MEMORANDUM

To: Laingsburg City Council
From: Preston Community Services (On behalf of the Laingsburg Planning Commission)
Re: Annual Report 2018
Date: January 16, 2019

The City of Laingsburg Planning Commission is made up of seven members. They regularly meet on the third Monday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers at City Hall located at 114 Woodhull St. A typical meeting consists of review of the previous meetings minutes, public hearings, and new or old business, any communications, and reports from staff regarding development or any programs the City is involved in, discussion of training opportunities, and finally a call to the public, and member’s comments.

The Planning Commission met nine times throughout the year and its members included: James Cherry (term expires 11-20), Dean Ridsdale (term expires 11-19), Alan Ducastel (term expires 11-19), Richard Fraidenburg (term expires 11-21), Randy Martin (term expires 11-21), Anthony Appicelli (term expires 11-21), and Micheal Culpepper (ex officio member).

Topics that came to the forefront this year and were discussed by the Planning Commission (PC) included significant changes to State law regarding Recreational Marijuana which allows for legalized cultivation and sale of Marijuana products to the public. The Planning Commission is still weighing the pros and cons of adopting an Ordinance and has decided to wait until additional information is available on the subject. The PC regularly discussed in their report section any ongoing development projects and the City’s progress in the Redevelopment Ready Communities Program. Significant progress was made towards updating the City’s plans, such as the Capital Improvements Plan, Public Participation Plan, Economic Development Strategy, and Marketing Strategy for compliance with RRC certification standards. The PC also made one minor amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to lessen spacing requirements for Day Care Centers within the City. The PC currently has no Zoning Ordinance updates intended for 2019. The following is a brief synopsis of the approved language amendment:

• Amendment to Section 816 – Day Care Centers will be allowed to be located within 1,500 feet of another Day Care Center. Day Care Centers shall be required to provide access to outdoor recreation areas.

One rezoning took place within 2018, located at 7200 Woodbury Rd. (Parcel ID# 022-60-08-001-02) the parcel went from RL-I, Low Density Residential to RM, Medium Density Residential. This request was approved at a public hearing on September 5, 2018.

Three development reviews took place within 2018. The first was a site plan review surrounding the Watkins Funeral Home to construct an a 1,575-sf addition to their current facility located at 203 E. 1st

Peter J. Preston, AICP, PCP, MCAO
Ph. 517.256.0566
pcsmail.pete@gmail.com
5049 S. St. Clair Rd.
St. Johns, Michigan 48879
Fax: 866.643.0045

Michelle E. Preston, MCAO
Ph. 517.256.0545
pcsmail.michelle@gmail.com
North St. This request was approved by City Council at their August 6, 2018 meeting. The second was a special use permit and site plan review for a group day care home located at 312 W. 1st North St. This request was approved by City Council at their August 6, 2018 meeting. The last request was for a special use permit and site plan review for a day care center located at 7200 Woodbury Rd. This request was approved by City Council at their October 1, 2018 meeting.

One variance request took place within 2018, the parcel in question is located at 203 E. 1st North St. and the request was to construct an addition onto an existing non-conforming use/structure. The request was approved without conditions at the July 2, 2018 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting.

Several actions were taken by City Council this year, most notably amending an existing livestock ordinance, banning agricultural animals within the City as well as developing many updated plans, such as the Capital Improvements Plan, Economic Development Strategy, Public Participation Plan, and Marketing Strategy. There were no training sessions attended by any board member over the past year, however there is funding allocated for training for the 2019 budget year. There were also no joint meetings held.