

IRONWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION

A Public Hearing of the Ironwood Planning Commission was held on Thursday, September 1, 2011, beginning at 5:30 P.M., City Commission Chambers, 2nd Floor, Municipal Memorial Building, Ironwood, Michigan.

1. Call Meeting to Order.

Chairman Wyssling called the meeting to order at 5:30 P.M.

2. Recording of the Roll.

PRESENT: Geib, Johnson, Powers, and Chairman Wyssling.

ABSENT: Bergman and Lytywniuk.

OTHERS PRESENT: Community Development Bussiere, Ottawa Forest Products, Inc. Owner Val Mower, Plant Manager Oscar Buselli, and City Clerk Gullan.

3. Open Public Hearing.

Chairman Wyssling opened the Public Hearing at 5:31 P.M.

5. PUBLIC HEARING: Review and consider action on a Site Plan Review Application for the Ottawa Forest Products, Inc. to rebuild and expand their Manufacturing Facility in the Ironwood Industrial Park at 1243 Wall Street, Ironwood, Michigan, Parcel Number 2752-23-202-160.

Chairman Wyssling reviewed the Planning Commissioner Procedure for the Public Hearing and then opened the floor to staff comments. Community Development Director Merritt Bussiere informed the Planning Commission he had received the request for the Site Plan Review from Ottawa Forest Products, Inc. and upon receipt of this document a notice was posted of no less than 15 days as required. He further stated the application was complete for the type of project that is to rebuild on an existing site with a slight expansion on one side.

Val Mower addressed the Planning Commission stating Ottawa Forest Products was started in 1992 and has been in business for 20 years. He further stated on June 3, 2011 they had a fire. Mr. Mower noted that he and Chuck Baxter are the principal owners of Ottawa Forest Products. Mr. Baxter is retired and owns five (5) other plants in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Mr. Mower noted Ottawa Forest Products employs 45 people and they run two shifts. They ship out 1,100 truckloads a year of finished product and bring in 24,000 cords of wood a year or about 1,200 truckloads of logs. He deals with 100 loggers within a 100-mile radius. Mr. Mower mentioned that their company has had very good success in Ironwood. They feel they are centrally located between Highway 51 and Highway US2, which help with shipping to Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and North Dakota. Further comments were received.

Mr. Mower explained to the Planning Commission that Ottawa Forest Products is looking in the future to add a grade mill with a band saw to cut grade lumber once they get the first operation going.

Community Development Director Bussiere noted that Ottawa Forest Products would like to be up and running to have all 45 employees back working by December.

Commissioner Powers questioned if the entire building is being rebuilt. Plant Manager from Ottawa Forest Products explained the outer office and the loading dock.

Commissioner Geib questioned the wage structure. Mr. Mower noted the basic salary is from \$10 to \$16 per hour with some benefits.

Commissioner Johnson confirmed the addition of the office.

Commissioner Powers questioned the additional entrance off of Easy Street and if it complies with the industrial park covenants. A brief discussion took place regarding the entrance and the docking area.

6. Close Public Hearing

Chairman Wyssling closed the Public Hearing at 5:50 P.M.

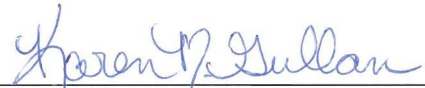
Motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Geib and carried to accept the site plan of Ottawa Forest Products, Inc. to rebuild and expand their Manufacturing Facility in the Ironwood Industrial Park at 1243 Wall Street, Ironwood, Michigan, Parcel Number 2752-23-202-160 as presented.

7. Adjournment.

Chairman Wyssling adjourned the meeting at 5:51 P.M.



JOHN W. WYSSLING, CHAIRMAN



KAREN GULLAN, CITY CLERK