

Kershaw County Planning Commission
Minutes – Regular Session
February 14, 2008, 5:30 p.m.
County Council Chambers

Members Present: Lewis Shaw, David Brown, Charles Cottingham, George Gibson, Dan Matthews, and Richard Simmons

Members Absent: Karen Eckford

Staff Present: Carolyn Hammond and John Newman

I. Call to Order

Chairman Lewis Shaw called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. Public Comment Period

There were no comments from the public.

III. Approval of Minutes

George Gibson motioned that the minutes of the January 10, 2008 regular meeting be approved. Dan Matthews seconded. All voted in favor.

IV. Presentation, Discussion, and Action on the Capital Improvement Program

John Newman introduced Carl D. Gosline, AICP. Mr. Gosline and SRS Engineers, LLC prepared the report, Kershaw County Transportation Planning Issues, Opportunities & Recommendations that is located at Appendix C of the CIP. Mr. Gosline made a presentation to the Planning Commission on the Report. He stated that the County would need to consider all funding options in order to have adequate revenue to maintain existing county roads and to fund current and future needed road improvements. Mr. Gosline distributed a hand-out fact sheet on transportation development impact fees. There was a general discussion on impact fees. John Newman pointed out that the latest draft of the CIP includes the \$50,000 recommended in the report that is requested to be budgeted for FY 09 to fund a detailed analysis as identified in the Planning Commission's Capital Improvement Program Projects. This funding for a transportation study is also included in the 2008 Annual Priority Projects Recommendations.

V. Text Amendment to Zoning Ordinance, Article 5, Sign Regulations

The proposed amendments include the following:

SECTION 1 Amend Article 5 Table 6 to include Reader Board signs as a sign allowed with a permit for Institutional uses in all zoning districts.

SECTION 2 Amend Article 5 Table 7 to stipulate that the maximum sign surface area for a reader board sign shall be 32 square feet, and to allow the combination of the principal identification sign and the reader board sign into one sign with a maximum sign surface area of 50 square feet.

SECTION 3 Amend the DEFINITION section of the Zoning Ordinance to include the definition of a reader board to read as follows:

Sign, Reader Board A sign permitted only in institutional uses that is intended to provide schedules of events, rules, regulations, announcements, or similar messages. Institutional uses include educational, religious, recreational, civic, municipal, and other institutional uses including historic markers that are allowable in any zoning district under the zoning district regulations.

John Newman told the group that the Planning Department has recognized for some time, a need to amend a portion of the sign ordinance to add message boards to allowable signs for institutional uses. Institutional uses include educational, religious, recreational, civic, municipal, and governmental uses. He added that the amendment before the Commission refers to a *reader board*, while the term *message board* is more accurate. He, therefore, recommended changing the amendment to read message board. Carolyn Hammond added that the Planning Department also felt the need to specifically state that no commercial advertising or promotion be allowed on this type sign. After discussion, the group came to the consensus that it is the intent that these signs would display messages relating to schedules of events, rules, regulations, announcements, or similar messages and not contain any commercial advertisement or promotion. The group agreed to change the language to include "...excluding commercial advertisement or promotional messages."

Richard Simmons made the motion to accept the amendments. George Gibson seconded and all voted in favor. Richard Simmons made the motion to change the name of the sign from reader board to message board. Charles Cottingham seconded and all voted in favor. Dan Matthews made the motion to recommend to County Council Article 5, Tables 6 and 7 as amended. David Brown seconded and all voted in favor. The amendments, as approved, are stated below:

SECTION 1 Amend Article 5 Table 6 to include Message Board signs as a sign allowed with a permit for Institutional uses in all zoning districts.

SECTION 2 Amend Article 5 Table 7 to stipulate that the maximum sign surface area for a message board sign shall be 32 square feet, and to allow the combination of the principal identification sign and the message board sign into one sign with a maximum sign surface area of 50 square feet.

SECTION 3 Amend the DEFINITION section of the Zoning Ordinance to include the definition of a message board to read as follows:

Sign, Message Board A sign permitted only in institutional uses that is intended to provide schedules of events, rules, regulations, announcements, or similar messages excluding commercial advertisement or promotional messages. Institutional uses include educational, religious, recreational, civic, municipal, and other institutional uses including historic markers that are allowable in any zoning district under the zoning district regulations.

VI. Staff Report on County Council Actions Concerning Planning & Zoning Commission

John Newman reported that there had been no recent County Council actions pertaining to the Planning Commission. He told the Commission that he made a brief CIP presentation to Council at their February 12, 2008 meeting. Mr. Newman added that the third reading for the rezoning of Liberty Hills Farms will be on February 26, 2008.

Other Items

There were no other items

Adjournment

Richard Simmons motioned to adjourn. Dan Matthews seconded, and all voted in favor. The meeting ended at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn B. Hammond
Secretary