

Short-term rentals heading back to planning

BY NORM CANNADA
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SENECA — A revision of a proposed ordinance regulating and allowing short-term rentals in the city is scheduled to once

again be presented to the Seneca Planning Commission on Monday night.

The commission is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall.

City administrator Scott

Moulder said the revisions came after meetings he had with representatives on both sides of the ordinance, as well as looking at policies in other cities and conversations with city attorney Bo Bowman.

“There have been some changes to the ordinance that we feel were important to provide an enforceable document to regulate short-term rentals, to allow them to exist, and to minimize the potential

commission

quality-of-life impact on neighboring properties,” Moulder said Friday.

Officials have said the ordinance is in response to a lawsuit filed against the city by a couple who has used a home bought

in Seneca’s Normandy Shores community for short-term rentals. Council approved the ordinance on first reading in April, but the vote failed

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on second and final reading in August. In between those dates, the planning commission voted not to recommend approval. About 80 Normandy Shores residents attended the planning commission meeting in April and a council meeting in May where the ordinance was tabled. Residents talked to the commission and council about problems with short-term rentals in previous years and their effect on the community.

Moulder, who was not working with the city when the ordinance was first proposed, recommended in August the council scrap the first

ordinance and start the process over once changes were made.

He told council in August he met with residents of the Normandy Shores community who had been the most vocal against the ordinance at planning commission and council meetings in the spring. He said he also met with proponents of short-term rentals in Seneca and did research on what other cities were doing, as well as meeting with Bowman.

After Monday’s planning commission meeting, city council is expected to discuss the ordinance during a work session Oct. 30 and could take up first reading on Nov. 13 and second reading

on Dec. 11, according to Moulder.

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