Meeting Date: June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**To:** Oshtemo Township Planning Commission

**From**: Ben Clark, Zoning Administrator

**Applicant**: John Fick, Progressive AE

Owner: Archland II, LP

**Property**: 6820 West Main Street, parcel number 05-14-155-055

**Zoning**: C: Local Business District

**Request:** Special exception use permission and site plan approval for drive-through modifications

Section(s): 30.407: Drive-in service window or drive-through services for businesses; 60.200: Special

**Exception Procedure** 

**Project Name**: McDonald's Drive-Through Expansion

### **OVERVIEW**

The applicant, representing the owners of the McDonald's restaurant, located at 6820 West Main Street in Oshtemo Township, is requesting approval from the Planning Commission to convert the existing single ordering lane drive-through arrangement to a parallel ordering point system, as can be found at numerous other establishments in the area. Historically, this particular restaurant has experienced significant amounts of vehicle stacking as patrons line up for the drive-through—especially during peak hours—and the proprietors would like to increase capacity, with the intent of alleviating site congestion. Any expansion of a drive-through in this zoning district is subject to special exception use review, per section 30.407 of the Oshtemo Township Zoning Ordinance.

In July of 2014, the Planning Commission did grant special exception use permission to make similar site modifications, but the project was not activated within one year of the hearing, which means that the approval has since lapsed, per section 60.200 of the Zoning Ordinance.

## **GENERAL ZONING COMPLIANCE**

As no changes are being made to the location of the structure or the site layout in general, very few general zoning considerations fall within the scope of this review—the use is allowed in the subject zoning district, and the extant structure is in compliance with any and all applicable setbacks. Although not explicitly part of this project, the property owner did recently install new site lighting that is not in compliance with the applicable standards of the Zoning Ordinance, and staff are treating such as an issue that shall be resolved along with the other requested site improvements.



#### SITE ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

Although no changes are being proposed regarding site access, staff would like to comment that both the ingress and egress drives for the subject property connect to a circulation drive that abuts the Menards parking lot to the north—patrons of the restaurant do not have direct access to West Main Street. Once on site, the property's traffic flow will not be significantly altered, as motorists will enter via the west drive, circulate south around the building, either parking along the way or entering the drive-through queue, eventually exiting via the east drive.

The stacking area, leading to a single ordering point, is where problems have arisen in the past. Located on a busy commuter route, numerous motorists visit this location during typical meal times, and cars in the drive-through often back up towards the entry drive, often blocking parking spaces on site. With the requested changes, staff is hopeful that the added stacking capacity, facilitated by installing a second ordering point, will indeed alleviate site congestion.

During the review process, staff noted that the applicant has illustrated a surplus of stacking spaces leading to the order point, but also that the site plan falls short of the minimum number of parking spaces by one stall. To correct this, staff has recommended that the applicant remove one stacking spot and add one parking space adjacent to the west side of the restaurant.

#### **LANDSCAPING**

In anticipation of the site plan review process for the expanded drive-through area, the applicant in May of 2014 sought, and was granted, a variance by the Township Zoning Board of Appeals to expand the paved portion of the site up to 9.5 feet into the required 20-foot wide landscape buffer that abuts West Main Street. In order to accommodate the added ordering lane, yet still provide adequate room for through-traffic as well as emergency vehicles, the circulation path adjacent to the drive-through lane had to be moved south, into the landscaped area.

Although the 2014 drive-through expansion never commenced, the variance exists in perpetuity, and is being utilized for this latest proposed site plan. Some existing plantings will need to be removed in order to accommodate the added pavement, but trees and shrubs will be replaced elsewhere in the buffer area, in compliance with the landscaping requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. A landscape plan has been submitted to the Township, but some additional notation is needed before it can be completely accepted.

### **ENGINEERING**

As no material changes are being applied to the site, the Township Engineer has no concerns regarding this project.

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Township Fire Marshal has reviewed the project site plan and is satisfied that adequate room is being provided for emergency vehicle access and circulation.

#### **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

Section 60.100 of the Zoning Ordinance provides additional review criteria for consideration when deliberating a Special Exception Use request.

A. Is the proposed use compatible with the other uses expressly permitted within the C: Local Business zoning district?

The Township's general commercial zoning category, the C: Local Business District designation permits relatively intense uses, such as big-box retail stores. A drive-through restaurant is appropriate in this district.

B. Will the proposed use be detrimental or injurious to the use or development of adjacent properties or to the general public?

The subject use is adjacent to large retail operations, vehicle service facilities, and other restaurants. The planned site modifications will not be detrimental or injurious to adjacent properties or the general public.

C. Will the proposed use promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the community?

The intent of the desired changes is to facilitate better traffic flow on the subject property, and also to make parking more accessible to patrons who wish to enter the restaurant. It is anticipated that this project should actively benefit public health, safety and welfare.

D. Will the proposed use encourage the use of the land in accordance with its character and adaptability?

Given the nature of the West Main Street corridor, as well as the fact that the use in question is pre-existing, staff determine that the subject use is very much in accordance with its character and adaptability.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Township staff find the project site plan to be generally acceptable and feel that the planned improvements will benefit patrons of the restaurant. Therefore, staff recommend approval of the site plan and special exception use request. If the Planning Commission is inclined to grant approval, staff ask that the following conditions be attached and administratively resolved:

- 1. Prior to the issuance of a final certificate of occupancy, the Township shall be presented with an updated landscape plan, indicating the species of the intended plantings, in compliance with any applicable requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.
- 2. Prior to the issuance of a final certificate of occupancy, the Township shall be presented with an amended site plan, indicating the omission of one stacking space leading up to the ordering area and the addition of one parking spaces adjacent to the west side of the structure.

3. Prior to the issuance of a final certificate of occupancy, the Township shall be presented with a complete photometric and light fixture plan, in full accordance with any applicable requirements of the Zoning Ordinance.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ben Clark

**Zoning Administrator** 

Ben Clark

Attachments:

Application
Site plan excerpt
Aerial map

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014 PC minutes

<b>LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY</b> (Use Attachments if Necessary):			
SEC 14-2-12 COM W 1/4 POST TH E ALG E & W 1/4 LI 403 FT TH N 01 DEG 01 MIN 25 SEC E			
99.17FT TO NLY LI HWY M-43 TH S 89 DEG 52 MIN 54 SEC E 450.05 FT TO BEG TH N 01 DEG			
01 MIN 25 SEC E 238.03 FT TH S 89 DEG 52 MIN 4 SEC E 201.20 FT S 01 DEG 02 MIN 04 SEC W 238.03 FT TO NLY LI HWY M-43 TH N 89 DEG 52 MIN 54 SEC W THEREON 201.16 FT TO			
PARCEL NUMBER: 3905- 14-155-050			
	·		
ADDRESS OF PROPERTY: 6820 West Main	Street		
PRESENT USE OF THE PROPERTY: Quick S	Serve - Commercial		
	1002		
PRESENT ZONING C COMM	SIZE OF PROPERTY 1.099 ACRES		
NAME(S) & ADDDESS(FS) OF ALL OTHED	PEDSONS COPPODATIONS OF FIRMS		
NAME(S) & ADDRESS(ES) OF ALL OTHER PERSONS, CORPORATIONS, OR FIRMS HAVING A LEGAL OR EQUITABLE INTEREST IN THE PROPERTY:			
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Name(s)	Address(es)		
	4		
SIGNATURES			
I (we) the undersigned certify that the information			
required documents attached hereto are to the bes			
I (we) acknowledge that we have received the Tow			
Infrastructure. By submitting this Planning & Zon			
Oshtemo Township officials and agents to enter the			
of completing the reviews necessary to process the	e application.		
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The contraction was	End challe		
Livier Cornell McDorald Correction, Afformy is	1/2/10		
Owner's Signature(* If different from Applica	ant) Date		
Ash - In	05/02/10		
- HOW FUNC			
Applicant's Signature	Date		

Copies to: Planning -1 Applicant -1 Clerk -1 Deputy Clerk -1 Attorney-1 Assessor -1

Planning Secretary - Original

PLEASE ATTACH ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

2



7275 W. Main Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49009-9334

Phone: 269-216-5223 Fax: 269-375-7180

# PLEASE PRINT

PROJECT NAME & ADDRESS McDonald's 6820 West Main Street

## PLANNING & ZONING APPLICATION

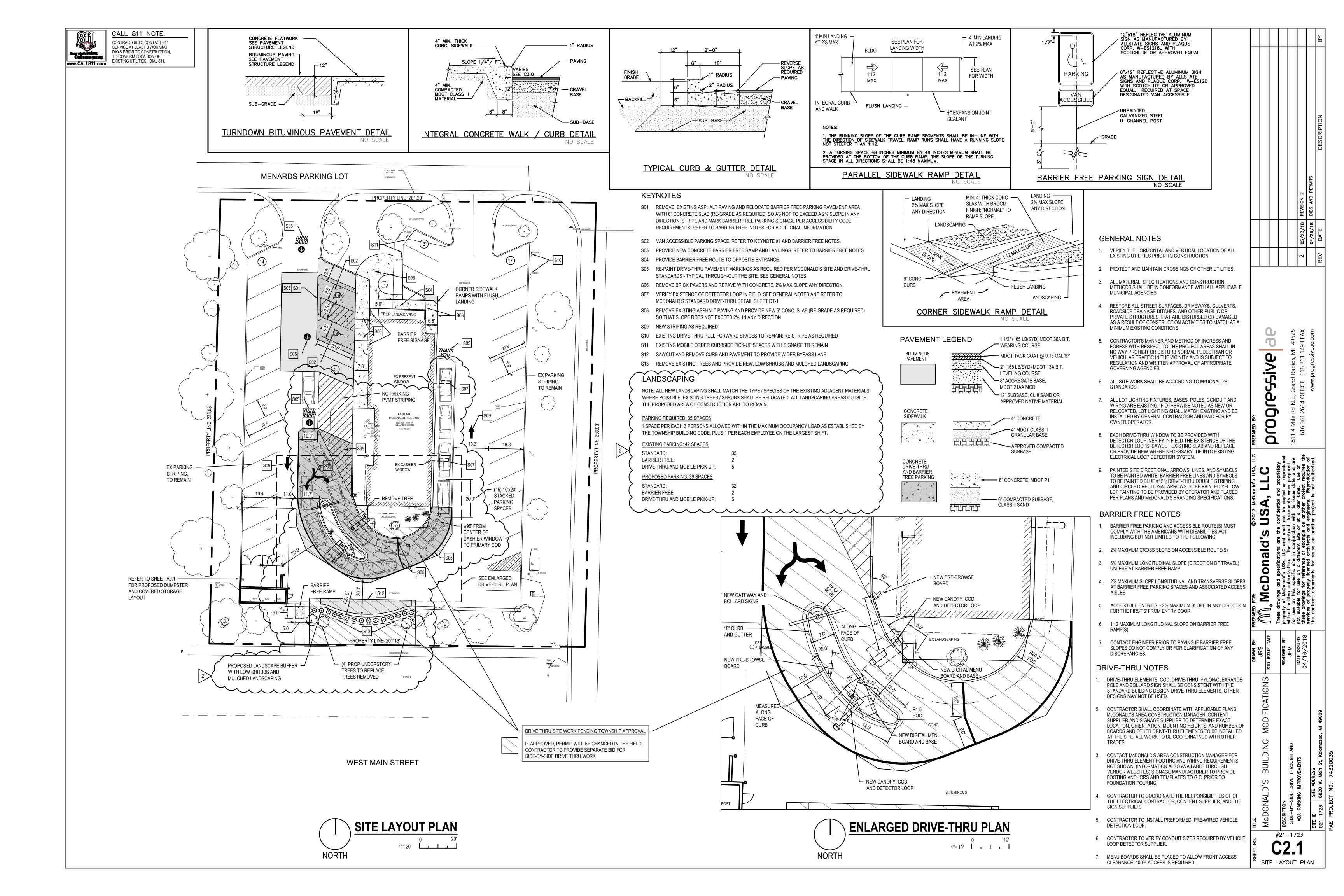
Applicant Name : John Fick	Oshtemo Charter Township 7275 W MAIN ST	
Company Progressive AE	KALAMAZOO, MI 49009 Phone : 269-375-4260 OSHTEMOTOWNSHIP.ORG	
Address 1811 4 Mile Road North East	USHIEMUTUWNSHIP.UKG	
Grand Rapids, MI 49525		ime: 2:34:49 PM
E-mail Fickj@progressiveae.com	Receipt: 141294 Cashier: LPOTOK	
Telephone 616.365.8562 Fax Interest in Property Architect	ITEM REFERENCE	AMOUNT
OWNER*: Anchland II LP	1042 PLANNING ESCROW PLANNING ESCROW 1088 SITE PLAN REVIEW	\$1,000.00
Name LP Archland II	SPR	\$350.00
Address US Realty Advisors LLC, 1370 Avenue of the Americas	1085 SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE	\$400.00
21st Floor, New York, NY 10019	TOTAL	\$1,750.00
Email	CHECK 71526	\$1,750.00
Phone & Fax 212-581-4540 212-581-4950	Total Tendered:	\$1,750.00
	Change:	\$0.00
NATURE OF THE REQUEST: (Please check the appropriate item		
X Special Exception Use-1085 \$ 400 Zoning Variance-1092 Site Condominium-1084	Interpretation-1082 Text Amendment-1081 Sign Deviation-1080 Other:	9

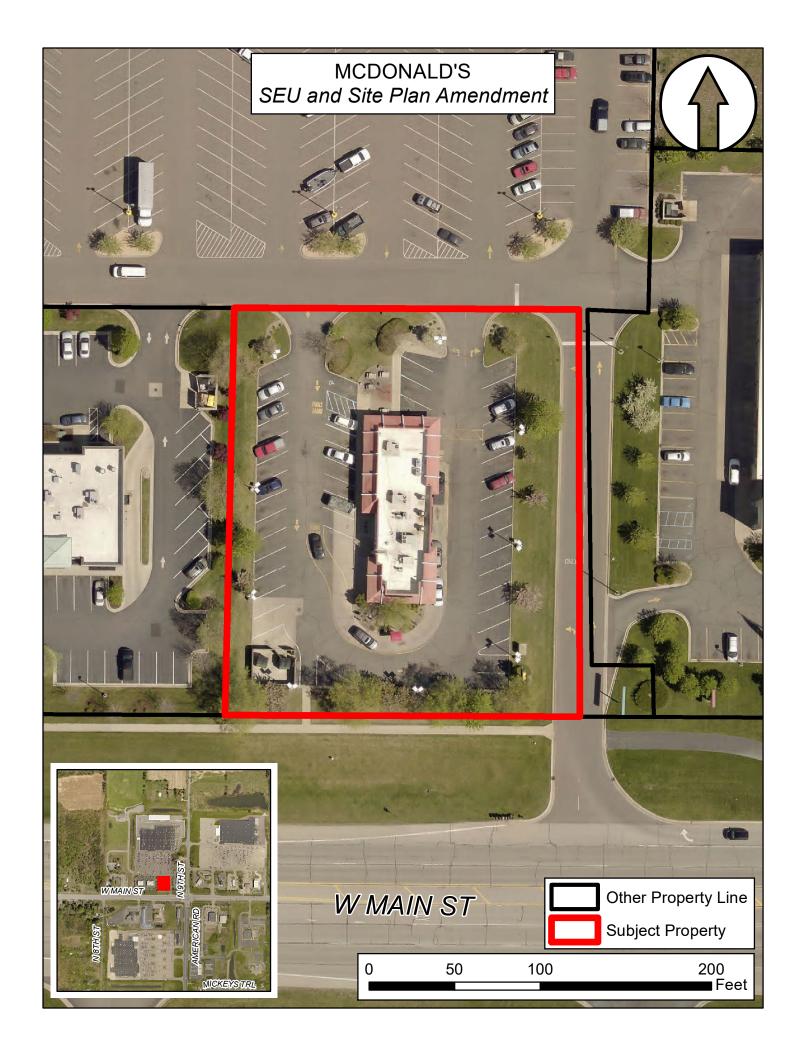
 $\label{eq:BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR REQUEST (Use Attachments if Necessary): \\$ 

Reapplying for Special

exception use. Granted in 2001 for the presence of a Drive-Through Facility. In may 2014

McDonald's applied for 3 Variances, and all 3 Variances were approved. In June they reapplied
for the special exception permit, and was granted approval. That has lapsed, and we are
reapplying for the special exception permit. Please see the Attached meeting minute notes for a
more detailed explanation.





# OSHTEMO CHARTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

## **MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD JULY 10, 2014**

# Agenda

PUBLIC HEARING: SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE AND SITE PLAN REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF MCDONALDS USA, LLC TO AMEND A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE AND SITE PLAN FOR AN EXISTING RESTAURANT WITH DRIVE-THROUGH SERVICE TO ADD A SECOND DRIVE-THROUGH LANE, ADD AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE, MAKE AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENTS, AND INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 6820 WEST MAIN STREET (PARCEL # 3905-14-155-050).

A meeting of the Oshtemo Charter Township Planning Commission was held on Thursday, July 10, 2014, commencing at approximately 7:05 p.m. at the Oshtemo Charter Township Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Schley, Chairperson

Fred Antosz

Wiley Boulding Sr.
Dusty Farmer
Pam Jackson
Millard Loy

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Skalski

Also present were Greg Milliken, Planning Director; James Porter, Attorney; and Martha Coash, Meeting Transcriptionist. There was one other person in attendance.

# CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Schley at approximately 7:05 p.m. and the "Pledge of Allegiance" was recited.

## **AGENDA**

The Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Boulding, Sr. <u>made a motion</u> to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Loy <u>seconded</u> the motion. <u>The motion passed unanimously.</u>

# **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Chairperson Schley asked if anyone in attendance wished to comment on non-agenda items.

There were no public comments on non-agenda items. Chairperson Schley moved to the next item on the agenda.

# **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 26, 2014**

The Chairperson asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the minutes of the Meeting of June 26, 2014. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Loy <u>made a motion</u> to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2014 meeting. Mr. Antosz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairperson Schley moved to the next item on the agenda.

PUBLIC HEARING: SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE AND SITE PLAN REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF MCDONALDS USA, LLC TO AMEND A SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE AND SITE PLAN FOR AN EXISTING RESTAURANT WITH DRIVE-THROUGH SERVICE TO ADD A SECOND DRIVE-THROUGH LANE, ADD AN ACCESSORY STRUCTURE, MAKE AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENTS, AND INCLUDE ADDITIONAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS. THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IS LOCATED AT 6820 WEST MAIN STREET (PARCEL #3905-14-155-050).

Chairperson Schley said the next item on the agenda was the public hearing for review of the special exception use and site plan review for McDonalds USA, LLC. He asked Mr. Milliken to present the staff report.

Mr. Milliken said the McDonalds at 6820 West Main Street at the northwest corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and West Main Street in the C-Local Business District wishes to make a series of updates and renovations to the facility to improve the aesthetics, traffic flow, and efficiency of operations. Proposed improvements include façade improvements, interior renovations, construction of a storage shed, and installation of a dual drive-through.

He said the facility was granted a special exception use in 2001 due to the presence of the drive through facility. As a special exception use, any amendment to

that use requires approval of the Planning Commission at a public hearing. The proposed improvements also required three variances. The ZBA heard those requests at their May meeting and granted the necessary variances for the proposed plan.

Mr. Milliken explained one of the improvements is the addition of a second drive-through ordering lane, an improvement that can be seen at other McDonald's throughout the region, including the other Oshtemo location on West Main Street in front of Target. This addition will extend the circulation area and paved surface further to the south and closer to West Main Street. There is no setback for parking / circulation drives, but there is a required greenspace area along arterials. The minimum width of the required greenspace area is 20 feet. The proposed expansion of the circulation system would extend into that greenspace area reducing the width of the greenspace area to 10.5 feet at its narrowest. Three trees would also be removed as a result of the expansion and would be replaced by three new trees. This required a variance, and it was granted by the ZBA at their last meeting.

He said the applicant is also proposing to make improvements to the dumpster storage corral located in the southwest corner of the property. These include the addition of new doors and creation of an enclosed, covered storage shed at the back (south) end of the existing dumpster corral. The work will involve increasing the height of the screening wall by approximately three feet using matching block to a peak height of about 9.5 feet and installation of a flat metal roof. This 216 square foot covered, enclosed area qualifies as an accessory structure and therefore must satisfy the setback requirements of the C district at this location.

Mr. Milliken noted there are no specific setback requirements for dumpster pads or screening devices in the Ordinance. The dumpster storage area was permitted to be built in its current location on the original site plan. However, by enclosing a portion of it and creating an accessory structure, it would be subject to the setback requirements for an accessory structure. The setback for all structures along West Main Street is 170 feet from the centerline of the road (Section 64.100). The right of way is 200 feet for this portion of M-43, so practically speaking, the setback from the property line at the subject property is 70 feet. The dumpster storage area is currently located 22 feet from the front property line, 48 feet less than required. The side yard setback for accessory structures is 20 feet. The proposed covered, enclosed storage shed is located 15 feet from the west property line, five feet less than required. The ZBA granted variances for both of these encroachments at their May meeting.

Mr. Milliken said additional site improvements include accessibility improvements such as new curb ramps and sidewalks. A new concrete patio and outdoor patio seating area is proposed on the north side of the building. The exterior façade is proposed to be updated as well to reflect the modern brand of the corporation. The project will maintain the same parking and access. Any landscaping materials relocated or damaged during construction will be relocated or restored.

Mr. Milliken indicated both the Fire Department and Township Engineer have reviewed the proposed plans and have no concerns with the proposed improvements.

Next, Mr. Milliken reviewed the standards for approval. He noted it is not anticipated that the alteration of the existing use or amendment of the previous plans will be detrimental or injurious to the adjacent properties or the general public. An accessory structure will be located in the required front and side yards, but variances were granted for this location. The ZBA noted that West Main Street has an oversized setback, and the structure is located on a hill above the road. They also noted that the site plan was designed so that the front of the structure faces the internal service road and the rear of the site faces West Main Street although this is really the required "front yard."

In addition, he said circulation and access are a critical component of the proposed improvements. Currently, the stacking at the single drive through lane gets so deep that on-site circulation is impacted and several parking spaces on the west side of the building are left unusable. The proposed addition of a second drive through lane will improve efficiency and provide increased capacity for stacked vehicles thus reducing the impact on circulation, access, and parking on the site.

Mr. Milliken concluded by saying If the Planning Commission is inclined to approve the amendments to the special exception use and site plan review, staff recommends it be done with the following conditions:

- 1. Site plan approval is contingent upon the terms and conditions of the approval of the Zoning Board of Appeals decision of May 27, 2014.
- 2. All landscape material shall remain as located, shall be relocated, and/or shall be replaced as applicable.
- 3. A sign permit is required for any signage that may be erected on the site.
- 4. Site plan approval is subject to approval of the Fire Department, pursuant to adopted codes.
- 5. Site plan approval is subject to review and approval of the Township Engineer, as appropriate.

Chairperson Schley asked if there were questions from Commissioners.

In response to a question from Mr. Loy, there was some discussion of the signage height and lighting. It was determined, in consultation with Mr. Iggy Pipitone, Area Construction Manager for McDonalds USA, that the site plan is in compliance with Township requirements for sign height and building heights.

Mr. Pipitone explained the mansard roofline will be removed to modernize and improve the look of the building and that the two drive through lanes are designed to increase efficiency during peak hours. McDonalds estimates that their capacity will increase from 90 cars served in an hour to 140-160. As a result, there will be a continuous, smooth flow; stacking of vehicles will be significantly reduced.

Ms. Jackson was concerned about pedestrian safety along the adjacent pathway due to the reduced depth of the greenspace barrier, 11 feet, between the drive through and the walkway.

Mr. Milliken said that point had been raised by the Zoning Board of Appeals and that the driving will be slow through the lanes, which are curved, and the drive will be curbed. Therefore, he is comfortable with the plan safety-wise.

Mr. Boulding, Sr. asked for and Mr. Pipitone provided clarification regarding the configuration of the menu and order boards and confirmed there will continue to be only one window for transactions.

There were no further questions or comments. Chairperson Schley pointed out that there was no one in attendance for public comment and moved to commissioner comments.

Chairperson Schley noted most of the decision making for the project had already been done by the Zoning Board Authority and that action precluded most opportunity for comment by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Antosz said he was pleased to see a green zone maintained.

The Chairperson asked if there was a motion to approve the application.

Mr. Loy <u>made a motion</u> to approve the request from McDonalds USA, LLC, with the following conditions:

- 1. Site plan approval is contingent upon the terms and conditions of the approval of the Zoning Board of Appeals decision of May 27, 2014.
- 2. All landscape material shall remain as located, shall be relocated, and/or shall be replaced as applicable.
- 3. A sign permit is required for any signage that may be erected on the site.
- 4. Site plan approval is subject to approval of the Fire Department, pursuant to adopted codes.
- 5. Site plan approval is subject to review and approval of the Township Engineer, as appropriate.

Mr. Boulding, Sr. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

# **OLD BUSINESS**

Chairperson Schley asked if there was old business to come before the Commission. There was none and the Chair moved to the next item on the agenda.