



Planning and Community Development Department

Planning Commission Minutes

October 3, 2007 Regular Scheduled Meeting

APPROVED

City Hall Council Chambers

The meeting was called to order at 5:42 P.M.

Planning Commission Present

Randy McKibbin, **Chair**

Grant Sulham, **Vice-Chair (Absent)**

Donn Lewis

Dennis Poulsen

David Eck

Katrina Minton-Davis

L. Winona Jacobsen

City Staff Present

Steve Ladd Planning Manager

Debbie McDonald, Planning Commission Clerk

A poll determined that a majority of Commission members would be available for the next meeting scheduled for October 17, 2007.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LEWIS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ECK TO APPROVE AN EXCUSED ABSENCE FOR VICE-CHAIR SULHAM FROM THE MEETING.

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes subject to review and approval were those of September 19, 2007.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LEWIS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER POULSEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2007 WITH MINOR CORRECTIONS NOTED BY CHAIR MCKIBBIN.

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS/CONCERNS: None

III. OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Mr. Ladd went over staff report (Exhibit A), Electronic Sign Ordinance More Lenient Draft (Exhibit B) and Electronic Sign Ordinance More Restrictive Version (Exhibit C). Mr. Ladd then went over a third option, which would limit size of sign with no restrictions on rate of message change or rate of pixel change.

Chair McKibbin would like to see regulations fit the area of the city where the signs are being placed.

Commissioner Lewis brought up there are current regulations in place for signs in the downtown area.

Commissioner Minton-Davis felt that as design standards are developed for each part of the city, the sign codes should reflect the design standard.

Mr. Ladd introduced Jacob Tilton from Watchfire Signs 423 East 61st Street Tacoma 98404 to do a power point presentation on LCD and Pixel signs.

Mr. Tilton through his presentation went over the following:

- How electronic signs can help generate business revenue.
- Prices of signs are coming down, now more businesses can afford them.
- Electronic signs save on energy.
- Studies have been completed to show no driver safety issues with electronic signs.
- FDOT (Federal Department of Transportation) allows signs to change every 8 seconds.
- Tribal land is unable to be regulated by sign codes.
- Electronic signs can help clear up the clutter of other smaller signs.

In a lengthy discussion Commissioners had a chance to ask Mr. Tilton questions about his presentation and how to approach sign regulations.

Mr. Tilton elaborated on the following concerns:

- Videos being displayed have a 2 second hold.
- Can not regulate content of signs.
- Can regulate speed and brightness of signs.
- Signs need to be big enough for drivers to read.
- Plasma and LCD signs show no new trends in the near future.

Dan Rattenbury 18406 Sumner Buckley Hwy commented on how too many signs in an area that backs up to a residential area may be affected by the brightness the signs would generate at night.

Commissioner Davis responded that a size limit on electronic signs would limit the amount of brightness each sign would generate.

Chair McKibbin thanked Mr. Tilton for his time.

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Mr. Tilton let the commission know he would be available to help with definitions, technical wording and ways to regulate electronic signs.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Chair McKibben asked Mr. Ladd to go over the Pierce County Buildable Lands Report.

Mr. Ladd went over the report (Exhibit D) and the tables mentioned in his report (Exhibit D). Mr. Ladd explained how the figures were determined for the report.

Commissioners had a brief discussion on how the data in the report did not accurately reflect the Bonney Lake area. At this time no action is needed.

V. FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Correspondence- None

Staff Concerns- Mr. Ladd asked where the commission would like to go with the sign code.

Chair McKibbin asked for a public hearing to be set for the November 7th Planning Commission meeting.

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER JACOBSEN, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LEWIS THAT THE MORE RESTRICTIVE ORDINANCE BE USED FOR THE PUBLIC HEARING.

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

Mr. Ladd brought up a request from City Council for the Planning Commission to go over the nightclub ordinance and see what changes need to be made in regards to noise levels and location of new nightclubs. Mr. Ladd will add this to the agenda.

Mr. Ladd announced the hiring of Douglas Jans as the new temporary part-time Code Enforcement Officer.

Commissioner Concerns - Commissioner Jacobsen went over how the Downtown Design Committee meeting went. There was concern that some business owners were misrepresenting their knowledge of the Downtown Design and lack of city notification of the plan.

Chair McKibbin asked about the New Peaking Storage Tank property.

Mr. Ladd brought commission up to date with how the annexation has come to a halt. Pierce County believes the storage needs to be part of the UGA. UGA is against annexation due to city limit issues.

Chair McKibbin noted the Planning Commission needs the staff to provide a new project update sheet.

Chair McKibbin asked about the purchase of Lake Tapps.

Commissioner Lewis reported that Mayor Johnson had stated at the previous night's Council Meeting, that the purchase of Lake Tapps is on hold at this time. Puget Sound Energy will notify the City of Bonney Lake on its decision probably within eight weeks.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER LEWIS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ECK TO ADJOURN.

MOTION APPROVED 6-0

The meeting ended at 7:37 P.M.

Debbie Mc Donald, Planning Commission Clerk