

1 **COLUMBUS PLANNING BOARD**
2 **Minutes of Regular Meeting**
3 **Monday, August 12, 2019**
4

5 The Town of Columbus Planning Board met on Monday, August 12, 2019 at 4:00 p.m., at the
6 Columbus Town Hall, 95 Walker Street, Columbus, North Carolina.
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8 **Roll Call:** Kathleen Nowakowski
9 Jimmi Buell
10 Brent Jackson
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13 **Staff Present:** Timothy J. Barth, Town Manager
14 Shana Atkins, Assistant Town Clerk
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16 The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. A roll call was taken, and the chairman acknowledged all
17 present except Joan Scoggins.
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19 **Public Comment**

20 There were no public comments.
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22 **Consideration of Minutes of the July 8, 2019 Regular Meeting**

23 Mrs. Nowakowski asked if there were any changes to the July 8, 2019 minutes. There were no changes
24 requested. Ms. Buell made a motion to approve the July 8, 2019 minutes as written, Mr. Jackson
25 seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
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27 **Discussion Regarding the Town's Sign Ordinance**

28 Ms. Buell stated that she went through town and took pictures of the new businesses that had temporary
29 signs located on Mills Street and that some of the temporary signs have been up for several months. Ms.
30 Buell stated that the Town's sign ordinance states that banners, pendants, ribbons, balloons, posters,
31 streamers may be displayed for a period of not more than thirty days in any one calendar year on the
32 occasion of the opening of a new business. Ms. Buell and Mrs. Nowakowski both agreed that there is an
33 excessive amount of now hiring signs located on Mills Street. Ms. Buell stated that, according to the
34 zoning ordinance, sign permit applications shall be submitted to and approved by the zoning
35 administrator prior to a permit being issued. Mr. Barth stated that the businesses complete an application
36 for signage permits and that he bases the issuance of those permits on the restrictions in the zoning
37 ordinance. Mr. Jackson stated that O' Reilly Auto Parts, Bojangles and Sister of Mercy Urgent Care
38 were all completed by one developer and that development should have had one master sign. Mr. Barth
39 stated that the businesses in that area didn't want a monument sign, but the Planning Board could have
40 approved only a monument sign in that location. Mr. Jackson stated that some of the wording in the sign
41 ordinance needs to be changed, so that if the signs ever must come down then the business owners
42 would have to put the signs back up to meet the zoning requirements. Mr. Jackson stated that there is a
43 company that will be re-lining the road and the signs will have to come down for that project to be
44 completed. Mr. Barth stated that there will be a three-lane road from the First Baptist Church all the way
45 to the Polk County Library. Ms. Buell stated that once the company starts widening the road, the Sisters
46 of Mercy Urgent Care sign will be out of compliance because the sign is currently about nine feet from
47 the sidewalk and the ordinance states that no sign shall be less than five feet from the edge of any street
48 pavement or fifteen feet from any other property line.

49 Ms. Buell made a motion to recommend an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for consideration by
50 Town Council as follows: Page 6, Item F of the sign ordinance it needs to state that no sign shall be less
51 than 15 feet from the edge of any street pavement or 15 feet from any other property line. Mr. Jackson
52 seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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54 Ms. Buell made a motion to recommend an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance for consideration by
55 Town Council as follows: Page 2, Item # 6 of the sign ordinance it needs to state that signs, including
56 portable or mobile signs or wheels, shall not be closer than 15 feet from the edge of any street pavement
57 or any other property line. Mrs. Nowakowski seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

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59 Ms. Nowakowski and Ms. Buell asked Mr. Barth to ask the businesses owners to remove the signs that
60 have been up for more than thirty days.

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62 Mr. Barth stated that the consulting company that will be doing the comprehensive plan will be giving a
63 presentation at the next town council meeting on September 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm, and he asked all the
64 Planning Board members to attend.

65 Mr. Barth stated that Joan Scoggins' term on the Planning Board has expired, and that Ms. Scoggins
66 health has rapidly declined which keeps her from attending meetings. Mr. Barth stated that he will speak
67 with Ms. Scoggins and find out if she will be able to continue to serve on the Planning Board and if not,
68 the Planning Board will need to find another member. Mr. Barth stated that the Planning Board meeting
69 times may need to be changed to after 5:00 pm, so new members can attend as well as residents.

70 Mr. Jackson suggested changing the Planning Board meeting to 6:00 pm on the first Tuesday of every
71 month. All agreed.

72
73 Robert Williamson stated the Planning Board is supposed to have five members that are residents of the
74 town and two alternate members. Councilman Williamson stated that there is no statement that says the
75 alternates must be a member of the town, and he thinks that needs to be changed.

76 Councilman Williamson stated that the Planning Board has the authority to make sure buildings in the
77 town conform with the town's zoning ordinance, which means that the Planning Board should review all
78 plans before applications are approved. Councilman Williamson stated that he is putting together a
79 reference manual and a check list for the Planning Board members to help assist with their decision-
80 making processes when new developers apply for zoning permit.

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83 There being no other business to discuss Ms. Buell made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jackson seconded,
84 and the meeting was adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

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Kathleen Nowakowski, Chairman

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Shana Atkins, Assistant Town Clerk

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