

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES, IL  
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024 7:00 P.M.**

**Members Present:** Silkaitis, Foulkes, Muenz, Lencioni, Gehm, Pietryla, Wirball, Bessner, Weber

**Members Absent:** Bongard

**Others Present:** Heather McGuire, City Administrator; Russell Colby, Director of Community Development; Allen Fennell, Assistant Director of Community Development – Building Services

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was convened by Chair Lencioni at 7:00 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALLED**

Roll was called:

Present: Silkaitis, Foulkes, Muenz, Lencioni, Gehm, Pietryla, Wirball, Bessner, Weber

Absent: Bongard

**3. OMNIBUS VOTE**

- \*4a. Historic Commission recommendation to approve Historic Landmark Designation for 504 Jackson Ave.

**Motion by Ald. Muenz, second by Ald. Gehm to approve omnibus item \*4a on the agenda.**

**Roll was called:**

**Ayes: Gehm, Pietryla, Wirball, Bessner, Weber, Silkaitis, Foulkes, Muenz**

**Nays:**

**Absent: Bongard**

**Motion carried: 8-0**

**4. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- b. Consideration of an amendment to Municipal Code Title 15, “Buildings and Construction”, Section 15.04.025 “2021 International Swimming Pool & Spa Code—Regulations adopted and modified” regarding Swimming Pool Safety Barriers

Russell Colby, Director of Community Development, presented the Executive Summary and materials posted in the meeting packet.

Ald. Bessner asked when this would take effect. It would be effective on the date the ordinance is passed.

Alds. Weber and Wirball expressed support of drafting an amendment.

Ald. Pietryla asked if HOA rules supersede the local ordinance. Mr. Colby noted they can't speak to every HOA covenants. In general, HOA's tend to allow for fences around pools, but they may not allow perimeter fences around the yard.

Ald. Muenz asked to confirm this would not be retroactive. If someone had a pool with a pool safety cover, they would not be required to put in a fence as well. Mr. Colby stated that is not proposed.

Ald. Gehm supports public safety first and making sure kids are safe around pools.

Scott Weiss, resident, asked what would happen to pending permits that are currently in process before the ordinance was questioned. Mr. Colby said the intent is for this to apply to any permits that are currently under review, or in process, that would be issued after the date the code amendment is in effect.

Mr. Weiss is not allowed to fence his yard so he has decided to pursue a security cover for the pool. He expressed concerns about a proposition raised at an earlier City Council meeting to revoke or revise the ordinance allowing security covers as a barrier for the pool. He said there is no state mandate that requires a fence and described the features of the pool cover. In his opinion, a safety cover does a better job restricting access to a pool than an obstacle kids can figure out how to get around.

Chair Lencioni said this is not personal. It is about what the Council is comfortable with in regards to setting a safety standard to take care of the entire city.

Ald. Pietryla asked if there was something they could do to help those who are already in the process of getting a permit. Mr. Colby said the Council has the option to set an implementation date at the time of approval. They could note it does not apply to any pending permits, for example.

**Motion by Ald. Wirball, second by Ald. Muenz to approve the draft amendment to Municipal Code Title 15, "Buildings and Construction", Section 15.04-025 "2021 International Swimming Pool & Spa Code – Regulations adopted and modified" regarding Swimming Pool Safety Barriers.**

**Roll was called:**

**Ayes: Gehm, Pietryla, Wirball, Bessner, Weber, Silkaitis, Foulkes, Muenz**

**Nays:**

**Absent: Bongard**

**Motion carried: 8-0**

## **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

William Koehl, Geneva resident, spoke in regards to an issue related to the Prairie State Coal Plant contract; business concerns about Scope 2 emissions. What does it mean for the city to have a mostly coal-fired portfolio for the next 30 years? He highlighted some information he found from different sources that state this is a business concern and not an environmental one.

What can be done about scope 2 emissions if we have our contract? He said the only way to have a positive impact on that is to increase renewable energy in the energy portfolio, but there will be a limited opportunity to do that after the contract is signed.

**6. ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM MAYOR, COUNCIL OR STAFF**

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Ald. Wirball, second by Ald. Pietryla to adjourn at 7:33 p.m.  
Unanimously approved by voice vote.**