



**Planning Commission Minutes  
Willamette Activity Center Room 8  
October 17, 2017  
7:00 P.M.**

**1.0 Open Meeting**

7:01 P.M.

**Commissioners**

George Custer, Chairperson  
Bobbie Whitney  
Jackie Taylor  
Donald Reesman  
Stanley Barenboim  
Loren Hogue

**Staff Present**

Rick Zylstra, Community Services Coordinator  
Jackie Taylor, Assistant Planner

**2.0 Citizen Input**

None

**3.0 Consider Approval of Minutes**

***Motion:*** Commissioner Whitney moved to approve the minutes from September 19, 2017. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion.

G. Custer (Aye), D. Reesman (Aye), B. Whitney (Aye), S. Barenboim (Aye), J. Taylor (Aye), L. Hogue (Aye). Motion carried 6-0

**4.0 Action Items**

**4.1 Variance for fence height for Ronald and Glenda Shannon at 47689 School Street Map/Tax Lot 21-35-17-24 03001**

- a) Conflicts of Interest/Exparte Contacts - None
- b) Open Public Meeting – 7:11 P.M.
- c) Staff Report – Rick gave the staff report and background
- d) Statements in Favor –

Ronald Shannon 47689 School Street – The fence is not sight obscuring, if there was a problem police and fire would be able to see the house. They are gone part of the year they are concerned because they have been told the police aren't always around, so they want to be able to lock things up.

Laurie O'Neal 47695 School Street- She lives right next door to this property, she has lived next door when it has looked pretty bad and now it looks beautiful and she is in favor of this variance.

- e) Statements in Opposition - None
- f) Statements in General- None
- g) Close Public Hearing – 7:12 P.M.
- h) Commissioner Discussion

Commissioner Whitney asked Mr. Shannon if he has already constructed the fence?

Mr. Shannon said yes he has.

Commissioner Custer asked if he locks up the fence when they leave for the winter?

Mr. Shannon said yes and Ms. O'Neal has a key.

There was a question whether or not the police will take keys from homeowners when they leave for extended periods.

Commissioner Reesman said they did when he worked at the police department.

Commissioner Custer said along with keeping out burglars, they are also keeping out the police and fire departments.

Mrs. Shannon said she will talk to the police department.

- i) Finding of Fact – Commissioner Custer read the Findings of Fact
- j) Commission Action -

**Motion:** Commissioner Taylor moved that after completing the finding of fact, I move to approve the variance of the front yard fence from 4’to 5’ for a non-sight obscuring fence for the property at Assessors Map #21-35-17-24 Tax lot map # 03001, 47689 School Street, Oakridge Oregon 97463. Commissioner Barenboim seconded the motion.

G. Custer (Aye), D. Reesman (Aye), L. Hogue (Aye), S. Barenboim (Aye), J. Taylor (Aye), B. Whitney (Aye). Motion carried 6-0

**5.0 Discussion Items**

Councilor Whitney asked if we can take a look at our code for fences, it seems like there are a lot of fences around town that are higher and we are getting a lot of similar variance’s, maybe we need to look at our code.

Rick said the code is relatively new and we are going to see a lot of grandfathered items. The difference in this is he saw this one going up. He agrees that we do have a lot of after the fact variances.

Commissioner Custer said if everyone around town wanted to build fences that are 5’ that would create an issue that is why we have the police. You don’t get to dictate security standards beyond what we have in the city, you can’t build a fortress just because you don’t like our police force, and we have to take that into consideration. We want nice looking houses, neat attractive yards and the fence height should be regulated.

Rick said we need to schedule another work session for the sign codes.

The Commission decided that the next work session will be on November 1<sup>st</sup> at City Hall at 6:00 P.M.

**6.0 Announcements**

None

**Meeting Adjourned 7:34 P.M.**

**Signed:**

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George Custer                      Chairman                      Date

**Attest:**

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Susan LaDuke                      City Recorder                      Date