

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
ARCADIA PLANNING & ZONING BOARD
FEBRUARY 9, 2010
4:00 PM**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 4:00 PM with the following members, comprising a quorum, and staff present:

Planning & Zoning Board

Chairman Russell Summers

Melva Sawyer

Martin McLure (entered late)

Michael Pooser

George Whitlock

Arcadia City Staff

Interim Administrator Shelly Baumann

City Recorder Dana Williams

The Chairman called the meeting to order noting there was a quorum present. The Recorder stated Ms. Brown had contacted her a short time ago saying she had a pressing situation at the office but that if her attendance was needed in order to make a quorum, to give her a call and she would try to make it in.

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2010

On motion of Michael Pooser and seconded by Melva Sawyer, the Board voted unanimously, 4-0, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2010, regular meeting.

2. Review of the Sign Code (Ordinance 956)

The Interim Administrator stated that for the record the ordinance had not been submitted to the Planning and Zoning Board prior to going to the Council, which is one reason the Council recently voted to implement a moratorium on all signs. She added that in addition the City Planner had found contradictory information contained within the ordinance. The Interim Administrator continued that at one point the board had mentioned considering signage by geographic location rather than strictly by zoning classification and to be more mindful of US 17 North and South vs. Magnolia and Hickory as they merge into the residential districts.

The Chairman stated this is the first time he can recall that the Planning & Zoning Board did not see an ordinance to fine-tune it before forwarding it to the Council along with a recommendation.

Mr. Whitlock commented that there are approximately 21 pages of legal definitions which are "beyond the scope" of the Board; however what the Board's concerns regarding signs were in the past

were two-fold: the size and height being one and the various districts or geographic areas being the other.

(Mr. McLure entered the meeting at this point – 4:10 PM)

Mr. Roger Snyder of Dixie Signs addressed the Board saying he has been through the sign code processes several times and with several cities. He felt the best method would be to put together a working group to include a sign professional, several business people, some city administrative staff and some of the P&Z members. He stated that the once the working group had formulated their vision for sign regulations, a public meeting to receive outside ideas would be the next step, noting it would be “long and ugly” but well scrutinized and therefore workable. Mr. Snyder volunteered his participation to whatever degree was desired because he “likes Codes that work properly” and feels he has experience and knowledge to get the City’s [sign code] to that point.

Ms. Sawyer asked Mr. Snyder about the size of the Mid-Florida sign at their location in Lakeland. He responded he thought it to be 15’-25’ in height, but there are varying types depending on the neighborhood. He also explained about size and type based on location and placement; as well as other signs throughout town.

Discussion followed on gearing sign regulations to zoning but being mindful of districts and perhaps qualifying the regulations based on the number of feet from a residence. Also discussed was how the City Attorney arrived at the regulations he drafted within “this” ordinance [Ord. 956] to which the Interim Administrator stated he believes he compiled the ordinances from parts of several other municipalities.

The Chairman stated his preference for reviewing sign codes from areas similar in size and style to Arcadia such as Hardee County, Wauchula, Avon Park, Fort Meade, and Okeechobee. **On motion of Martin McLure and seconded by George Whitlock, the board voted unanimously, 5-0, to direct staff to provide sign ordinances from the above five (5) localities to the Boardmembers.**

Mr. McLure then made a motion to hold a special meeting of the Board on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, at 4 PM. The motion was seconded by George Whitlock and carried unanimously, 5-0.

Mr. Snyder, noting the Board has some idea in mind of the sign size they want, requested Mid-Florida Federal Credit Union be given permission to erect a temporary sign, not lighted, with the provision to remove and replace it with a permanent sign once the new Arcadia sign code is enacted. The Interim Administrator stated the Board could make that recommendation to Council; but also mentioned that the Council had recently put a moratorium on all signs.

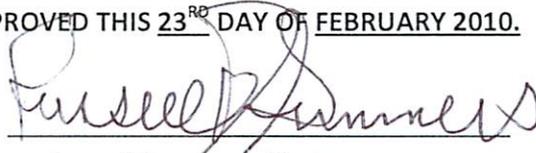
On motion of George Whitlock and seconded by Melva Sawyer, the Board voted unanimously, 5-0, to recommend to the City Council that Mid-Florida Federal Credit Union be permitted to install a temporary sign no larger than 64 sf and no higher than 15’ until a new sign code is adopted at which time the temporary sign will be removed and replaced to conformance within eight (8) weeks of ordinance adoption.

The Chairman also reminded everyone of a vacancy on the Board and noted he would contact Ms. Martha Craven to determine her interest in serving.

Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

APPROVED THIS 23RD DAY OF FEBRUARY 2010.

By:



Russell Summers, Chairman

ATTEST:



Dana L.S. Williams, CMC, City Recorder