

**City of Columbus**  
**Public Hearing –**  
**7640 CROSSWAYS LAKE DRIVE IUP REQUEST (PC19-102)**  
**February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

The February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Public Hearing to consider a request by the applicant, Michele D. Whitney, for a Residential Zone Business Interim Use Permit (IUP) to allow the operation of a pet grooming business, was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Ron Hanegraaf at the City Hall. Present were 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:** Jessica, could you read the public notice on the IUP for Michele Whitney?

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

**Hanegraaf:** Thank you, is Michele Whitney here? Or anybody representing her? Thank you, if you could come up? Could you state your name and your address?

**Whitney:** Michele D. Whitney, 7640 Crossways Lake Drive Forest Lake MN 55025, but Columbus actually.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay, well Michele as you probably seen with Dan we're going to ask you about this IUP. We want you to explain what your going to do at this residence, and where it's going to be, the hours etc. What kind of operation? What kind of business your going to run out of this residence?

**Whitney:** Okay, its in the corner of our garage. Its like 12x12 feet. Once upon a time it was my husbands man cave. Hours of operation are by appointment only

**Hanegraaf:** I'm sorry what?

**Whitney:** Operation hours are by appointment only. Usually Tuesday through Saturday. I expect 1-6 clients a week. Its kind of a part-time job for me. My husband passed away last February, and I just, need to work out of my home. I have a son with autism, he's 27. And my 90-year-old dad lives with me. Its easier to work out of home, for a lot of reasons like that.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay, when you say the hours by appointment, I mean...

**Whitney:** Well people call me, and I say," oh you want to come in Tuesday at 11?"

**Hanegraaf:** Okay, but are you going to take anybody at 4 o'clock in the morning or 10 o'clock at night?

**Whitney:** No. No. I usually work like 10 to 6.

**Hanegraaf:** can we have something permanent, like, I'm going to work, my appointment schedules going to be 10 in the morning to 6. Can you?

**Whitney:** I can say that, because I usually don't work before 10 and I usually don't work after 6.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay, so we'll agree that its 10 to 6.

**Whitney:** 10 to 6.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay, this little shop your talking here, is it heated?

**Whitney:** I have a little space heater in there. We had some electrical work done in there recently. We pulled an electrical permit through the State of Minnesota and added a couple lights, and another plug in for it.

**Hanegraaf:** Do you have water in there?

**Whitney:** Yep.

**Hanegraaf:** And um, I talked to you earlier about this license, this certificate with the state in somebody else's name? Do you want to explain that?

**Whitney:** Um, well you know my life is kind of changing. So, I have a 2 to 5-year plan to move probably to Florida in the winter, whatever, we're downsizing. So, my niece has lived there for 3 years, and I just asked if she could figure out a name for the business and get the phone number in her name. Because when I move and sell, she's going to move the business to Forest Lake or wherever she moves to.

**Hanegraaf:** Is she going to do any work there or is it just you?

**Whitney:** She plans on doing, she has a regular grooming job, in Little Canada. So, I think she plans on doing a couple dogs a week, here or there.

**Hanegraaf:** So, there's going to be 2 employees there. 2 part-time employees?

**Whitney:** Yes, me and her.

**Hanegraaf:** and people who come to drop their dogs off, they just drop them off and leave?

**Whitney:** Yep, we have a designated time, like come in at 10. And then when they drop off I see what kind of haircut they need, how long it will take. And I say come back, you know, in an hour and a half or two hours.

**Hanegraaf:** And if they don't come back in an hour and a half, or two hours, what do you do with the dog, if you have somebody else?

**Whitney:** I just sit there and usually either hold it in my lap or...

**Hanegraaf:** You don't have a kennel or nothing?

**Whitney:** I do have some kennels.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay

**Whitney:** But it's a small more personal type endeavor for me too. Like I had one dog that was really scared, and wet, and it didn't like the blow drier and I actually had it, brought it in, my dad held it for like an hour. My dad enjoyed it, and the dog. Then it was dry and then I could finish it.

**Hanegraaf:** So, you only expect maybe 6 customers a week.

**Whitney:** Yeah, yeah.

**Hanegraaf:** And what about your niece? How many customers...

**Whitney:** She works at another shop, so she don't really plan on working there a lot. I just wanted the business in her name. I do do business, I do small business as small business as Michele's Paw Spa, I just wanted a change in the name or something and I couldn't decide on a name.

**Hanegraaf:** Oh, you have another business, or you did?

**Whitney:** I did have a business

**Hanegraaf:** Where was that located?

**Whitney:** Centerville.

**Hanegraaf:** Oh, okay. It wasn't in Columbus.

**Whitney:** Right.

**Hanegraaf:** So, you only expect 1 car to be pulling in there to be dropping the dog off and maybe another one coming. And one picking up and leaving.

**Whitney:** Yeah, yeah.

**Hanegraaf:** Do you ever plan these dogs to be outside?

**Whitney:** Nope, I don't let them out.

**Hanegraaf:** The chain linked fence you got in the front yard?

**Whitney:** Nope. I don't let them out. They're there for an hour to 2 or 3 hours. And I have the people bring them potty before they come or go. I wouldn't bring a dog out. If it got away from me, slipped out of its leash, I would be liable. And I do have liability insurance too just incase something.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay, well we all know dogs bark. Do you have a dog at your house now?

**Whitney:** I have 2 little dogs.

**Hanegraaf:** Have you ever had a complaint on those two?

**Whitney:** No, just from my husband.

**Hanegraaf:** Alright. Do you expect there will be a lot of noise?

**Whitney:** No, I don't think so.

**Hanegraaf:** Dogs go to the bathroom, and stuff like that. What are you going to do with that waste?

**Whitney:** I usually use paper towels or a plastic baggie and throw it away.

**Hanegraaf:** In your garbage. So, they're not going to be outside at all?

**Whitney:** No, just coming and going.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay. Do you have any questions, Pam?

**Wolowski:** Yes, I do. Mr. Chair, any concerns from your neighbors? Any complaints or have you talked to anybody?

**Whitney:** My brother lives next door in one direction. I haven't talked to the other neighbors' neighbor across the street used to bring his dogs to me, well he still does but he moved.

**Wolowski:** No complaints or concerns from anybody in the neighborhood.

**Whitney:** No, no.

**Wolowski:** Okay, thank you.

**Hanegraaf:** Back to the question, your brother does he live to the south of you there? That beige house?

**Whitney:** Yes.

**Hanegraaf:** Okay.

**Whitney:** Yep.

**Hanegraaf:** Jody, do you have questions?

**Krebs:** Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you for allowing me to come and visit your place. It was very very nice. Very friendly and clean. It was very nice to see. Just a few questions here, on letter 'M', you have hours 9 to 5. Does the 10 to 6 matter to you? Does it matter which one? Which do you prefer?

**Whitney:** Probably the 9 to 5.

**Krebs:** Probably the 9 to 5. Mr. Chair, is it okay if we go back to her original request? On letter 'M' she had already stated she was requesting the 9 to 5 hours. Is it okay if we change that?

**Hanegraaf:** Yes, we can change that.

**Krebs:** And then as far you own the property, you live at the property? You are just using a name for that under your niece correct?

**Whitney:** Yeah, she lives there too.

**Krebs:** Oh, she does live there.

**Whitney:** Yeah, yeah.

**Krebs:** Okay, thank you.

**Hanegraaf:** I have no other questions

**Whitney:** Okay.

**Hanegraaf:** Appreciate you coming in. If you want to wait off the front here and we will see if there's anybody in the public. I can look out there and I know everybody out there. Is there anybody in the public that would like to make a comment or statement about this IUP we are

discussing up here? Nobody's coming, so we'll close the public hearing on that part. And open it up for discussion.

At this time Chair Hanegraaf closed the Public Hearing. Hearing closed at 7:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rochelle Busch, Recording Secretary