board member) for guidance in getting an opportunity to plead their case in hopes that the board would reject/revise the recommendation of the commission. That trustee (not obligated to do so but as a courtesy) could have then pulled the matter from the consent agenda for separate board consideration. That obviously didn't happen.

In my opinion the individual lost an opportunity as a result of not understanding the process. This was not only unfortunate but I believe unfair and not the way I think we want to function IF we can avoid it. We should allow everyone having legitimate community business every procedural consideration.

You have before you a request to revise "Section 2-81(6)" to allow PUBLIC APPEARANCE comments to include items within the CONSENT AGENDA. This change will provide the board an opportunity to hear information concerning the matter they may not have known prior. Additionally, the board should gain a better understanding of what considerations the PLAN COMMISSION may have based their recommendation on.

I appreciate that even after making this change there is no guarantee that a member of the board would pull an item from the CONSENT AGENDA. However, the change provides opportunity and costs the board and the process nothing.

It is my hope you will support this change.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Burt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

ORDINANCE 2013-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2-81(6) OF THE HOWARD MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO PERMITTED COMMENTS AT PUBLIC APPEARANCE

THE VILLAGE BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF HOWARD, BROWN COUNTY, WISCONSIN, HEREBY ORDAINS THAT SECTION 2-81 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF HOWARD, BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS

SECTION 1. Section 2-81 of the Howard Municipal Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2-81. Order of Business

(6) Public appearances for up to 15 minutes, no more than three minutes per person. **for items not listed on the agenda except for those items listed in the consent agenda**

SECTION 2. All ordinances or parts of ordinances, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and publication.

Approved this 22nd day of July, 2013.

Burt R. McIntyre, Village President

Christopher Haltom, Village Clerk

Published 07/26/2013