

**MINUTES
LONGBOAT KEY TOWN COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 19, 2010 - 1:00 P.M.**

Present: Mayor George Spoll, Vice Mayor Jim Brown, Commrs. David Brenner, Lynn Larson, Hal Lenobel, Robert Siekmann, Phill Younger

Also Present: Town Manager Bruce St. Denis, Town Attorney David Persson, Deputy Town Clerk Jo Ann Mixon

CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Longboat Key Town Commission was called to order at 1:00 p.m., in the Town Commission Chamber, 501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, Florida.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Spoll requested and Vice Mayor Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Proposed Ordinance 2010-20, Amending Chapter 156, Sign Code

At their September 21, 2010 Regular Meeting the Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board forwarded proposed Ordinance 2010-20 for Commission consideration. The P&Z Board recommends approval of the ordinance which provides for replacement of Chapter 156, Sign Code. Members of the P&Z Board were invited and encouraged to attend this Special Workshop Meeting. Recommended Action: Pending discussion, provide direction to Manager

Planning, Zoning, and Building Department (PZB) Planner Ric Hartman reviewed proposed Ordinance 2010-20, highlighted the amendments, clarified regulations, and noted consistency in the rewrite of Town Code Chapter 156.

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- handwritten signs (prohibited)
- sandwich board sign (a/k/a temporary sidewalk signs)
- providing clarification in the ordinance regarding temporary sidewalk signs.

Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Board Chairman BJ Webb commented on Homeowners' Association handwritten signs and relayed discussions held at the P&Z Board Meeting on this issue.

PZB Director Monica Simpson commented on the current sign code regulations with respect to handwritten signs, sign location, and Homeowners' Association temporary signs.

Subsequent to comments, there was consensus to allow an exemption for Homeowners' Association handwritten signs.

1. Proposed Ordinance 2010-20, Amending Chapter 156, Sign Code - Continued

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- sandwich board temporary handwritten signs
- regulated versus non-regulated signs (sandwich board are non-regulated)
- sign being visible from the public rights-of-way
- human signs (a sign held or worn by an individual)

PZB Director Simpson commented on the current sign code terminology of “public way” versus “public rights-of-way.”

Commr. Siekmann questioned the underlining philosophy for the changes to the Sign Code.

Ms. Webb commented on complaints, questions, challenges brought before the P&Z Board, special events related issues (sponsorship banners during tennis events at the Longboat Key Public Tennis Center), and sign removal after events (72-hours for all posted signs).

PZB Director Simpson commented on the existing sign code, directional signage restrictions, and efforts to revitalize the community.

Ms. Webb discussed the received complaints and multi-tenant building related issues.

Following comments by Town Attorney David Persson on the current sign code illustrations, Mr. Hartman discussed and distributed the Appendix that contains the proposed Sign Code Illustrations.

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- impact of the rewritten Sign Code
- creating nonconforming signs
- sign measurements performed by staff
- 13 signs identified as nonconforming (if proposed ordinance were to be adopted)
- allowable square footage of signs
- proposed six year period for nonconforming sign to become conforming
- previous efforts of notification
- identifying a timeframe to become compliant
- the economical life of a sign
- inventory of nonconforming signs if the rewritten Sign Code were to be adopted.

Subsequent to comments, there was consensus for staff to prepare and distribute to the Town Commission a list, with photographs, of those signs that would become noncompliant if the rewritten Sign Code were to be adopted.

1. Proposed Ordinance 2010-20, Amending Chapter 156, Sign Code - Continued

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- public way versus public rights-of-way
- portable sign exemption
- Appendix illustrations/text box information
- ornaments and logos (page 6)
- neon signage (page 8)
- flags and political signs removal (page 9)
- banners (page 11)
- sign structure/informational strip (page 11)
- future project signs (page 12)
- square footage of signs (page 13)
- permanent signs/freestanding signs maximum size (page 14)
- changeable copy signs (page 17)
- nonconforming signs (pages 19 and 20)
- abandoned signs (page 19).

Subsequent to comments, there was consensus for staff to amend proposed Ordinance 2010-20 and identify throughout the entire document a 72-hour maximum time period for removal of posted signs after an event.

RECESS: 2:23 p.m. - 2:35 p.m.

PZB Director Simpson identified, displayed, and described the signs that would become nonconforming if the proposed Sign Code were adopted by the Town Commission.

Additional discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- awning signs (maximum 6 foot in length and 18 inches in height)
- wall signs
- grandfathered signs or allowing all signs to be 12 feet in height.

Subsequent to comments, there was consensus for staff to amend proposed Ordinance 2010-20 and identify a maximum 12 inch awning drop with a maximum of 8 inch letters.

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- abandoned signs
- nonconforming sign replacement requirements (proposed period 6 years)
- waived permit fees if nonconforming signs were brought into compliance within 18 months following adoption of the proposed Ordinance 2010-20
- allowing a sign structure to remain in place while all signage and other displays were removed, unless the structure was nonconforming
- grandfathering existing nonconforming signs.

1. Proposed Ordinance 2010-20, Amending Chapter 156, Sign Code - Continued

PZB Director Simpson commented on nonconforming signs, and noted site plan amendments may trigger nonconforming sign replacement.

Subsequent to comments, there was consensus for staff to identify a maximum 8 foot sign height for new signs.

Discussions were held on the following topics/issues:

- sign modification versus new sign installation
- whether a new sign face would require a sign permit
- sponsorship banners (maximum 40 square feet).

Subsequent to comments, there was consensus to forward revised Ordinance 2010-20 to the November 1, 2010 Town Commission Regular Meeting for first reading.

There was consensus to forward proposed Ordinance 2010-20 (if passed on first reading) to a Town Commission Special Meeting on November 18, 2010, for second reading and adoption.

TOWN COMMISSION COMMENTS

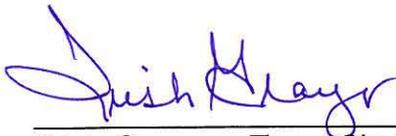
A. Planning, Zoning & Building

Commr. Brenner questioned the timeframe for a meeting with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) regarding signage.

Planning, Zoning and Building Director Monica Simpson stated a meeting had been scheduled for October 27, 2010. Vice Mayor Brown noted Bradenton Beach was successful in removing 150 signs within 1.6 miles.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Spoll adjourned the October 19, 2010, Special Meeting at 3:17 p.m.



Trish Granger, Town Clerk

Minutes Approved: _____

12/6/10



George Spoll, Mayor

