

Perry Planning Commission
MINUTES
May 11, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Beeland called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

ROLL: Chairman Beeland, Commissioners Barker, Clarington, Cosey, Hubbard, and Mehserle were all present. Commissioner Jefferson was absent.

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Beecham, Director of Community Development , Christine Gauthier, Secretary, Code Enforcement Officer, Ric Hickman and Police Chief George Potter

INVOCATION: was given by Commissioner Hubbard

GUESTS/SPEAKERS: Mr. Joel Conner & Mr. Mark Conner – Conner’s Flooring America and Mr. Jimmy Faircloth

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM APRIL 27, 2009 MEETING: Chairman Beeland requested a motion to approve the minutes as submitted with spelling correction as noted; Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve with correction; Commissioner Cosey seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

ANNOUNCEMENT: The Campaign Notice, per O.C.G.A. 36-67A-3, please turn cell phones off; Chairman Beeland referred to the notice posted on the door of City Council Chambers.

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

1. Conner’s Flooring America – Request for sign variance #V-09-03

Chairman Beeland opened the hearing at 6:04pm. Mr. Beecham read the applicants’ request, the conditions necessary for a variance and the staff response for the criteria. Chairman Beeland then called for anyone wishing to speak in favor of, and the applicant Mr. Mark Conner of Conner’s Flooring America addressed the board and reiterated his request submitted, stating he would like to restore new higher quality signage to the building, as the other had been removed over a year ago to prep the building for painting. Mr. Conner also stated he has had numerous inquiries since the old sign had been removed, if the business was closed or was under new ownership and in the current economy the impact of not having proper signage was a deterrent. The new signage he felt would cause no negative impact on the neighboring properties if the request was granted.

Chairman Beeland then called for anyone opposed to the request; there being none, the hearing was closed at 6:10pm.

Commissioner Hubbard made a motion to approve the variance request as submitted; Commissioner Mehserle seconded; all in favor and was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Further discussion of electronic sign ordinance

Chief George Potter was invited to address the board to offer insight from a law enforcement perspective on the safety of electronic signs. Chief Potter provided the board with a memorandum outlining safety concerns on electronic signs and advised it was estimated that 25% of traffic accidents are a result of driver inattention and up to 75% are from outside of the vehicle distractions. It was also noted that colors on billboards, pulse/strobe lighting on signs are forms of distractions and recommended that when the board reviews changes for the current ordinance, it should consider the illumination of the display and setbacks from the roadway. Along with Chief Potter's memorandum, the board was also given a handout from the City of Minnetonka regarding signage and Chairman Beeland requested the board review both for further discussion and direction to Mr. Beecham for updating the current ordinance.

Mr. Beecham asked Code Enforcement Officer Ric Hickman to come forward as inquiries had been made by various members on the general process for code enforcement violations. Mr. Hickman briefly explained the process and stated voluntarily compliance is the goal and when that cannot be done, warning and citations are issued, which then results in the matter being resolved in the judicial system.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Mr. Beecham reminded the board there will not be a second meeting in May due to the Memorial Day holiday.

ADJOURN: There being no further business Chairman Beeland adjourned the meeting at 6:38pm.