City of Arab Planning Commission
Minutes of Meeting
6:00 pm, Tuesday, June 19, 2018

Members Present: Melissa Cook, Mark Gullion, Patricia Henry, Curtis Snider, Rodney Willingham, Jacqueline Hinds, Chris Hemphill, Thomas Shelton, Dameon Pittenger

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Kim Johnson-Secretary
Liz & Greg DeBoer – 627 Fairview Rd, Baileyton 35019

Chairperson Patricia Henry called the meeting to order; the roll was called. The minutes of May 15, 2018 were reviewed; Rodney Willingham made a motion to approve; Melissa Cook seconded, with everyone else approving.

New Business: *Request to consider amending the Zoning Ordinance to allow swine in Agricultural District.*

The current Zoning Ordinance states: **"In the Agricultural District (AG) any animal enclosure shall be setback at least two hundred (200) feet from any residential structure not on the same property. There shall be no other limit on the keeping of livestock, poultry or other forms of fowl with the exception that no swine shall be allowed within the City Limits of Arab, nor shall any commercial poultry houses be allowed within the City Limits of Arab." (IV-14)**

Greg and Liz DeBoer are purchasing several parcels of land (33.80 acres) at 1541 Arbor Rd, which is zoned AG. Mr. DeBoer plans to breed cattle and swine. Mr. DeBoer currently owns 4 pigs: 3 adult females and 1 adult male. The swine are organic and inspected by the State of Alabama. No processing would take place but there would be @ 25 swine on the premises on a consistent basis. There are no "pig pens" as these are "free-range pigs" kept within a certain fenced acreage. The swine operation constitutes half (1/2) of his yearly income. Mr. DeBoer is requesting the Planning Commission recommend to the City Council to amend the Zoning Ordinance to allow swine in the Agricultural District with restrictions. After much discussion, Mark Gullion stated changing the zoning could open the floodgates for similar requests and is reluctant to even send to the City Council. Rodney Willingham stated the perception of the problems pigs can create are the biggest issue the City Council, and the public, will have regarding this request. Chairperson Pat Henry requested an informal vote to pursue amending swine in the Zoning Ordinance: **(4) Yes:** Rodney Willingham, Thomas Shelton, Curtis Snider, Dameon Pittenger **(4) No:** Mark Gullion, Pat Henry, Chris Hemphill, Melissa Cook **(1) Abstained:** Jacqueline Hinds-due to owing adjoining property. Thomas Shelton made a motion to table Mr. DeBoer's request, Rodney Willingham seconded and all were in favor except for Melissa Cook and Pat Henry.

Other Business: Kim Johnson gave a staff report.

With nothing else on the agenda, Dameon Pittenger made a motion to adjourn; Rodney Willingham seconded, with everyone else approving.

Patricia Henry Date
Chairperson

Kim Johnson Date
Secretary