



Planning and Economic Development  
Sara Roediger, AICP, Director

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From: Sara Roediger  
To: Planning Commission  
Date: 4/13/2017  
Re: Discussion on Crematoriums

The City has been approached in the fall of 2016 about the possibility to use an existing property located within the REC-W Regional Employment Center – Workplace District to be used for a crematorium. While not specifically listed in the zoning ordinance, it was staff's determination that a crematorium was most similar to an incinerator use and would not be permitted in the City. A legal opinion was also provided by the City attorney in a memo dated January 5, 2017 which supported staffs interpretation.

The property owner then applied to the ZBA for an appeal of staff's decision, which was denied at the January 11, 2017 meeting, please see attached minutes. The discussion that ensued at the ZBA meeting included a recommendation that the City Council and Planning Commission make a determination on whether or not to permit crematoriums moving forward, and if so to prepare a zoning ordinance amendment indicating where they would be permitted and any associated conditions that would be required.

Staff has requested Giffels Webster, the City's planning consultant to conduct some preliminary research on how crematoriums are handled in other communities and their findings are attached.

This evening the property owner would like to discuss with the Planning Commission the possibility of allowing crematoriums in the City and gauge the interest of the Commission to direct staff to prepare an amendment.

As always, feel free to contact me at [roedigers@rochesterhills.org](mailto:roedigers@rochesterhills.org) or 248-841-2573 if you have any questions in advance of the meeting.