

Planning Commission Hearing
July 22, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Chairman, Dwight Freeman, Gene Glover, Grover Hathorn and Rose Vanderpool, Secretary.

Members absent: Leonard Brown, Mike Mitchell and Wesley O'Rourke

Others Present: Alan Wehe

Chairman Freeman called the meeting to order at 1:31pm. Chairman Freeman asks for acceptance of the Agenda as submitted; Grover Hathorn moves to approve the Agenda and the June minutes as submitted; Gene Glover seconds motion, motion carried unanimously.

First item of Business: Chairman Freeman read the application submitted by the Monte Vista CO-OP and Alan Wehe for a conditional use review. The Applicants are requesting approval to replace an existing seventy foot radio tower to a one-hundred eighty foot telecommunication tower. The current tower sits on the SW corner of the CO-OP building (tire shop side). The MVC is zoned commercial. Mr. Wehe explained that the tower is a ground-self-supporting tower. It will be like the one on Lariat Road/Kelloff parcel. This is NOT a cell tower but looks like one. It is a telecommunication tower for interment and landline phone service. We will have to submit our plans to the FAA for review and approval but it is the chicken and egg thing, we have to go to the local jurisdiction first. This will increase internet bandwidth for the MVC as well as service the surrounding area of approximately 10 to 15 miles. (if you can see it you can get it) I will allow colocation. A discussion was held in regards to painting the tower for safety reasons. Rose had contacted Loren Buss and his recommendation was to require painting of the tower for local crop dusting. Rose also spoke with Bill Dunn who flies regularly and his suggestion was the same; for safety reasons even though the type of plane he flies should not be flying that low anyway, but just as a safety precaution, it should be painted. Rose contacted Loren Buss again for another tower request in another location and Mr. Buss referred Rose to a Jessica Freeman who works with the Colorado Agriculture Aviation. Ms. Freeman provided information regarding House Bill 14-1216 and has enacted legislation requiring meteorological evaluation towers over fifty feet tall to be adequately marked. The towers must be painted in equal alternating bands of aviation orange and white, beginning with the orange at the top of the tower. Any tower erected prior to the effective date must be marked within one year this applies to fifty foot or higher. A representative from the Monte Vista CO-OP was present and noted that they are in dire need of upgrading and need this expanded service.

Chairman Freeman entertains a motion; Gene Glover moves to recommend approval pending the requirement of House Bill 14-1216; Grover Hathorn seconds motion; motion carried unanimously.

Second item on the agenda - Final review of the Amendments to the Rio Grande County Development Code. Chairman Freeman tabled the matter due to those that were absent. We will continue review at the next scheduled meeting.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 3:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rose Vanderpool, Secretary

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Secretary