



**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MINUTES
(RE: Sign Code Update)
Wednesday, March 2, 2016**

ATTENDEES:

Mayor and Council Members

Ray Bagshaw, Mayor
John Dowless, Council Member
Neil Powell, DDS, Council Member
Pam Henley, Council Member
Dan Drummond, Council Member

Absent

Mike Hendrix, Council Member

Council Member(s) Elect

Susan Fortini
Lee Chotas

Staff

Bea L. Meeks, City Clerk
Chris Francisco, Police Chief
Drew Smith, City Attorney
Ellen Hardgrove, City Planner
Debbie Cabales, Code Enforcement Officer

Council President Dowless opened the Edgewood City Council Workshop at 3:05 p.m. City Attorney Smith said everyone should be working off the initial draft sign code Ordinance. City Attorney Smith said that one of the items that was not discussed at the last workshop is found on Page 25; Sec. 122-12 "Signs allowed without a permit". He noted that real estate signs, construction signs and election signs are signs that are not permitted. City Attorney Smith clarified that flags are another sign and it does not mean just the American flag; it can be the Florida flag. City Attorney Smith noted that three flags can be on one property. City Planner Hardgrove said she had a concern and noted clutter as her concern. City Attorney Smith noted that window signs cannot exceed 25 percent of the total window area, which was decreased from the current allowance of 35 percent of the total window area.

Council Member, Dan Drummond is now in attendance (3:14 p.m.)

City Attorney Smith said the City cannot regulate political signs. He said Council can provide for a limit as to the certain period of time prior to and following an event, i.e. house for sale, of campaign signs, etc. City Attorney Smith said you cannot regulate content but can regulate size, place and manner. Brief discussion was held regarding residential properties being allowed to have miscellaneous signage however, Council wanted to regulate the miscellaneous signage in commercial area (size-place-manner).

122-12 (g) Additional Miscellaneous signs Council Member Drummond suggested permitting as a temporary sign. Also suggested that after six months, the fee should be elevated. City Attorney Smith said that Council could require re-permitting with a fee. City Attorney Smith said he thinks he has enough information to address this signage and make changes based on the discussion.

122-13 (P. 26 & 27) City Attorney Smith explained to Planner Hardgrove the difference in monument sign (Discovery Church) and freestanding sign (business f/k/a Batteries Plus). Planner Hardgrove said that she and the City Attorney need some better direction as it relates to pole signs. She asked what is the difference in a pole sign and a freestanding sign. City Attorney Smith said a pole sign would always be a freestanding sign under the City's Code. Planner Hardgrove showed pictures of the Wells Fargo and La Coqui Vin signs, which are freestanding sign. Council Member Elect Fortini asked why there could not be an architectural board established. City Attorney Smith said it would make the process longer. Council Member Elect Fortini suggested creating a template for acceptable signage in the City. Planner Hardgrove said the poles of a sign should be at least 1/3 the width of the sign to look aesthetic. In response to Council President Dowless, City Attorney Smith said the Code could better define "sign cabinet" which will help with signs that look cluttered, and give the appearance of two signs. City Attorney Smith said "framed" cabinet may sound better than cabinet. Brief discussion held regarding the background of a sign being consistent. Reference was made to Anthony's Pizza and the two pole signs on site. **Consensus of council that a multi-tenant property should not have pole signs, but instead have a ground sign.**

Council Member Elect Chotas referred everyone to the Code's provision for attached signs (lines 1111-1124). Brief discussion followed regarding signs that project from a building. City Attorney Smith explained the difference in projecting signs versus wall signs. Planner Hardgrove said that two wall signs are not unreasonable. In response to Council Member Elect Fortini, City Attorney Smith said channel letters are not prohibited. **Council Member Henley asked to include a Code provision for wall signs to be the same color.** In response to Council Member Drummond, City Attorney Smith said the amortization period is three years.

Due to the prohibition of window lighting, City Attorney Smith addressed holiday lighting. Council President Dowless suggested allowing for window lighting thirty days in the year. City Attorney Smith said he will work with this suggestion. City Attorney Smith said he had enough information from the workshop discussion to make changes to the draft sign code Ordinance.

Having no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

ATTEST:



John Dowless
Council President



Bea L. Meeks, MMC, CPM, CBTO
City Clerk

Approved by Council on 3/22/2016 .