

# Permit process for PADS now advances to Planning and Zoning

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Recommend

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The Park Ridge Planning and Zoning Commission has been asked for its advice in determining whether opening a shelter for the homeless will require a special use permit from the city.

After three hours of public comment on the matter Monday night, the City Council voted unanimously to refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission consideration of a text amendment to the city's Zoning Ordinance that will allow homeless shelters in the city as special uses. City staff has not yet drafted language for that amendment, and a date has not been set for a public hearing before the Planning and Zoning Commission.

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If Planning and Zoning, and subsequently the City Council, can agree on the amendment, it would pave the way for St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, 320 S. Washington St., to request a special use permit to open a weekly Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS) site in the Parish Life Center.

Currently, homeless shelters are prohibited uses in Park Ridge because they are not defined in the city's Zoning Ordinance.

Acting Director of Community Development Carrie Davis said the city of Park Ridge will be the applicant for the text amendment, indicating that she would be researching the next steps of the process.