

CITY OF NEW MEADOWS AIRPORT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.
NEW MEADOWS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
401 VIRGINIA AVENUE, NEW MEADOWS

Agenda Item 1) Roll Call – Welcome - Pledge of Allegiance

Airport Commission Members Dennis Nau and Wes Jeffs were present. Parker Arrien was excused from the meeting.

Staff present were City Clerk/Treasurer Jacob “Mac” Qualls and Angie Mettie.

Public Present were John Hucks and David Eaton.

Nau opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda Item 2) Review & Recommendations – BMA Towers, LLC Application

BMA Towers, LLC is requesting to erect a cell tower on property located on South End Road within the City of New Meadows on Industrially Zoned Property. The tower proposal requests a maximum height of 182 feet with a lightning rod.

Nau commended the applicant on providing a detailed and complete package for their review and stated that it was sufficient for the Commission to make a determination concerning the impact of this tower on the airport.

Nau addressed three issues that he felt were a concern to the airport, which were frequency interference, penetration of airport protected zones, and obstruction lighting on the tower.

Nau addressed each concern individually. Concerning air frequency interference, he stated that the letter provided by the applicant from the FCC indicated there would be no radio interference.

- Jeffs moved to accept the FCC determination of no radio interference; Nau seconded the motion. Voice Vote indicated no opposition to the motion with all members signifying aye. Motion carried.

Nau then addressed the second issue of the tower penetrating the protected zones surrounding the airport. The letter provided by the applicant from T-O Engineers concluded that the tower would not penetrate the protected airport zones. Nau noted a discrepancy between the letter from T-O Engineers (182’) and the permit application (150-192’). Nau chose to accept the T-O Engineers’ stated height.

- Jeffs moved to accept the maximum tower height of 182 feet; Nau seconded the motion. Voice Vote indicated no opposition to the motion with all members signifying aye. Motion carried.

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Nau addressed the third issue of obstruction lighting. He summarized the future plans for the airport and for Life Flight Network operations that may become more frequent in New Meadows. He also saw more agricultural aircraft frequenting New Meadows in the future. For these reasons, he felt that obstruction lighting should be placed on the tower.

In rebuttal, Hucks stated that according to State and Federal guidelines, their tower did not need lighting because the tower is under 200'. He felt that Federal and State guidelines preempt any local requirements placed on applicants.

Eaton felt that the added cost of obstructive lighting was significant.

Both Jeffs and Nau communicated that the Commission's responsibility is to "recommend" the lighting to Planning & Zoning, not "require" the lighting.

- Jeffs moved to recommend to the Planning & Zoning Commission to approve this cell tower and consider lighting for safety; Nau seconded the motion. Voice Vote indicated no opposition to the motion with all members signifying aye. Motion carried.

Items for the next meeting: The next meeting will be held September 19th. The status report from the Division of Aeronautics should be available at that time.

Agenda Item 3) Adjourn

- Jeffs moved to adjourn; Nau seconded the motion. Voice Vote indicated no opposition to the motion with all members signifying aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 P.M.

Dennis Nau, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Jacob "Mac" Qualls, City Clerk