

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
ARCADIA PLANNING & ZONING BOARD
FEBRUARY 23, 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

Michael Pooser
George Whitlock

Shirley Brown

Arcadia City Staff

Interim Administrator Shelly Baumann

City Recorder Dana Williams

The Chairman called the meeting to order noting there was a quorum present.

1. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2010

The Chairman asked for comments or a motion regarding the minutes of the February 9, 2010 meeting.

On motion of Michael Pooser and seconded by George Whitlock, the Board voted unanimously, 5-0, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2010, regular meeting.

On another matter, the Interim Administrator reported the Chairman had requested information on the composition of the Board, therefore she distributed to the members, Chapter 78 of the Code titled "Planning" in which Section 78-32 specifically addresses membership, appointment and removal of members, terms and compensation.

2. Review of Sign Codes and Arcadia Ordinance 956

Ms. Brown stated she was concerned about reviewing the various ordinances and in particular the time and expertise required, saying it was more the work of a planner. Ms. Brown felt an expert would be appropriate to assist the board in drafting a new sign code.

The Chairman responded that codes such as Okeechobee are very detailed by allowing nothing over 8' in height while others write restrictions based on zoning district; and adding he doesn't believe this task is as difficult as it appears.

Ms. Brown didn't agree with imposing sign restrictions by district, and pointed out that while it was only her opinion, she though the time involved and skill to make comparisons should be the work of a professional planner.

The Chairman asked if there was a plan in place for the near future to fill the planner's position with the City. The Interim Administrator stated she had applications from the previous hiring process, but that doesn't mean the Council will allow her to fill the position or to hire a consultant. She added, however, that Code section 78-34 does provide for expert consultants to assist the board if authorized and budgeted for by the City Council. She added the previous Planner had found several conflicts and inconsistencies in the sign ordinance, although she did not have specifics on which ones or where. The Interim Administrator also reported the Council had acted on the P&Z Board's recommendation for a sign moratorium and to allow Mid-Florida Federal Credit Union a temporary sign within the dimensions suggested.

Mr. Whitlock felt he was leaning towards Ms. Brown's suggestion to get professional assistance for this task but also felt a middle ground would be for the board or its individual members to meet with him (or her) to provide their thoughts and input. Mr. Whitlock continued that to take on the task of rewriting the sign code himself is "more involved than he signed up for." He too suggested the Council hire someone with expertise.

Discussion among the board followed on several topics and points, including zoning, spot zoning, the [approximate] size of various signs existing throughout the city, incremental height of signs by districts, and specificity of signs by type such as realty signs and construction signs. Mr. Pooser added that he was "highly impressed" with Ft. Meade's sign code which tied sign height to speed limits, saying he had never thought about that perspective. Ms. Sawyer agreed and noted Ft. Meade also had a provision that signs not specifically allowed or addressed are prohibited.

The conversation then moved to the fees involved for having the City Attorney create the existing ordinance then having to re-do it. The Interim Administrator informed the Board that creation of ordinances is included in the flat fee contracted with the Attorney.

Ms. Brown made a motion that the Planning & Zoning Board refer this sign ordinance review back to the City Council with the recommendation to obtain the services of a professional planner with municipal experience as well as expertise in sign rules and regulations, to review the existing sign ordinance and sign ordinances of surrounding cities and counties, and present the findings of the professional planner to the P&Z Board for review prior to forwarding to City Council for adoption. Mr. Whitlock provided a second and a voice vote recorded unanimous, 5-0, approval.

The Chairman stated he had spent 26 years serving on this board and although he may sit in a membership chair for a while longer, he asked the members to consider naming a new chairman and vice chairman at the next meeting.

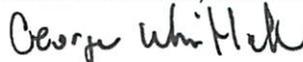
Having no further business at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 PM.

APPROVED THIS 11TH DAY OF MAY 2010.

By:



Russell Summers, Chairman



ATTEST:



Dana L.S. Williams, CMC, City Recorder