

## **CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP MEETING**

**September 27, 2021**

**4:30 pm**

This Commission Meeting was conducted utilizing Communications Media Technology. Some Staff members were present in the Commission Chambers while others were present via the Zoom application to respect the social distancing guidelines.

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:**

Shirley Groover Bryant, Mayor

Brian Williams, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, Ward 3 (Not Present)

Sheldon Jones, Commissioner-at-Large 1

Harold Smith, Commissioner, Ward 1

Tambra Varnadore, Commissioner, Ward 2 (Entered the meeting at 4:47 p.m.)

Tamara Cornwell, Commissioner-at-Large 2

### **STAFF PRESENT IN CHAMBERS:**

Mark Barnebey, City Attorney (Entered the meeting at 4:35 p.m.)

Mohammed Rayan, Public Works Director

Scott Tyler, Chief of Police

Jim Freeman, City Clerk

Cheryl Miller, Finance Director

Kera Hill, Planning Analyst

Jeff Burton, CRA Director

Xavier Colon, Assistant CRA Director

Penny Johnston, Executive Assistant

Vanessa Cochran, Assistant City Clerk

### **STAFF PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:**

Todd Williams, Information Technology (IT) Consultant

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

#### **1. ORDINANCE 2021-15 SIGNAGE (K. Hill)**

Ms. Hill, Planning Analyst, stated that this item was presented to the Board on September 13th for consideration for a First Reading, but a few changes were required. The proposed changes to the ordinance are as follows:

- Maximum height of freestanding signs from 20 feet to 30 feet.
- Maximum size of a wall sign to 60 square feet in non-residential zoning districts.
- Provisions for providing notice to sign owners upon removal of signs from public property or public right-of-way.
- Added non-residential zoning districts of CC, CN, and GO to apply for a conditional use permit for an electronic message center sign.
- Appeal process providing an appeal to be heard within 5 business days.
- Section 3-80 of old code are being deleted as they were inadvertently retained and are addressed in sections of Ordinance 2020-06.

ORDINANCE 2021-15 SIGNAGE DISCUSSION

Commissioner Jones expressed his approval of the new ordinance and stated that the City is moving in the right direction.

In regards to the 24 hours notification concerning section 3-73, Illegal Sign Enforcement, Commissioner Cornwell suggested to include in the ordinance to notified property owner via certified mail and extend the notification time limit. Discussion of the 24 hours notification ensued. Attorney Barnebey made reference to the concerns raised and expressed that the timeframe before the sign is destroyed can be extended from 10 to 30 days.

Commissioner Smith gave his opinion about new business that may want electronic signs and commented that the signs' lights should be dimmed and not turned off during the night.

Commissioner Cornwell requested clarification of the criteria for freestanding signs and the square footage limitations.

Commissioner Varnadore expressed her views about the new sign ordinance and voiced that she is not in favor of changing the height from 20 feet to 30 feet. She pointed out that the language used in the downtown design guidelines prohibiting electronic signs needs to be included in the new proposed sign ordinance. Next, she questioned the reasons for a new sign ordinance. Ms. Hill and Attorney Barnebey explained the purposes for the new sign ordinance was based on planning and legal recommendations.

Mayor Bryant asked if there will be any exceptions for 20 to 30 feet signs on the eastern section of 10th Street. Commissioner Varnadore reiterated her concerns about the signs' heights. Attorney Barnebey referenced the old sign ordinance and suggested to insert interchange sign areas, which can be 30 feet high only in those areas, back into the new sign ordinance.

The Board and staff discussed the proposed revisions and sign height to Ordinance 2021-15. Staff will consider adding language for taller signs in the area east of 10th Street. This item will move forward to 1st<sup>t</sup> reading at 7:00 p.m. tonight.

**2. SUTTON AND LAMB PARK (X. Colon)**

Mr. Colon, Assistant CRA Director, gave a presentation on the Sutton and Lamb Park improvements, and the presentation is a part of the minutes. He referenced the August 2, 2021 CRA Meeting when staff was requested to return with priorities to present to the Board. Mr. Colon discussed the concepts, the changes, the concerns, and the recommendations regarding the parks.

Commissioner Cornwell declared that she wants a new basketball court built before the old one is torn down and more information on the activities' locations. She made a recommendation to receive photos of the proposed improvements to get a better idea of the arrangements.

**City Commission Workshop Meeting**

**September 27, 2021**

**Page 3 of 3**

Commissioner Smith agreed with Commissioner Cornwell and voiced concerns about the arrangements/set-ups of the activities.

Commissioner Jones spoke about the noise issues versus the locations for special events.

Commissioner Varnadore agreed with Commissioner Jones and cited that the proposed Celebration Center should be moved to the other side of the restrooms. And, the basketball and pickleball courts moved to the northeast side of Sutton Park.

Mayor Bryant adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: NOVEMBER 1, 2021

***JAMES R. FREEMAN***

JAMES R. FREEMAN

CITY CLERK