

City of Columbus
Public Hearing –
DANIEL WALDOCH III 16915 POTOMAC ST NE IUP REQUEST (PC19-101)
February 20, 2019

The February 20th, 2019 Public Hearing to consider a request by the applicant, Daniel Waldoch III, for a Residential Zone Business Interim Use Permit (IUP) to allow the operation of a lawn and snow removal company (Waldoch Lawn & Snow, Inc.), was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chair Ron Hanegraaf at the City Hall. Present Commission members Pam Wolowski and Jody Krebs; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko; and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes, Interim City Planner Merritt Clapp-Smith.

Also, in attendance were Council Members Janet Heglund, and Shelly Logren; Michele Whitney, Dan Waldoch, Myron and Cindy Angel, and Arlen Logren.

Hanegraaf: Now we will get to item number five on the agenda, the public hearing. I had talked to Mr. Dan Waldoch prior to the meeting, so Dan you want to come up forward? I'm sorry, hold on a minute Dan. I'm going to ask Jessica to read the notice that was published in the Forest Lake Times.

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

Hanegraaf: Thank you Jessica. Now you can come up, Dan. Does Dan have to give his full name and address, when he sits there? Could you give us your name and address, even though we heard it?

Waldoch: Hello my name is Daniel Valentine Waldoch the Third, and I live at 16915 Potomac Street in Columbus.

Hanegraaf: Okay Dan, you applied for an IUP and we would like you to explain what kind of business your going to run out of your residence. What you're going to do? Where your going to do it? Times? And the whole works. And if you could just tell us.

Waldoch: Sure. I own Waldoch Lawn and Snow INC. I have been in business since 2010. And I Operate out of my house. There is a pole barn in the back 30x40 with about half of that that is used for storage for my business. Which includes 3 lawn mowers, lawn mower trailer, a bobcat trailer, 5 bobcats and 1 dump trailer and 2 trucks, and that's it. I am here to get a permit to store my equipment in the pole barn. And the operations, the summer hours we load up at 7 o'clock in the morning and return, just kind of depends on the day, 4-5-6-7 somewhere in there. In the winter hours, I get dispatched at any point in time in the evening and just leave with a pickup.

Hanegraaf: Okay, maybe tell us, I want to start from the beginning, if I'm right Elizabeth, what name do you want to put this permit in? Your name or your business name, Waldoch Lawn and Snow INC.?

Waldoch: Waldoch Lawn and Snow INC.

Hanegraaf: So that's what you want to put it in, okay. Alright, and when you say your going to use half of this building that's 30x40?

Waldoch: That is correct.

Hanegraaf: Is it walled off or?

Waldoch: It is open.

Hanegraaf: And when you say Bobcats, are they all Bobcats? Are they all skid loaders? Are any of them personal property or they all company?

Waldoch: All company.

Hanegraaf: And you have one trailer?

Waldoch: Three trailers. One Bobcat trailer, one lawnmower trailer, and one dump trailer.

Hanegraaf: And all this property is owned by the business or is it personal property mixed in there?

Waldoch: It is all business, yes.

Hanegraaf: And you can get 2 trucks and 5 Bobcats and all that in the building?

Waldoch: Well, the trucks stay outside yes. Not everything is in the building.

Hanegraaf: Okay. Are your trucks marked? With Waldoch Snow Removal?

Waldoch: They are yes. Elizabeth said we have to everything in the building, so yeah.

Hanegraaf: And you get that all in there?

Waldoch: Oh, I could get it all in the building, yes.

Hanegraaf: The 2 trucks, the 3 trailers and the 5 Bobcats?

Waldoch: Probably not, you know, but at certain different times of the year they're dispatched at different locations. So, like the 5 Bobcats are in Minneapolis right now, so I could fit all the stuff in the building right now, you know. My trucks are parked in Minneapolis right now, as well, besides one of them.

Hanegraaf: So, you understand that an IUP, your supposed to be an invisible business, you should be able to drive by your place and not see any equipment.

Waldoch: You can't see any equipment its all behind my pole barn. There's 2 trailers in the back of my pole barn.

Hanegraaf: Can the neighbors see them?

Waldoch: John, can you see them?

Hanegraaf: We'll have a public hearing in a minute he can get up and talk. I'm just wondering, its supposed to be an invisible business, you understand that. And none of these, any of this equipment, I've been by your place, it's a yellow house, and I was looking at it, do you have any personal property that sits outside? Other trailers, that you own? No, its just business? And your employees, you have one employee?

Waldoch: That is correct.

Hanegraaf: Does he come to your location? Or does he meet you at site?

Waldoch: He comes to my location in the summer and in the winter time he comes to the site in Minneapolis.

Hanegraaf: Okay, I looked at that building, is that the building were talking about there? The one that's 38x32.

Waldoch: Yep.

Hanegraaf: That's the one you stated was 40x30

Waldoch: It is 38x28

Hanegraaf: Boy, I got 38x32 on the...

Waldoch: It must be 32, I'm pretty sure it was 28 but my uncle owns a surveying company and he did that. So that's probably correct.

Wolowski: May I ask a question?

Hanegraaf: Yes, you have the floor.

Wolowski: I'm wondering if you've had any concerns or any communications with your neighbors has anybody had any objections or any concerns? No, okay.

Waldoch: No, I have 3 neighbors, one is John, he is to the south of me. One to the north and one behind my property, they are on 170th, they bud up to the backside of the property.

Wolowski: So, they have no concerns with your, okay thank you. Appreciate it.

Krebs: Mr. Chair, I would like to ask a question. How long have you lived in this current home?

Waldoch: In this house? October of last year, so about a year and a half.

Krebs: Okay, so you just recently just moved.

Waldoch: Acquired it from Susan Reller, she lived there for like 45 years or something. And just re-did everything.

Hanegraaf: Are you going to do your own maintenance in this building too?

Waldoch: Like sharpening of lawn mower blades and stuff like that?

Hanegraaf: Right

Waldoch: Yes.

Hanegraaf: And working on Bobcats too, in there?

Waldoch: I do not work on Bobcats, we bring that to Dan Mike over at Dans Landscaping.

Hanegraaf: Do you have somebody that comes in and does the sharpening or do you do all that?

Waldoch: I do all that.

Hanegraaf: You do?

Waldoch: Yep.

Hanegraaf: Okay. And you don't have any gas tanks or anything? You have fuel on the property?

Waldoch: Nope.

Hanegraaf: So, you have 2 trucks, 5 Bobcats, 1 trailer, 3 lawn trailers, right?

Waldoch: 3 lawnmowers, 1 lawn trailer.

Hanegraaf: Okay

Waldoch: So, the 3 lawnmowers go on one trailer, the Bobcat trailer is for the Bobcats, and then there's one dump trailer for dumping stuff.

Hanegraaf: So, when summer comes all 5 Bobcats are back up at your place then?

Waldoch: Yep. Well, probably 3 of them, 2 of them usually go to the cabin.

Hanegraaf: But you can get all this stuff in that building?

Waldoch: It would be close. I haven't tried to put all this stuff in the building.

Hanegraaf: I'm not pushing you Dan. The deal is its supposed to be invisible, so. When we drive by, we shouldn't have to say there's a business there, even though we see it a lot. Do you have any questions?

Wolowski: I think I'm good.

Hanegraaf: How about you, Jody?

Krebs: I think I'm good.

Hanegraaf: I can't think of anything else. Dan, do you have anything that you would like to add? So, as I have explained before, if you have a seat off to the side, we may call you back here. And we will open it up to the public. Is there anybody in the public that would like to get up make a comment or a statement about this IUP? Thank you, sir. You want to come up and your name and address?

Williams: Hello, I'm John Williams. Address is 16851 Potomac Street. So, you were mentioning that, if the neighbors can see his stuff. And yeah, we can see his stuff, me and the wife. I talked to the wife tonight before I came here, and I asked her "does it bother you?" and she said "Nope". Doesn't bother us, we could care less what he does over there. The only time I would get pissy about it if it was really loud, where it was annoying, or if it was really dusty or dirt flying around. But other than that, I could care less. And I am right there. I mean I can see, it is pretty wide open from my yard to his.

Hanegraaf: Are you to the south of him?

Williams: Yeah.

Hanegraaf: And you got that big pole barn?

Williams: Yep. It's really nice. I've seen him over there. He's always farting around with something. Most of the stuff he's got, he keeps everything behind his pole barn. So, I don't think you can see it from the street. It would be tough to, I think.

Hanegraaf: Okay John. Do you have any questions? Pam?

Wolowski: I don't.

Hanegraaf: Jody?

Krebs: Nope.

Hanegraaf: Well, I thank you very much. Is there anybody else in the audience that would like to get up and make a statement? I have one more question for you, Dan. You say in your IUP that you're not going to be discharging anything. You're not going to bring in leaves or branches or anything to your property? I'm sorry, could you come back up here? I apologize about that. First day on the job.

Waldoch: What's that?

Hanegraaf: First day on the job.

Waldoch: Yeah. So, I do bring leaves there, and compost and turn it over. In there it said that I didn't?

Hanegraaf: Well, it just said you didn't have any piles. Like you're not bringing in, the way I understood it.

Waldoch: So I had, like when I, my house, when I moved in there, I wanted to block off the road because its so loud, so I brought in 100 loads of dirt, built two big berms put 10 nice trees up there to try to block it, and that's why I think somebody wanted to know if I was going to store material there?

Hanegraaf: Oh, I was just reading, I mean you're in the business. So, I thought...

Waldoch: I do collect leaves in the fall, in the spring, and put them behind my pole barn. And turn them over and use that for compost, for the garden that I did this spring and stuff like that.

Hanegraaf: Okay, do you have any questions Pam?

Wolowski: I don't.

Hanegraaf: Jody?

Krebs: No.

Hanegraaf: I have no other questions either, Dan. Appreciate you coming in.

Wolowski: We kind of want to make sure he understands the findings of facts, and the recommendations.

Mursko: Did you close the hearing?

Hanegraaf: No, do I have to close it?

Mursko: If we're at discussion, then we do. With the right to reopen.

Hanegraaf: Should I call him back up?

Krebs: If you want to ask about the findings of facts.

Wolowski: Do we do that before? I can't remember

Krebs: Yes. We do that before

Hanegraaf: So, we do that before this?

Wolowski: One more time...

Krebs: Mr. Chair, Ill ask. There was a letter sent out from TKDA from our interim planner, with 13 findings of facts and 9 recommendations, did you get that letter?

Mursko: It would have come from Merritt Clapp-Smith.

Waldoch: I don't think so. And what is TK what?

Krebs: TKDA. It's our engineer.

Mursko: It would have been emailed to you.

Krebs: And what these are Dan, are the guidelines for your IUP that you would need to adhere to because the City does have the authority to pull that IUP if you don't adhere to these. So, we want to know that you've read them, understood them, and will abide by them.

Waldoch: one question I do have is after the 5 years is up, do I have to put \$1500 in escrow again?

Mursko: the application fee is non-refundable.

Waldoch: and that's the \$200?

Mursko: That was the \$200. The \$1500 is escrow and that's for costs for the planner report that was generated and any other cost that the City endures, and you'll get the difference back. Every time you apply, you will have to do the same thing. You will have to put up the \$200 and the

escrow. The interim use permit is not a guaranteed 5 years. Its between 1 and 5 years, and so it will be at the recommendation of the planning commission as to how many years you receive for your interim use permit. But each and every time you apply you will have to do the same process. Now you have this really neat site plan, so you'll be able to use this site plan and a few things over again. But you will have to fill the application out.

Waldoch: I did read all this stuff, and this is all stuff that is correct, and I will abide by that yes.

Krebs: Can I ask a follow up question? Do you foresee that your business will grow in the next 5 years?

Waldoch: I hope so.

Krebs: More employees? More movement?

Waldoch: I would like it to be growing, yes. I know there's more room on the property to build a bigger building, so that's phase 2.

Krebs: Okay. Thank you.

Hanegraaf: Any more questions? Do you see item number 6 there?

Waldoch: Yep.

Hanegraaf: So, we're back to the pole barn? Everything is going to be in the pole barn?

Waldoch: Yep.

Hanegraaf: But those trailers, you leave behind the pole barn?

Waldoch: I do now. But if they need to be in there, then they must be in there.

Hanegraaf: Okay, just so you understand it. And you understand, that we're not the ones that okay this IUP, it will be the City Council. We just make recommendations.

Waldoch: Okay.

Hanegraaf: Okay. Any other questions? Pam? Jody? Thank you, Dan. And we'll close the public hearing.

Mursko: You're going to close the public hearing with the right to reopen if there's other information that comes before you.

Waldoch: I just sit and wait?

Wolowski: Yes.

Hanegraaf: Do I have to say that? We're going to close the hearing, unless we need to call you back up later.

Wolowski: With the right to reopen.

Waldoch: So, can I go home?

Hanegraaf: No.

Waldoch: Okay. I got to work.

Hanegraaf: We have the right to reopen it, that's what I'm saying. We're closing the public hearing, so nobody can get up and talk anymore. We're going to discuss it up here for the discussion. Thank you, Dan.

At this time Chair Hanegraaf closed the Public Hearing. Hearing closed at 7:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rochelle Busch, Recording Secretary