

**GEORGETOWN-SCOTT COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES**

January 23, 2001

The special meeting was held in the Scott Fiscal Courtroom on January 23, 2001. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sara Sutton at 7:00 p.m. Present were Commissioners Barry Brock, Robert Hopkins, Omer Lee, William Peters, John Sharpe, Elizabeth Williams, Planning Director Kelley Klepper, and Planner Steven Biel. Absent were Commissioners Pete Gritton, James Thomason, Attorney Charlie Perkins, and Engineer Brad Frazier.

Proposed amendments to Article II of the *Zoning Ordinance* regarding regulation of signs PUBLIC HEARING

Chairperson Sutton continued the public hearing. Mr. Klepper introduced the issue and gave a slide presentation showing different types of signs. He discussed signage in each individual zoning district and the problems that are encountered.

He posed a series of questions about actual usage of signs.

Chairperson Sutton inquired about regulation of billboards. Bill Stark of Letterman Signs responded with the State requirements for large billboards.

Commissioner Hopkins asked about signs for home occupations. Mr. Klepper stated that currently they are reviewed by the Board of Adjustments as a conditional use.

Greg Johnson, Thoroughbred Engineering, asked for clarification on the regulation regarding lighted wall-mounted signs, suggested a modification in the reference to signs in a right-of-way, and expressed concern about several other issues. He asked if variances from the Board of Adjustments could still be obtained for signs not meeting the proposed regulations. Mr. Klepper responded that he will be discussing the specific process with the Chief Building Inspector and Mr. Perkins, but that the Board of Adjustments will still be involved

Bill Stark felt that internally-lighted signs in the Downtown district are inappropriate. He addressed window signage, monument signs, and readability of signs. He felt that readability should be considered rather than imposing absolute limits on size, which would call for a review board.

Linda Glass, small business owner, felt that a sign ordinance levels the playing field for business owners. She also expressed concern about the ability of the Board of Adjustments to make exceptions.

Harold Simms, Attorney, stated that because of topography, 65' signs are not always visible, which is the reason why there are signs taller than 65' near the interstate. He addressed the amortization clause on bringing non-conforming signs into compliance.

Butch Glass, Georgetown resident, felt that the color of signs in historic and residential districts should be considered.

Bruce Lankford, attorney, asked Bill Stark several questions about zoning notification signs and the size of signs in general. Mr. Lankford felt that the further from the Interstate a business is located, the larger the sign is that they need. He expressed concern about the 3000' foot standard and asked Mr. Klepper to locate that boundary on the map. He felt that it is unfair to commercial areas outside the 3000' boundary. Mr. Klepper stated that different standards apply to different zones, and not all businesses need 65' signs, as proven by Wal-mart. Commissioner Williams stated that tall pole-mounted signs serve no purpose for local residents; they serve interstate traffic, which is served by businesses located near the interstate. She felt that the sign ordinance should protect the city.

Harold Simms requested that off-premise vs. on-premise signs and non-commercial vs. commercial signs be considered.

It was agreed that the public hearing would be continued to the regular February meeting and that Mr. Klepper would present an updated draft of the proposed amendments.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully,



Sara Sutton, Chairperson

Attest:



Kelley Klepper, Acting Secretary