

DRAFT MINUTES
Planning Commission
County of Prince George, Virginia

November 19, 2020

County Administration Building, Board Room, Third Floor
6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, Virginia 23875

This meeting was held electronically in accord with Virginia Code Section 15.2-1413. The meeting was accessible by:

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MEETING CONVENED. The Regular Meeting of the Prince George County Planning Commission was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 19, 2020 in the Board Room, County Administration Building, 6602 Courts Drive, Prince George, Virginia by Vice-Chairman Brown.

ATTENDANCE. The following members responded to Roll Call:

Mr. Simmons	Present
Mrs. Elder	Present
Chairman Bresko	Absent
Mr. Joyner	Absent
Mr. Easter	Present
Vice-Chairman Brown	Present
Mr. Brockwell	Present (by Zoom, at home, due to health reasons)

Also present: Julie C. Walton, Deputy County Administrator, Daniel Whitten, County Attorney, Cliff Young, Director of IT, Horace Wade, Planner II, Tim Graves, Planner I and Missy Greaves-Smith, Administrative Specialist II

INVOCATION. Mr. Simmons provided the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG. Mrs. Elder led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA. Vice-Chairman Brown asked the Commissioners for a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda for the November 19, 2020 Planning Commission meeting. Mrs. Elder made a motion to approve the Meeting Agenda and Mr. Easter seconded the motion. Roll was called on the motion.

In favor: (5) Simmons, Brown, Elder, Easter, Brockwell
Abstain: (0)
Absent: (2) Joyner, Bresko

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES. Vice-Chairman Brown asked the Commissioners to review the October 22, 2020 Minutes of the Planning Commission for approval. Mrs. Elder made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented and Mr. Easter seconded the motion. Roll was called on the motion.

In favor: (4) Brown, Elder, Easter, Brockwell
Abstain: (1) Simmons
Absent: (2) Joyner, Bresko

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD. At 6:36 p.m., Vice-Chairman Brown opened the Citizen Comment Period to anyone who wished to come forward to speak to the Commissioners on only topics that were not on the agenda. Citizens were asked to limit their comments to three (3) minutes.

With no one coming forward and no one on Zoom indicating they wished to speak, the Citizen Comment Period was closed at 6:37 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS.

Public Hearing:

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT OA-20-04

Adoption of an Ordinance to amend “The Code of the County of Prince George, Virginia,” by deleting §§ 90-12, and 90-1036, and by amending §§ 90-1, 90-52, 90-53, 90-56, 90-102, 90-103, 90-106, 90-202, 90-242, 90-292, 90-295, 90-342, 90-392, 90-395, 90-442, 90-446, 90-492, 90-496, 90-546, and 90-1039, and to consolidate the requirements for signs by adding Article XIII, “Signs” to Chapter 90, “Zoning,” §§ 90-591 through 90-600 so as to revise local sign requirements to be consistent with current law and to create a clear and a consistent set of regulations pertaining to signs.

Mr. Wade presented to the Commission an overview of the proposed Sign Ordinance Amendment.

Timeline:

- February 2019 - Planning Commission Public Hearing
- April 2019 - Community Meeting
- May 2019 - Board Work Session

- July 2019 - Board Public Hearing
- February 2020 - Subcommittee Meetings
- July/August 2020 - Planning Commission Review
- September 2020 – Board Work Session
- November 2020 – Virtual Open House for Businesses
- November 2020 – Planning Commission Public Hearing

Proposed Sign Ordinance Purpose:

- Eliminate “Content” based sign rules making all signs equal under the law
 - Words such as church signs or commercial signs need to be removed from zoning ordinance
- Provide enhanced standards for signage per Comprehensive Plan Goal and consolidate sign regulations into one section of the Zoning Ordinance

Content Based Language Removed:

- Business Sign
- Directional Sign
- General Advertising Sign
- Home Occupation Sign
- Location Sign
- Church Bulletin and Identification Sign
- Nonbusiness Directional Sign

Mr. Wade explained that new sections have been added to the proposed Sign Ordinance Amendment, for example: Definitions, General Descriptions, Prohibited Signage and General Regulations. Mr. Wade indicated that holiday decorations, traffic and public safety signage, public art, window displays and scoreboards are examples of signs not affected by the proposed Sign Ordinance Amendment. The proposed Ordinance does prohibit any new billboards, vehicles as signs and people as signs.

The Draft Sign Ordinance Amendment identifies the following changes in freestanding signage setbacks:

- Current Setbacks – 20 feet from Right-of-Way
- Proposed Setbacks
 - 10 feet from Right-of-Way
 - 10 feet from pavement in special areas

Other changes discussed included Electronic Message Center (EMC) Signs, sign design for a monument-style base and sign refacing requirements with a new use.

Vice-Chairman Brown opened the Public Hearing at 6:46 p.m. to anyone who wished to speak in reference to OA-20-04 – Sign Ordinance Amendment. The Public Hearing was opened to all meeting attendees, Zoom participants and any call-in participants. Participants were asked to limit their comments to three (3) minutes. With no one wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed by Vice-Chairman Brown at 6:47 p.m.

Vice-Chairman Brown asked the Commissioners if they had any additional questions or concerns. Mr. Simmons expressed his appreciation for all the hard work put into this project from the

Planning Commissioners, staff and the subcommittee. Mr. Simmons made a motion to forward OA-20-04 to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) for consideration with the Planning Commission recommendation for approval. Mrs. Elder seconded the motion. Roll was called on the motion.

In favor: (5) Simmons, Brown, Elder, Easter, Brockwell
Absent: (2) Bresko, Joyner

PLANNER'S COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMISSION. Mr. Wade presented to the Commissioners the following updates:

1. Actions of the Board of Zoning Appeals
 - a. November 23, 2020 meeting has been cancelled
 - b. December 28, 2020 meeting has been cancelled
2. Actions of the Board of Supervisors (BOS)
 - a. November 10th approved the Warwick Solar Facility (4-4)
 - b. BOS will hear OA-20-03, RZ-20-03 and RZ-20-04 cases on Dec 8th
3. December Planning Commission
 - a. Ample Self-Storage request to Rezone to B-1
 - b. Ample Self-Storage Special Exception request for a self-storage facility

Mr. Simmons asked Mrs. Walton the process for an Eagle Scout to receive recognition from the County and BOS for their achievements. Mrs. Walton addressed the Commissioners and indicated the parent(s) or the Troop leader could submit a request to the County Administrator and/or to the County Administration office. Mrs. Walton also suggested that Mr. Simmons could forward the contact information to Missy Greaves-Smith and she would take care of the request.

ADJOURNMENT. At 6:54 p.m., Vice-Chairman Brown asked the Commissioners if they had any additional questions. If not, he would entertain a motion to adjourn. Mr. Easter made a motion to adjourn and Mrs. Elder seconded the motion. Roll was called on the motion.

In favor: (5) Simmons, Brown, Elder, Easter, Brockwell
Absent: (2) Joyner, Bresko