

**City of St. Ignace
Zoning Board of Appeals Proceedings
(Official)**

A meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals was held on Tuesday, October 4th, 2022, in the City Council Chambers as a hybrid attendance meeting with Zoom video conference available. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Arnold.

Present: Jon Arnold, Ken Hardy, Walt Wilhide, Steve Dufresne, Tom Tarnutzer (Alternate), and Tharan Suvarna.

Absent: Luke Paquin and Kayla Pelter.

Councilmember Pelter's absence was excused due to holiday observation.

Staff Present: Assistant to the City Manager Stephanie Baar.

Approval of Agenda: No additions/deletions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Wilhide, to approve the minutes of the July 25th meeting as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business: None.

Public Hearings:

A. Galer-Funeral Home in R1 District

Presentation from property owner. They would like to operate a funeral home out of the Zion Lutheran Church at 999 S. State Street. The property would still be owned and used by the church, and the funeral home would have a lease with them. The funeral home's current location on McCann isn't sufficient for their needs. Some minor modifications would be made in the church to meet state licensing requirements, but no additions would be added onto the existing building. Mr. Galer notes that they do not run a high-volume operation; at a maximum they have a couple services a month and they're typically not very large.

The Pastor of the church is present, and confirms that this request is supported by himself, their board member, and their fellowship.

Chairman Arnold reads a letter from a neighboring property owner opposing the variance.

Question is raised regarding how this affects the taxation of the property, as the church is currently tax exempt. Mr. Galer notes that they are willing to pay any necessary property taxes, and the question will be brought to the City Assessor.

A neighboring property owner questions if there will be a disruptive increase in traffic, and Mr. Galer claims there will not be. The church already has sufficient parking.

There is no intention of ever having a crematorium on the property, as they have one in Pickford that is used.

It was moved by Mr. Wilhide, seconded by Mr. Dufresne to approve the variance. Motion carried unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Hardy, seconded by Mr. Wilhide, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.