

MINUTES
PLANNING AND ZONING SPECIAL MEETING
SIGN ORDINANCE DISCUSSION
JULY 25, 2019 – 5:00 PM – COOK CITY HALL

PRESENT: Members Elizabeth Storm, Harold Johnston, Ron Bushbaum, and David Danz

ABSENT: Chairman Rich Holm

OTHERS PRESENT: Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer Theresa Martinson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Stephanie Beaudry, and Office Assistant Dawn Kehoe

Planning & Zoning member Elizabeth Storm called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Purpose of the meeting is to discuss the current City of Cook sign ordinance and determine whether it needs to be edited and/or updated.

Discussion:

Administrator Martinson asked the board what is wanted from the sign ordinance and also how should it be enforced. Martinson suggested that there should be better definitions included in the ordinance. Bushbaum stated that Ely did a good job with their sign ordinance. Danz questioned the issue of illuminated signs. How bright is bright? How do you measure brightness? Martinson asked if the City wanted to continue with the ordinance splitting Highway 53 and non-Highway 53 sections. Bushbaum thought that would be a good idea. Martinson stated that there should be more specifics about zoning and also asked about home occupation signs. What are other communities doing with that signage? We also have to be careful with the first amendment. Bushbaum stated that this ordinance is for business signs. Would the Cook Building Center sign by the bridge meet our current regulations? Martinson stated no. Mayor Johnston asked what precedence it would set to allow Greg's sign. Bushbaum stated that there are going to be exceptions and variances. Storm stated if someone wants to put up a sign, they need to come to City Hall. Martinson stated that the current size rules seem to be working if we look at the list of previously permitted signs. Storm asked if property with a sign is sold—does the sign permit transfer. Johnston stated yes. Bushbaum stated that perhaps the ordinance should touch on that in the future. Johnston asked about political signs. Bushbaum commented that maybe we need to address that. It's a first amendment right but can we do something? Martinson shared a League of Minnesota Cities publication. Danz asked about home occupation and why we can't have it. Storm suggested that perhaps Cook needs to have a graph such as Ely's. The City of Cook has worked hard to make itself look nice. Bushbaum suggested updated the zoning map. Martinson interjected that Ely has a very thorough sign list. Martinson went on to say that she didn't think the City needed to revamp the whole sign ordinance, maybe just change a few things. We need to remember reflectivity. We'll look at what other towns are doing and also look at the League information. Storm added that we could always add addendums.

Motion by Storm, second by Danz to adjourn the meeting at 5:47 PM. **MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Beaudry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephanie Beaudry
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer