

CITY OF COLUMBUS
PUBLIC HEARING IN ALTERNATIVE MEETING FORMAT
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021
THOMAS SWENSON 7643 CAMP 3 RD IUP(PC20-109)
05.06.2020

The 05.06.2020 Public Hearing to consider a request by the applicant, Thomas Swenson, a public hearing was to consider request for an interim use permit to operate a used vehicle sales dealer (R&T Auto Sales) as a residential zoned business in the RR district, was called to order at 7:09 p.m. by Chair Ron Hanegraaf at the City Hall. Present were Commission member Kris King. Present via telephone were Commission members: Pam Wolowski, Barb Bobick, and Steve Wagamon; City Administrator Elizabeth Mursko via telephone; City Planning Technician Ben Gutknecht; and Administrative Technician Rochelle Busch. The meeting was held in a telephonic meeting format.

Also, in attendance via telephone were: Mayor Jesse Preiner; City Council members: Janet Hegland, and Shelly Logren; Thomas Swenson.

Hanegraaf: Were going to go on to agenda item number 8, a Public hearing and discussion. Rochelle would you like to read the notice as published?

Notice was read at this time by the recording secretary.

Hanegraaf: Thank you, Rochelle. At this time, I would like Thomas Swenson or their representative to acknowledge their presence and state their name and address?

Swenson: Thomas Swenson. My address is 7643 Camp Three Road NE, Columbus.

Hanegraaf: Thank you. Mr. Swenson, can we call you Tom?

Swenson: Yeah.

Hanegraaf: Okay, Tom, you're requesting a renewal of your IUP. Could you give us a short description of your business and what activities you will be conducting at R & T Auto Sales?

Swenson: I buy used cars from an auto auction. I do minor repairs to them once they're here. And then get them ready for sale. A lot of cars don't come here anymore, and they go to other auctions and get sold.

Hanegraaf: Okay. Is that about it?

Swenson: Yeah, I can't really think of anything else.

Hanegraaf: Okay, well Mr. Swenson, did you receive a packet from the City of Columbus noting the findings of fact and the 18 conditions concerning your interim use permit?

Swenson: I did.

Hanegraaf: Do you understand these conditions? Do you have any questions concerning them?

Swenson: Only the having to contact Anoka County about the oil waste, in which I don't produce.

Hanegraaf: Was that on the conditions?

Swenson: Somewhere in there.

Gutknecht: It is condition number 14. He does in fact do oil changes off site, that is what you're saying Tom? Sorry this is Ben Gutknecht, City Planning technician.

Swenson: Yes, I do all oil changes off site, except for personal.

Hanegraaf: That's on page 10, Ben, number 14. Okay, that's the only item or question you have?

Swenson: Yeah.

Hanegraaf: Okay, I would like to note Tom, that there are some minor changes in the 18 conditions, compared to your last IUP, issued in 2018. Some of them are minor and some of them, just like that page you said right there that number 14. So, you understand that this IUP are these 18 items, these conditions?

Swenson: Yeah.

Hanegraaf: Okay, Commission Members, do you have any questions for Mr. Swenson? We'll start with Kris and move to the left.

King: Yes. Mr. Swenson, I do have one question, I noticed your last IUP called out that you were doing fenders and other items, brakes, I think it was considered light and now you are going minimal. Are you not planning on doing anything, removing or replacing fenders?

Swenson: No. I found it easier to just bring the car over to a body shop and take everything apart and put it back on for me and then they paint the car.

King: So, you're not doing any, this is Kris again, brakes or bumpers or struts, nothing like that, like you had in your last one.

Swenson: I do some struts and some brakes occasionally. Take them out, putting in new ones

King: This is probably a question to the City then, is that considered minor repairs? I do notice that the last IUP they needed to call them items out. Does it have to be called out in this? If he's doing struts or brakes.

Gutknecht: I guess that might be dependent on, I think in the last one there was a discussion, in the last IUP, of what was considered minor versus major repairs so if its of the Planning Commissions recommendations that that they think that's a minor or major repair we can consider it one or the other. I should defer back to the, if it is as little as Tom says, so he says most of them go to auction rather than back to his area, than I assume there is less cars that are being worked on with brakes or struts.

King: And I'm just asking because I want to make sure he's got in there what he wants. And then you were reducing the number of cars from 20 to 15. The only other item I have is, I did drive by your property and it is very neat and clean. You would not know a business was there unless you really, well, because I knew it was there. Otherwise it did not look like there was a car dealer. It was very neat and clean. And that's nice. That's part of the ordinances to be incognito more or less. So, you do fit that perfectly. Under the conditions, and this might be more with the city, number 9 mentions that he shall remain the sole employee. And then number 12 talks about Swenson and any employees, agents and that.

Gutknecht: And that's, 9 is he shall remain the sole employee just that's typical for the residential zoned businesses. It could be 1 to 2, but they would keep it with family. And so that's that clause in there for number 12, in case say there's another renewal 5 years that could still be in there.

King: Okay.

Gutknecht: Its just to kind of catch everything. Or if he would like to make an amendment in a future application.

King: Perfect. No. Thank you. That's all I have. Pam?

Wolowski: Pam Wolowski. Hello Tom. I just had one quick question for you. Under the conditions on page 9, number 3 your past IUP you had 20 vehicles and your reducing to 15. Are you sure about that? Because now is the time for 5 years, if you have any anticipation, and we've had no complaints and like Kris said, I drove by as well and you run a nice tight ship over there and I did check, Chairman Ron told me that no complaints. So, now's the time if you ever anticipate going to 20, back up to 20, to do it now. Just want to make sure that you have what you need when we renew this for 5 years.

Swenson: No, I've counted several times and 15 will be just fine.

Wolowski: Okay. And that is all I have.

Hanegraaf: Barb? Barb? Do you have any questions?

Bobick: I'm sorry I was on mute. Hi Mr. Swenson, Tom. I did drive by your property also, and it is very good condition, as far as you wouldn't know there's a business there. And I did review the City Council video for April 11th 2018 and April 25th 2018 and I know pretty well everything you went through, all those questions and in April 25th you provided the dealers license and talked to

public safety and they said you were in good standing and the location was approved. You gave us the number of cars you sold in 2017 and you also paid commercial taxes. So, I think you have answered any questions that I would have. So, thank you very much. And I will turn it over to Steve now.

Wagamon: Thank you. This is Steve Wagamon, Thomas, hi. I don't have any real questions either. I did drive by and I do agree with what everybody else has said. It was, I actually had trouble finding it to start with. Once I did find it, I found it very clean and the property looked very nice. I don't have any questions at all. Good luck.

Hanegraaf: Thank you.

Wagamon: That's all I have.

Hanegraaf: Mr. Swenson, were going to open up the public hearing, but we'd like to reserve the right to come back to you, if further questions should come up. Do you understand that Tom?

Swenson: Yes.

Hanegraaf: Okay it's time to open up the public hearing for the public, anyone who has any interest in this matter and wants to present testimony as evidence on this issue, please acknowledge themselves by stating their name and address, after which you have the floor to speak. Hearing no response, I'm going to close the hearing.

At this time Chair Hanegraaf closed the Public Hearing. Hearing closed at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rochelle Busch, Recording Secretary