

**NEWBERG
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2015, 7:00 PM**

Chair Gary Bliss called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:	Cathy Stuhr	Philip Smith	Matt Fortner
	Gary Bliss	Jason Dale	Art Smith
	Luis Saavedra, Student Commissioner		

Staff Present: Steve Olson, Interim Building and Planning Director
Jacque Betz, City Manager
Sue Ryan, City Recorder

Also Present: Mayor Bob Andrews, ex-officio

Commissioner Allyn Edwards was excused.

DEVELOPMENT CODE AMENDMENT: Discussion on this item was continued from the January 8, 2015 meeting.

Interim Building and Planning Director Steve Olson gave a summary of the changes made at the last meeting including changes to flag display, umbrella signage, portable signs, sign permit program, and signs in the C3 and C4 zones. He gave options for signs in the public right-of-way that were not in the C3 and C4 zones. Enforcement would be done by City employees.

Janis Schroeder, downtown business owner, had one of her signs removed overnight by code enforcement. She could not physically bring her sign in at night. She felt her sign was in compliance, and thought a Newberg Graphic newspaper stand sign that was chained to a pole nearby was not. She had gotten permission from Newberg Graphic to put the sign next to their stand, and that sign had been removed. She asked the reason the signs needed to be taken in.

Chair Bliss explained the Code had not been enforced previously, and these changes would bring things back into control and make the City look better. There was discussion on the procedure for removing signs and possibly adding language regarding notifying people before they were removed.

City Manager Jacque Betz said it was a safety issue and liability to have signs out at night in the public right-of-way. She would follow up with the City Attorney and Code Compliance Officer on the issue and to give people a warning. She also thought more public outreach and education needed to be done.

Robert Soppe, Newberg citizen, said not many people were aware of the prohibition of signs in the public right-of-way that were not in the C3 and C4 zones. He thought if the Code was enforced, there would be a serious negative reaction from citizens. He suggested these signs follow the same rules as those in the C3 and C4 zones except the hours they could not be displayed would be 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. Sunday through Wednesday and no sign could be displayed for more than four consecutive days. Two signs per frontage would be allowed and the owner of the property abutting the right-of-way had the authority to confiscate any sign for which written permission was not obtained. He thought if the signs were not allowed, the Code needed to be enforced. There was discussion regarding Mr. Soppe's suggestions.

IBPD Olson read an emailed testimony from Christine Kirk, All People Yoga business owner. She said her signs had been confiscated by code enforcement. She wanted more flexibility on the hours the signs could be out and would like to put her signs out on First Street for more visibility. There was a discussion on what was meant by more flexibility as proposed by Ms. Kirk.

Chair Bliss closed the public hearing.

There was discussion on the previous subcommittee's work and the main intent was to make the Code easier, more understandable, business friendly and enforceable.

Commissioner Phillip Smith suggested for odd circumstances that the business meet with the Planning Director and Code Enforcement Officer to make an exception rather than try to come up with regulations for every scenario.

MOTION: Commissioner Phillip Smith moved to adopt the Code amendments as written along with Robert Soppe's recommendation on Page 14. Commissioner Stuhr seconded with an amendment saying signs would be allowed for 24 hours on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday and for Page 12, C3, clarifying that every sign approved under the sign permit program must have a cohesive, coordinated appearance.

IBPD Olson suggested the language read "every sign approved under an individual sign permit must have a cohesive, coordinated appearance." There was a provision in the Municipal Code for notifying people before a sign was removed.

Commissioner Fortner suggested that for a first violation, there was written notification and after that the sign could be confiscated. Commissioner Phillip Smith suggested adding a No. 9 to Page 13 that stated, "The City's Code Enforcement Officer will issue a warning to first violators of Section 15.435.110. Confiscation of a sign will occur on a second violation." Commissioner Fortner wanted to forward that language as a friendly amendment to the motion. CM Betz thought it could be done administratively without being put in the Development Code.

There was discussion on how to proceed with the amendment and whether or not to have this forwarded to Council to direct staff to make the administrative change or to include it in the Development Code.

AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION: Commissioner Fortner moved to add the language as read by Commissioner Phillip Smith to the Development Code. The motion was seconded by Chair Bliss.

Commissioner Art Smith said the City Manager had a better way to solve the issue rather than codifying it. Commissioner Dale said it was redundant and thought it could be handled administratively. Commissioner Stuhr agreed that it should be forwarded to the City Council and handled by staff. Chair Bliss concurred and thought it would be sufficient to be done administratively.

The amendment to the motion failed 0-6 with all opposed.

The vote on the main motion passed 6-0.

ITEMS FROM STAFF:

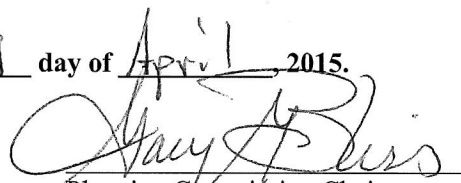
IBPD Olson said Mr. Doug Rux had been hired as the new Community Development Director. He discussed the newly approved Enterprise Zone, citizen advisory committee for the Transportation System Plan, continuing UGB mediation, and statement of economic interest for public officials.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS: Commissioner Phillip Smith reported the UGB mediation process was happening.

Chair Bliss adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Approved by the Newberg Planning Commission this 9 day of April 2015.


Sue Ryan, City Recorder


Planning Commission Chair