

City of Columbus
Public Hearing
CUP USED CAR SALES, VEHICLE REPAIR, AND BODY SHOP
13733 LAKE DRIVE (PC19-104)
March 20th, 2019

The March 20th, 2019 Public Hearing to consider a request for a conditional use permit to allow used car sales, vehicle repair and body shop (California Cars Connection) at 13733 Lake Dr. NE, Columbus, Minnesota, was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Ron Hanegraaf at the City Hall. Present were Commission members Kris King, Pam Wolowski, Jody Krebs, and Barb Bobick; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko; and Public Communications Coordinator Jessica Hughes.

Also, in attendance City Council Members Shelly Logren, and Janet Heglund; and Dan Friedner, Arlen Logren, Douglas Dykstra, Anthony Perez, and Myron and Cindy Angel.

Hanegraaf: Well we might as well get right down to the nit and gritty here. Is it Douglas Dykstra? And you're the owner of California Cars?

Dykstra: Me and him, this is Anthony.

Hanegraaf: Oh ok, you are the one that lives in California, then.

Perez: Yes, I am, Sir.

Hanegraaf: So, if you guys want to come up and have, oh I'm sorry. Come on up, forgot about Jessie, you want to read the published hearing?

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

Hanegraaf: Thank you. Now could you state your names, each one of you and what you represent?

Dykstra: Douglas Dykstra.

Hanegraaf: And your address?

Dykstra: Andover, Minnesota.

Hanegraaf: Okay, do we need his street address on that.

Mursko: We're good.

Hanegraaf: We're good. Okay.

Perez: Anthony Perez, Carpenter California.

Hanegraaf: And you're a representative for him?

Friedner: Yes. Dan Friedner, Lindstrom Minnesota.

Hanegraaf: Oh, Okay. Well we might as well start with the two owners of the place. If you want to tell us what you plan to do and how you plan to operate out of this facility on Lake Drive.

Dykstra: Essentially its going to be bringing cars from out west, without rust, older cars. Putting just for sale on the internet or fix them and put them back on the internet. Its going to be all done on the web, for the most part. We will do, some will be completely redone, and some will be just sold right away the way they sit. Most of them are old from 50's, 60's, 70's stuff like that.

Hanegraaf: Okay, how did you pick Columbus?

Dykstra: Well, Dan was looking for a building, and I live pretty close. I have another job as well and I work considerably close, in Coon Rapids, so it works out. Its kind of hard to find a good size building.

Hanegraaf: So how do you plan to get the cars here? Do they come on a semi?

Dykstra: Yeah, they come on a semi. I will unload them, and bring them inside the fence there, up in front of the building and most of them will go inside of it.

Hanegraaf: So how many cars do you think you'll have there?

Dykstra: I don't think we, see we would have maybe 15 or 20 at the most. That will fit. Most of them will fit inside there the building.

Hanegraaf: And how many employees will you have?

Dykstra: It will be me and 2 other gentlemen. Will be working, depending on experience.

Hanegraaf: Is this like Gas Monkey's Garage? It is? For the public, does anybody know what Gas Monkey's is? It's on satellite TV. Its Richard Rawlings, isn't it? It's a pretty famous show. They build muscle cars. That's the first thing I thought about when I read this. So that's what you're going to do?

Dykstra: Yeah, some of them are pickup trucks. I've already acquired some that aren't here yet, but in route. But there's some, ya know, the muscle cars.

Hanegraaf: You talk about the internet, more so, but people, I don't know. Its just me personally I wouldn't buy, I'd like to look at something before I buy it. So, your going to have people come out to the place there.

Dykstra: Well, yeah. If they call me, were going to do a website. Once I get a physical address I will do the website, have it done professionally. And if they want to see one of the vehicles that we have, they would make an appointment, I would come out there and meet them. I plan on being there first.

Hanegraaf: Secondly, when you talk about the website, do you know you need a dealership license?

Dykstra: Absolutely, I was there this morning, in St. Paul as part of the process with that. I got a bond, you have to get a \$50,000 bond as well. I got this all started with the business insurance company as well. It just turns out that they do that too. It's one stop shopping. I want to do this completely right.

Hanegraaf: So, you're going to do it like Gas Monkey's and have Miller Lite Beer there?

Dykstra: No, I have to drive home.

Hanegraaf: Well, he just advertises for that too.

Perez: That's for me. I have the beer assistant.

Hanegraaf: So, are you staying in California then?

Perez: I will be coming out here probably once a month or so. I want to be in detail with this as well. I'm taking a course for the painting aspect, I've been a painter my whole life, so. I want to be updated on all the new paint facility, what it facilitates to be a car painter, and all that, exhaust and the fumes, and all that, and the new paint booths and everything else. Be up to date with regulations. I will be out in California looking at cars and purchasing and sending them out here on transportation. And, I do want to be you know as much as part of this as possible. For him and I have always been a car geek myself. He's been a little bit more than myself. He's a little more involved in it. I'm learning a lot as I go. We do have some specialty vehicles right now, that are very exciting in my book. I think they're ready to go. We have some that are ready to flip already that we want to, we don't plan on having these cars sit around for too long. We want to restore them and get the majority of them back to original factory stuff, or some of them will be make them to order for certain individuals if they choose so. You know if somebody likes this car on our website and they say they want specific things, we can do that for them.

Hanegraaf: So, you're going to have 2 other employees then?

Dykstra: Yeah, we will have a long-time mechanic and body man.

Hanegraaf: And your hours are?

Dykstra: It would be 8 o'clock to 4. Maybe a day when I want to do something on one of my personal cars after that, I might hang around a little bit longer. I plan on being there every single

day, as soon I get off my other job, I will be over. I don't see that nights and things like that, I have that, I don't want that anymore.

Wolowski: Mr. Chair, I missed the hours?

Hanegraaf: 8 to 4. Doesn't it say 8 to 8?

Dykstra: It would be something like that.

Wolowski: Oh, Okay, so 8 to 8. Is that...

Dykstra: Unless, somebody calls me and says, "I'd like to come see this particular car" and I get off work, whatever.

Hanegraaf: Will you have a showroom there?

Wolowski: Is that 5 days a week?

Hanegraaf: No, I think it was, how many days a week?

Wolowski: It was 7, right?

Dykstra: Yeah.

Wolowski: 7 yep.

Dykstra: they have a part of the building is for cars, the middle would be for working on them with a big curtain up, so they wouldn't get all dusty or whatever, when your doing the work.

Hanegraaf: So, they will come in on a semi, or one of those big car haulers.

Dykstra: Yeah

Hanegraaf: Are you going to haul any Minnesota cars back to California?

Perez: I've got a good look at them, I've seen the rust. I don't think they will be going back.

Wolowski: Well, you guys are going to be in a great location. You have Waldoch's Custom right there and then you have the Man Caves.

Dykstra: We walked into that. I've been in this all my life, this type of cars. I came from California in 91. I've never left. My father is from here originally. Him and I are cousins. Our family out there, I came here, and I love it here. My kid graduated and played at the U. I got into the trucking business when I first came here and worked myself up. I like it here. I just think this is a good

thing to do here. Everybody's working, and lot of guys want those cars back from when they were young.

Friedner: And Waldoch's Custom's, Don Waldoch actually owns the building, so he would be the landlord. He's very much in favor and thinks it's a great synergy between the two businesses.

Waldoch: Nice.

Hanegraaf: Jody.

Krebs: I just have a few questions. Hi Doug, nice to see you. Thank you for allowing me to come out to see the space, really cool space. I think it's a great idea. Just a few things to touch on. More of in our findings of fact and stuff. You got an email on those, were you able to look at that and stuff.

Dykstra: I did.

Krebs: Okay, was there anything that you thought was, you didn't understand, or?

Dykstra: Um, not really. I'm working a lot of that stuff with the (unintelligible). How much, what are we going to need for (unintelligible).

Krebs: Okay, so you said you were going to put a fan in that was something from Leon, our Building Inspector.

Dykstra: I will have somebody come in and do that, its (unintelligible), work for that, for the inspector.

Krebs: And then, about how many cars do you think you'll sell in like a year? On average?

Dykstra: 20 to 30 at the most, I would imagine.

Krebs: 20 to 30.

Mursko: A year?

Wolowski: A year?

Friedner: More if possible.

Perez: As many as possible, of course. That's why I'm hoping we'll be able to flip them as fast as possible. But some cars take a little longer.

Krebs: Okay, and then equipment wise, inside the building your going to have what? from my yard to his.

Dykstra: A paint booth.

Krebs: A booth.

Dykstra: Yeah, brand new one. State of the art. Filters all over it and stuff. And then we'll have a lift.

Krebs: A lift.

Dykstra: And I will get a frame rack in there. So, if I got to straighten stuff out (unintelligible). The guys I have working with me are all ex(unintelligible). And he's (Perez) going to go to PPG in Hopkins for school while he's here. And he knows how to paint cars already but were going to learn how to do it from PPG the new stuff that they have. Paint now days some of its water based and it doesn't even have the HAZMAT to it. I want to start looking at that but its still some of the stuff we will be using will be done per the State of Minnesota. (Unintelligible) the environment is all handled well. Any if I have to change oils or anything like that it will be exactly, we will store and take it to a recycle (unintelligible). Its not going to be that much. According to Minnesota if I do less than 2000 gallons a year, which I'll never hit that, I don't even have to get that, that's what they told me this morning.

Krebs: Over in Anoka County?

Dykstra: Correct, no, so this was the state.

Krebs: Oh, the state?

Dykstra: I met with a couple people this morning. We've been taking the time trying to get this done when we could. I will go to them next and get that in writing.

Friedner: When your City Inspector was out, he talked about the specifications of the (unintelligible) he was familiar with it, how ventilation works and its all contained so that there's no fumes that go outside the booth itself.

Krebs: Is there any ventilation part of it that goes up out of the building at all?

Perez: This is a self-contained I do have some packets here if you guys want to view any of it. We made some copies

Krebs: We talked about that too getting a somatic.

Perez: You guys are more than welcome, I will hand them to you. Would you like them right now?

Mursko: Yeah.

Friedner: That's the big difference in the booths that they make now. They are all self-contained so that it's not going out in the air.

King: Mr. Chairman, may I ask a question?

Hanegraaf: Jody has the floor right now.

Krebs: So, on the hazardous waste permit, license I'm sorry, with Anoka County. You'll talk to them?

Dykstra: I will take care of that right away. You have to do an ID for that building. I would have had all this done but I didn't have an address telling them this is the address. From when we met the man for the dealer's license and everything like that and he worked with us very nicely and we are going to get that too. So that we will have everything done we need done. But we can sell 5 of them without that right away. I'm not going to sell anything. I want that stuff in and done. So that were completely and above (unintelligible).

Mursko: Mr. Chairman, just for the record the address has already been established and long established. For this site its 13733 Lake Drive. So, it's the current address yes.

Krebs: One more question, we talked about the drains in the floor of the building.

Dykstra: I will talk to him about that, as soon as we walk out of here. We saw one, we want to know where it goes.

Krebs: The reason why I'm asking, committee, is that we have in the past had businesses when they have alternative fluids that they have an alternate drain container that can be pumped. I don't know if this site has it, but I know there's open drain in the building. And so, we were just inquiring in where, you were going to speak to Mr. Waldoch, on whether he had a drain an actual tank for that or not. Or if it flows right in to the septic system.

Dykstra: When you wash cars it goes right into, there's a thing there for it to go right in to. And I want to know, does it get pumped? Do we have to get something?

Friedner: I believe there's a final waste trap there that's (unintelligible)

Krebs: You know that for a fact?

Friedner: I don't.

Krebs: We're at hearing. That's why we're asking. We have to know the facts to give to the City Council. We can't just say we think. So, if we could verify that, that would be awesome. Just also because when you're working on those older vehicles 50's you may be looking at some lead paint, when you do some of your sanding down and stuff like that. That's now stuff that just gets washed

away, and where does that go? You know? So, we kind of have to. I think Mr. Chair, that's all my questions.

Hanegraaf: And Kris, alright.

Wolowski: Can I just ask one question or Jody? I'll wait until hearing

Krebs: Discussion.

King: I was just, I know you were talking about the paints and a lot of them now are becoming water based but a lot of the ones you are using to begin with are they combustible? Flammable?

Dykstra: They are.

King: And does this spray booth have a fire suppressant?

Dykstra: They come with that.

King: Oh okay.

Dykstra: You can order those with that. (Unintelligible) We want to do everything nice. So, everybody's happy, we wanted it anyways.

King: I assume you want your cars to prestige.

Perez: I'm very environmentally conscious as well. I'm a stickler to keep our environment as it is.

King: Thank you.

Krebs: And Mr. Chair. One more question.

Hanegraaf: I think Pam.

Wolowski: No, I'm good.

Hanegraaf: You're good?

Wolowski: I'm good I'm waiting for discussion.

Krebs: On your transport, is there any chance the truck might come in on Sunday night?

Dykstra: No.

Krebs: You'll make plans, that they're coming during your

Dykstra: I'll make sure.

Krebs: I just know with weather

Dykstra: I can be there, I want to make sure these cars are in the same shape when they come off.

Krebs: Okay. Fair enough. Thanks

Hanegraaf: So, some of these cars are coming in that you won't have to do any work on probably?

Perez: I found some nice ones.

Hanegraaf: Oh, you did? So, do you bring them in an enclosed trailer then? One of those?

Dykstra: No, they're insured so if something happens. To get them in an enclosed is very very expensive. After we get these initial cars in, then were not going to have so many coming at once. Maybe 2 at a time. Then you could put it in something like that. Depends on what it is by the way. Were trying to get a 65 Mustang that's worth probably \$70,000. That one I would put inside. Its so rare, you wouldn't want something to happen to it.

Wolowski: I could drive it back.

King: Mr. Chair, I have one more question. There are the possibility people are going to come to your shop. What about test driving? If they're going to buy one, I assume they're going to want to test drive it. I assume it's got some power.

Dykstra: That aint going to happen.

King: Okay. You're not going to let them rip up and down Lake Drive.

Dykstra: When they buy that.

Perez: When the check clears, the cash is good, then they can go away from the site and burn all the rubber they want. But not, on their site not near us. There won't be any burning rubber near us.

Krebs: One more question Mr. Chair. In one of the points in the facts, site standards for the parking are partially met. And it says that space for employees and customers must be paved. I don't know if you read that verbatim and understood that part. I know we talked about that you would like to alleviate that part because it's just employee parking. Its only 3 spots.

Dykstra: Yeah right where, remember where it was covered with snow there. That's all paved, that's where customers

Krebs: I'm just saying that the planner has that written in there and you said you read it. I'm just verifying that something you understood.

Dykstra: I thought that I did, both sides of that little parking lot. In front of that little office, they can park right there as well. That's the thought (unintelligible)

Krebs: Okay.

Dykstra: If somebody wants to come and see something (unintelligible).

Hanegraaf: Anybody have any other questions? Well it's our practice before we open the public hearing to allow the public to talk, we can call you back if we have questions. So, if you can go back to your seats, we will open it up to the public. Anybody in the audience that would like to get up to the microphone and give their comments, their statements about this business coming in to our community? Don't have to run. I think you were right. Nobody wants to get up and talk. Well then we'll close the public hearing.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Rochelle Busch, Recording Secretary