

City of Bessemer Planning Commission

2019 Annual Report

The City of Bessemer's Planning Commission is comprised of five members who meet monthly on the 1st Tuesday at 6:00 in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 411 S Sophie. A typical meeting consists of review of the previous meetings minutes, public hearings, discussion of articles for training, and new or old business, any communications, and reports from staff regarding development or any programs the City is involved, and finally a call to the public, and member's comments.

Planning Commission members currently includes: Dave Osier (chair), Terry Kryshak (council representative), Kevin Nyquist, George Beninghaus, and Matt Hellman.

The commission spent a significant part of the year reviewing and adopting various plans and reviewing and making suggestions for zoning changes.

Each meeting started with a discussion of relevant articles to learn more various topics. Each member received training on the roles and responsibilities of Planning Commission members including the open meetings act.

Meeting dates and summaries

November 6th, 2018

The commission discussed the issues with giving tax incentives to large companies. They also explored storage containers. They withdrew the light ordinance.

January 2nd, 2019

The commission discussed known brownfields in the community, potentially banning storage containers, the proposed capital improvement plan, and banning recreational marijuana.

February 5th, 2019

The commission hosted a public hearing on the Capital Improvement plan, an ordinance to prohibit portable storage containers, and an ordinance to prohibit recreational marijuana establishments. The staff discussed Enabling Better Places report for their training. The Planning commission supported the Capital Improvement Plan and prohibiting storage containers. The Recreational marijuana ordinance wasn't passed up to the city council as a motion to pass it to the council failed.

March 5th, 2019

For the training the commission discussed Enabling Better Places. The Planning Commission discussed allowing shipping containers in the city. The ordinance to prohibit recreational marijuana was passed onto the city council.

April 2nd, 2019

For the training the commission discussed Enabling Better Places. The Planners continued to discuss regulating storage containers. The commission discussed plywood vs clearboarding. No motion was made.

May 7th, 2019

The commission had a public hearing on Ordinance 371 regarding shipping containers and on the Marketing Plan. Both were approved.

September 5th, 2019

The Commission discussed the importance of incremental growth for their training. They also discussed better marketing that we allow tiny houses in the community. They also discussed how the garage requirements in the R-2 district don't line up with the built environment. The commission was updated on Staff's training and discussed some potential changes moving forward.

October 1st, 2019

The commission discussed an article on the environmental impact of people living in tiny houses. The Planning Commission discussed front set-backs in the R-2 and C-2 districts for accessory structures. The commission discussed the year end report. The commission started a discussion on the small wireless communication facilities and instructed staff to work with attorney to draft an ordinance.