

City of Isle of Palms Public Hearing

6:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 22, 2011
City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina

The City of Isle of Palms held a Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2011 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the hearing were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Buckhannon, Duffy, Loftus, Piening, Stone and Thomas, Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, Building and Planning Director Kerr, City Attorney Halversen, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

1. Mayor Cronin called the meeting to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been notified of the hearing in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
2. Mayor Cronin noted that this hearing was to gain public input on two (2) ordinances that were to receive Second Readings at the City Council meeting to follow; the Mayor then read the titles of the ordinances as follows:

Ordinance 2011-01 – An Ordinance Amending Title 5, Planning and Development, Chapter 4, Zoning, Article 7, Signs, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinance to Provide for Regulations Pertaining to Sandwich Board Signs.

Ordinance 2011-02 – An Ordinance Amending Title 5, Planning and Development, Chapter 4, Zoning, Article 1, General Provisions, Section 5-4-20, Communication Tower and Antennae Regulations, of the City of Isle of Palms Code of Ordinances to Provide an Exception and Certain Additional Requirements for Communication Towers and/or Antennae Modified or Constructed for Public Safety Uses by Governmental Agencies.

Director Kerr was asked to provide background on the ordinances for Public Hearing. The Director reminded Council that a commercial business owner had appeared before them in 2010 requesting an amendment to the sign ordinance to allow for banners. Council referred the owner to the Planning Commission which, subsequently, reviewed the entire sign ordinance thoroughly. From the study, the Planning Commission decided that the provisions of the sign ordinance continue to be relevant and serving the City well.

On the topic of the business owner's request for banners, the Planning Commission determined that, within the existing ordinance, the owner could achieve his goal and left banners as a prohibited sign under the ordinance. The change recommended by the Planning Commission was to amend the ordinance to approve sandwich board signs.

The inclusion of sandwich board signs is accomplished in Ordinance 2011-01 by exempting sandwich board signs from a permit requirement in Section 1, by differentiating sandwich board signs from portable signs by adding a definition of sandwich boards in Section 2, by describing what situations allow for sandwich boards in Section 3 and by removing sandwich board signs from the list of prohibited signs in Section 4.

Director Kerr stated that Ordinance 2011-02 deals with the communications towers. In the existing code, communications towers can be approved by staff to one hundred (100) feet upon meeting an established list of criteria or to one hundred sixty (160) feet by the Board of Zoning Appeals; the proposed amendment would fall under the Zoning Administrator's approval. The Director explained that the amendment is intended to be a very restrictive provision that would allow for a communications tower specifically "for public service uses by any federal, state, county, municipal or other governmental agency." In addition to the provisions in the existing code, a communications tower constructed under this amendment must also make "reasonable" efforts to reduce the fall zone, accommodate a minimum of four (4) commercial carriers and meets certain wind speed standards.

Mayor Cronin then opened the floor to public comments, but no one came forward to speak.

3. Adjournment

Mayor Cronin closed the Public Hearing at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland
City Clerk