

**COLLEGE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING-2 ON ORDINANCE O-13-07**

**GOVERNMENT OFFICES
Thursday, November 21, 2013**

ATTENDED BY:

COUNCIL:

David P. Fryer, Chair
David W. Koll, Vice-Chair
Mary C. Shoemaker
L. Eric Bernier
D. Richard Francke

STAFF:

Adam T. Brumbaugh, Township Manager/Secretary
Kent N. Baker, Township Engineer
Robert T. Long, Jr., Finance Director
Michael Heath, Zoning Officer
Mark Holdren, CRPA Sr. Planner
Mary E. Wilson, Asst. Township Secretary

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fryer called to order at 7:21 PM this date duly advertised Public Hearing-2 on Ordinance O-13-07, Government Offices, following Public Hearing-1 on Ordinance O-13-06, Lieb Rezoning Request.

Mr. Mark Holdren, CRPA Sr. Planner, offered a brief overview of Ordinance O-13-07, Government Offices, an ordinance proposing to amend the College Township Code by amending the definition of "Government Office", amending the parking requirements for government-operated medical clinics, and adding Government Office as a permitted use-by-right in the General Industrial Zone (I-1). Mr. Holdren reported that the College Township Planning Commission voted to recommend that Council not adopt this ordinance and that CRPC opposed it. Patton Township expressed no concern with this rezoning request.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bernard F. Cantorna, Esq., attorney representing the rezoning requestor, addressed Council in support of this rezoning request, which would allow for the construction of a Veterans Administration clinic to proceed in the I-1 Zoning District. In response to previous Council comments regarding the loss of Industrial land, Atty. Cantorna stated that there has not been a lot of industrial businesses coming into the area, most being white collar enterprises; and, such a clinic would be bringing jobs into the area.

Ms. Nancy Marr, Marr Development, 823 Central Road, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, representing the Veterans Administration, requested that Council vote to amend the definition of 'government office' by adopting the proposed ordinance, which would allow the developer's submission of a land development plan for a VA clinic. Such a facility would include primary care services, a pharmaceutical lab, radiology, mental health, women's services, audiology services, as well as Tele-Help services. Ms. Marr described the difficult VA site selection process, which identified a vacant site in the Township's Industrial Zone as optimally meeting all of the VA's requirements.

Mr. Tm Kennington, Keystone Real Estate Group, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance amendment and its potential to allow the VA clinic to move forward.

Mr. Pat Vernon, 585 Walnut Spring Lane, spoke in support of the proposed ordinance amendment, adding that area veterans currently must drive to Altoona for VA services.

Ms. Michele Chernega, 1039 Oak Ridge Avenue, asked if Council could address the issue of the empty commercial buildings around the Township; and Chair Fryer agreed that the vacant buildings are a big concern to the Township.

Mr. Adam Brumbaugh, Township Manager, added that College Township does not directly solicit for new businesses, but the Chamber of Business and Industry Centre County (CBICC) and the area real estate brokers are positioned to help match up businesses and properties.

ADJOURNMENT:

Hearing no further public comment, Chair Fryer called for a motion to close the Public Hearing-2 on Ordinance O-13-07, Government Offices.

Mr. Koll moved to close the Public Hearing-2 on Ordinance O-13-07, Government Offices.

Ms. Shoemaker seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Fryer closed the Public Hearing-2 on Ordinance O-13-07, Government Offices, at 7:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam T. Brumbaugh

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Township Manager/Secretary