

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Kopitzke called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM
2. **ROLL CALL** – Present: Chair Kris Kopitzke, Kuchen Hale, Doug Parker, Sally Doherty, Roger Bowman, Scott Patten, Christian Dawson & Justin Sykora. James Langan joined the meeting later.
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Council member Wroblewski, City Administrator Ron Moore
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** –
Motion/Second Hale/Parker To approve the agenda for the August 31, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. Roll call: all aye, passed 8-0.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** –
A. August 3, 2020
Motion/Second Parker/Patten To approve minutes of the August 3, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. Roll call: all aye, Passed 8-0.

5. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS** - None

6. **PUBLIC HEARINGS** –

- A. Ordinance Amendment Regarding the Discharge of Firearms

Chair Kopitzke opened the public hearing at 7:07 PM

Administrator Moore provided an overview of the history on the discussions and meetings regarding the ordinance amendment.

Barb Dacy, 13201 40th St. S opposed to this ordinance amendment because it allows too much shooting. Doesn't preserve residential character.

Kris Haslund, 12675 10th St S. There has been much more shooting lately, too much. People with PTSD have a difficult time hearing this. Also has been hearing it at night after dark.

Jen Wroblewski, 481 Neal Ave S. Increases in gun noise for prolonged periods of time, sounds like gun range shooting. Would like enforceable limits.

Kevin Anderson, feels this is the first step toward cutting people's rights. To handle a gun safely, the owner has to practice. Once per month is not enough. Limiting amount of rounds is unenforceable.

David Warmus, 15102 Afton Hills Dr. DNR laws seem to be adequate. How is this ordinance enforceable?

Clay Diggins, Trading Post Tr. In support of taking action on the ordinance. He shoots at a range under consideration to his neighbors. Hundreds of rounds multiple times per week is too much.

Ralph Dunn, 30th St. Argument seems to be over number of rounds. Compromise would be somewhere around 300-400 rounds per month which is less than what it is now. Change gradually.

Below is a summary of the Public Comments

- Opposed to proposed ordinance, because it would allow too much shooting
- Proposed ordinance allows too many rounds and it would be helpful to have advance notice of shooting
- There is increasing recreational shooting, and the City's population is increasing, so it is good to be forward looking in providing limitations on the amount of shooting, and safety precautions for shooting are also needed.
- The proposed ordinance is the first step in cutting gun rights
- Practice is needed for safety, and allowing shooting only once per month does not provide for sufficient practice
- The DNR's regulations ought to be adequate if residents would respect their neighbors.
- Question regarding how the ordinance is enforceable.

- Some limitations are needed. Not every property should become a shooting range.
- The limitation of 100 rounds per month is too low.

Motion/Second Sykora/Parker to close public hearing. Roll call: All aye, Passed 9-0.

Public hearing closed at 7:45 PM.

Planning Commission discussion

The Planning Commission provided a number of comments regarding the ordinance amendment language that are summarized below, and recommended revised ordinance language that is provided below.

- The Council's efforts toward a compromise solution are appreciated, but the Council's language is still too restrictive.
- The community is signaling a readiness to put more bounds on firearms use, but there is significant feedback that 50 rounds per day once every two weeks is too restrictive.
- It may be necessary to start with stricter regulations to stop abuses, then loosen restrictions later.
- Shooting at night could be related to the hunting of coyotes, which is allowed at night.
- Additional research and study, including additional efforts to obtain feedback from residents, is needed.
- An ordinance amendment should be periodically reviewed to determine if it adequately balances the protection of Afton's traditional ability to shoot firearms, while protecting the ability of residents to enjoy the solitude of their natural open spaces.

Motion/Second Hale/Sykora to allow firearms discharge on one day per week and to allow a maximum of 120 rounds over one hour per day.

Sykora offered a friendly amendment regarding no shooting on consecutive days (accepted by Hale).

Kopitzke offered a friendly amendment to allow 120 rounds or 1 hour per day, whichever comes first. (Accepted by Hale and Sykora)

The following is the revised ordinance amendment language recommended by the Planning Commission:

(k) Other than for allowed hunting, the discharge of firearms on a parcel or contiguous parcels under common ownership is limited to a maximum of one day per week, but not on two consecutive days, with a maximum of 120 rounds or one hour per day, whichever comes first.

Motion Vote - Roll call: All aye, Passed 9-0.

7. NEW BUSINESS – None

8. OLD BUSINESS –

A. Update on City Council actions

Council member Wroblewski provided a summary of the August 18 City Council meeting.

9. ADJOURN

Motion/Second Hale/Doherty To adjourn. Roll call: all aye, Passed 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm.

106 Respectfully submitted by:

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109 Julie Yoho, City Clerk

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112 **To be approved on October 5, 2020 as (check one): Presented: X or Amended: _____**

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