

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING OF THE MANNING BOARD OF APPEALS**

**Monday, January 07, 2015  
6:00 P.M.**

**Council Chambers  
City Hall Bldg.**

**Members Present:**

Marvin L. Brewer  
Ted Gardner  
James Zimmerman  
Mark Bellamy- Alternate

**Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

Mary Adger  
Administrative Services Coordinator

Donna Walker  
Administrative Services Clerk

**I. Welcome/Introductory Remarks:**

Mr. T. Gardner welcomed all and presented the Board Members. In addition, Mr. Gardner reminded everyone to turn off their cell phones or to put their phones on vibrate. Furthermore, Mr. Gardner stated that everyone speaking needed to state their names and sign in if they were “for” or “against” a request when coming forth.

**II. Invocation:** Mr. T. Gardner

**III. Request No. E-2016-01 by Rommie Williams to be allow a special exception to operate a theological institute (Bible School) located at 113 E. Boyce Street, Tax Map# 187-02-04-015-00, zoned General Commercial (GC).**

**Rommie Williams & Clifford Brown (Representatives)**

Mr. Rommie Williams introduced his colleague, Dr. Clifford Brown. Following, Dr. Brown stated that he is the president of Christian Education Theological Training and Institute. He shared information about the institute and how it can embrace and create new jobs for the city. Dr. Brown also stated that the location is 113 E. Boyce Street which was previously a training school called Sweat’s Driving Training. However, he plans to provide religious teaching for women and men. The Bible School is not based on denomination, stated Dr. Brown.

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**The following inquiries were made by the Board:**

**Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner asked how many employees will be at the institute.

**Dr. Brown**

Dr. Brown stated that only one employee right now; however, more will follow once they get more students involved.

**Mr. Bellamy**

Mr. Bellamy asked what schools was the institute affiliated with.

**Mr. Brown**

Dr. Brown stated that they are partners with Shaw University and Voorhees College.

**Mr. Bellamy**

Mr. Bellamy asked with continuing education hours if the organization was a vendor or licensed through another vendor.

**Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown stated that he has an earned doctorate and he use to teach at Trident Technical College and Youth Built AmeriCorps where he had twenty-one years of teaching experience. Also, he stated that he has been in ministry for twenty-eight years. Reverend Rommie also has longevity in ministering. This theological institute will be teaching students to be leaders to teach your sons and daughters about the aspect of theology.

**Mr. Brewer**

Mr. Brewer asked how long is the program.

**Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown stated that continuing education can be months and weeks depending on the student. A degree program is four years for undergraduate and graduate students would be about a year and half. Some students take evening classes which would take about three years because you don't put in a lot of hours.

**Mr. Zimmerman**

Mr. Zimmerman asked who was going to be the administrator of the location at 113 E. Boyce Street.

**Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown stated that he will be the administrator but Mr. Williams will be the overseer of the institute.

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**Mr. Zimmerman**

Mr. Zimmerman asked if the majority of the students will be from Clarendon County.

**Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown stated that the students would drive no more than thirty minutes; he is looking at other sites to open up a theological institute so students want have to drive so far.

**Mr. Zimmerman**

Mr. Zimmerman asked what kind of background. Mr. Williams has to be an overseer of the institute.

**Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown repeated that Mr. Williams will oversee the building; others will provide training by way of video in the classrooms that are capable of teaching theology to the students.

**Mr. Zimmerman**

Mr. Zimmerman asked by being partners with Shaw University is there a name or department head that you can provide a contact number.

**Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown stated that he doesn't mean to be rude but he doesn't need the Board contacting Shaw about his affiliation with the university. He also stated that he has never gone through these types of questions with any zoning board; he said that either you believe me or you don't. He stated that he isn't doing anything illegal but trying to bring something positive to our neighborhood.

**Mr. Gardner**

Mr. Gardner asked what type of background the instructors will have that are teaching the classes.

**Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown stated that most of the instructors graduated from Duke University, United Theological Institute and Columbia International. In addition, he stated that the school will be based on biblical studies and not denomination. Students will be able to apply for financial aid.

**Opponents:**

No one was in attendance to oppose the request.

A **motion** was made by Mr. J. Zimmerman and was seconded by Mr. M. Bellamy to grant the special exception by Mr. Rommie Williams and Mr. Clifford Brown to operate a bible institute located at 113 E. Boyce Street, TMP# 187-02-04-015-00. All favored the motion.

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After the motion, Mr. Brown stated to the Board that the Directors from Shaw University will be coming in the following months to look at the building and he is inviting all the Board members to a luncheon. The Board members accepted the lunch invite.

**IV. Board Comments:**

No Comments from the Board

**VII. Adjournment:**

A **motion** was made by Mr. L. Brewer to adjourn and Mr. M. Bellamy seconded the motion. All favored the motion.

**Time:** 6:37 P.M.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

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**Donna Walker, Administrative Services Clerk**