

**Planning Commission of the Borough of Matamoras  
Special Meeting Minutes of February 05, 2025**

Call to Order, Salute to the flag and Roll Call @ 6:00 pm.

Mr. Eddie Addison Chairman	P	Mr. Bob Howard	P	Mr. Nick McIntyre Solicitor	P
Mr. Dave Oszczepinski Vice Chair	P	Mrs. Kelli Johnson	P	Mr. Shawn Bolles Zoning Officer	P
Mr. Rich Anderson	A	Mr. Troy Sayles	P	Alternate (open)	
Mr. Danny Fernandez	A				

1 member of the public was present.

Mr. Addison announced the purpose of this special meeting is to discuss proposed ordinances regulating medical marijuana, the obstruction of fire hydrants, shade trees and any other pertinent business that may arise. This meeting was advertised in the Pike County Dispatch on January 30, 2025.

A motion to approve the Meeting minutes of January 21, 2025, was made by Kelli Johnson and seconded by Dave Oszczepinski. **Motion carried.**

**Public Comment: None**

**Correspondence: None**

1. Shade Tree discussion: It was noted that the Shade Tree Commission Ordinance that was established in 1977 was repealed in 2012. The commission reviewed and discussed the “overly comprehensive” tree ordinance from Newton Township, PA. Troy Sayles presented for consideration a “Tree Protection and Preservation Ordinance” which captured the spirit of the Newton ordinance. Members discussed the need for an arborist to assist in determining the health of trees. They also recognized the importance of a Shade Tree Commission as it relates to the Joint Comprehensive Plan and grant opportunities.  
The motion to create a Shade Tree Ordinance was made by Dave Oszczepinski and seconded by Kelli Johnson. Mr. Bolles has previously worked on tailoring the Newton ordinance to fit the Borough. This will be shared with the Planning Committee for the next meeting. **Motion carried.**
2. Fire Hydrant discussion: §105-13 addresses snow removal around fire hydrants but does not address other obstructions and the size of the area that should be maintained. The Planning Commission discussed additional language be added to correct this.  
A motion to recommend to the Borough Council that §105-13 be amended to include language regarding removal of snow and ice and other objects, specifying a 3-foot radius, 6-foot diameter and 6-foot road clearance from fire hydrants was made by Troy Sayles and seconded by Dave Oszczepinski. **Motion carried.**
3. Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Medical Marijuana Growers/Processors. Zoning Officer Shawn Bolles requested that this type of use be included in the current Zoning Ordinance instead of a standalone ordinance. There was concern about where this type of business would fit in our Borough, due to the size of lots and the layout of the community. We have an industrial zone near a children’s park, two commercial zones, C1 and C2. It would not be desirable to have this type of business near a children’s park nor would it be a good fit for the C1 zones that are surrounded by residential properties.

Mr. Bolles asked the Planning Commission to wait for him to discuss this issue with Peter Wulforst from Pike County Planning. It was noted that this is where a joint comprehensive plan would be beneficial. Possibly limiting the borough to dispensary shops and letting Westfall Township regulate the growers and processors. The Planning Commission will continue to review and discuss this item.

Motion to adjourn was made by Kelli Johnson and was second by Troy Sayles at 7:49 pm. **All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Brown  
Planning Secretary