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COLUMBUS PLANNING BOARD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2016

The Town of Columbus Planning Board met on Monday, January 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m., at the Columbus Town Hall, 95 Walker Street, Columbus, North Carolina.

Board Members Present: Kathleen Nowakowski
Jimmi Buell
Joan Scoggins
Bevin Corbin

Staff Present: Timothy J Barth, Town Manager
Bailey Nager, Town Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. A roll call was taken and the Chairman acknowledged all present except Mary Shambaugh who has recently passed away.

Mrs. Nowakowski asked if there were any changes to the September 14, 2015 minutes. There were no changes requested. Mr. Corbin made a motion to approve the September 14, 2015 minutes as written, Ms. Buell seconded, motion carried.

There were no public comments

Consideration of Rezoning Certain Property from R-2 to HC

Manager Barth explained that the property owner of the lot located on the northeast corner of Ogle Street and East Mills Street wanted his property rezoned because he has a potential buyer for the property. Durand's Auto Detailing is thinking about buying the lot, putting up a building and moving his business there.

Mrs. Nowakowski made a motion to recommend to the Town Council that the property be rezoned from R-2 to HC, Mr. Corbin seconded, motion carried.

Mr. Corbin made a motion to find the proposed use is consistent with the plans and policies of the Town of Columbus, Ms. Scoggins seconded, motion carried.

Consideration of Changes to the Sign Ordinance

At the request of the Planning Board, Attorney Nager has rewritten the sign ordinance for the Town of Columbus, but has included as much from the old ordinance as possible that fits within the new guidelines as ruled by the U.S. Supreme Court.

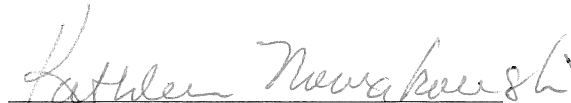
Attorney Nager tried to remove any area in the current ordinance that appeared to be content driven. The verdict, as handed down by the Supreme Court, requires all sign regulations to be content neutral. If a sign has to be read to understand what type of sign it is, then the sign is content driven.

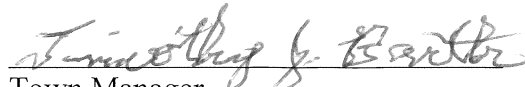
In reviewing the draft Attorney Nager prepared he noted he had included back in the ordinance a section on allowing businesses an extra sign for 30 days maximum during a calendar year and that those signs could be no more than six square feet in area. Also, Attorney Nager further defined Illumination under that section and removed the section that was duplicated on the previous page regarding lighted signs. After much discussion the Planning Board agreed that the maximum size for the extra signage should be four (4) square feet. Mr. Corbin made a motion to accept the revisions to the sign ordinance and to recommend it to the Town Council, Ms. Scoggins seconded, motion carried.

Ms. Nowakowski made a motion to find the proposed use is consistent with the plans and policies of the Town of Columbus, Mr. Corbin seconded, motion carried.

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There being no further business, Mr. Corbin made a motion to adjourn, Ms. Buell seconded, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.


Chairman


Town Manager