

By ELLY GRIMM

• Leader & Times

The Liberal City Commission tackled a busy agenda Tuesday evening.

The majority of the items on the agenda concerned housing and zoning around the city. Final readings were conducted for ordinances regarding the approval and adoption of a neighborhood revitalization plan for Liberal, establishing a building safety board of appeals and establishing a new set of codes for building, building regulations and code enforcement.

The first of these presented was the ordinance regarding the establishment of a neighborhood revitalization plan, which will affect eastern Liberal and parts of Liberal south of Second Street. The final reading was proposed by Housing and Community Development Director Karen LaFreniere and then a vote was taken. The proposal passed unanimously.



The next ordinance presented regarded the beginning of a building safety board of appeals, presented by Zoning Administrator Kory Krause. According to an earlier article in the Leader & Times, the board, which would consist of commission-appointed professionals, would allow a second way for citizens who either disagree with building codes or want to appeal a city inspector's ruling to be heard. The ordinance passed unanimously and after the vote, Krause said that people will be able to start applying for jobs with this board after the plan's publishing.

“It will be printed in Friday’s paper making it effective beginning Saturday, so next week we’ll be advertising,” explained City Clerk Debbie Giskie during the meeting.

Krause also presented the final reading for the next ordinance, which would enact a new set of codes for building, building regulations and code enforcement. The commission also passed this new code set unanimously.

The commission also discussed other measures which included the adoption of a new fee schedule, which comes as the city’s software is being updated.

“This new way would dramatically change the way we do our fee scheduling here in the city of Liberal,” Krause said of the proposed codes.

The last part of the meeting dealt with the city manager’s and commissioners’ reports before adjourning for the night.