

**Meeting of the Village of Beecher  
PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION  
Washington Township Center  
May 31, 2012**

At 7:15 p.m., Kim Koutsky called the meeting to order in the absence of Phil Serviss. Members present: Kim Koutsky, Kevin Bouchard, George Schuitema, Althea Machtemes, Denis Tatgenhorst, Gayle Ahrendt and Lance Saller. Absent: Phil Serviss. Staff present: Robert Barber and Don Thomas.

**AGENDA ITEM III: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 22, 2012 MEETING.** A motion was entered by Bouchard and seconded by Machtemes to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call: 5 Ayes (Koutsky, Saller, Machtemes, Tatgenhorst and Bouchard, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain (Schuitema). Motion carried.

**AGENDA ITEM IV: WORKSHOP ITEM. CONSIDER A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO DIGITAL SIGNS.** A report was provided by Don Thomas that recommended several criteria for the consideration of a special use for a digital sign. One variable is the distance the PZC would like to see between a digital sign and a residential district. The messaging is also being limited to no more than eight messages in a rotation according to Section 11.02. When the Village attorney reviewed Don Thomas' original thoughts for criteria for LED signs, he found the language to be too nebulous. Thomas' memo (attached) suggests revised terminology.

Commissioner Koutsky noted that the PZC needs to determine what a flashing sign is. The language in the ordinance is confusing. Further discussion centered on determining the definitions of flashing signs vs. animated signs, etc. It appeared there was language in the ordinance that blurred the definitions between the types of signs. It was generally felt that clarification was needed.

Other considerations were:

A reader board, where manual placement of lettering occurs, is a permitted use.

Section 2b should be removed from Section 11.05 of the ordinance.

Any animated sign besides one that provides time and temperature must be a special use

No animated signs should be allowed outside the buildings in a B1 district.

In Don Thomas' revised memo, #3 should be changed to read "Sign and its messaging" instead of just "messaging."

To discourage saturation of these types of signs, it was discussed that perhaps there could be a limit of one digital sign per zoning lot.

Special use will not be considered on legal non-conforming signs. These signs cannot be converted to LED. They must be monument-type signs only.

With the amount of discussion and suggestions considered, it was decided that the next session would be another workshop to consider these suggestions, and re-read them to make sure all the ideas were incorporated.

**AGENDA ITEM V: CONSIDER A PUBLIC HEARING ON AN AMENDMENT TO THE ZONING ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO TEMPORARY SIGNS.** Revisions to the temporary sign section of the zoning ordinance were discussed per Don Thomas' memo (attached). It was agreed to revise #7 to state that the Zoning Administrator or his designee may permit "an off-premise temporary sign" rather than just "a temporary sign". Discussion followed as to whether the signs would be permitted for 30 or 60 days but there should be one occurrence of one sign for one business that does not exceed 6 sq. ft. It should be limited to local businesses only. At the next meeting, another workshop will be held to further refine the suggestions prior to a public hearing.

**AGENDA ITEM VI: LAND USE PLAN UPDATE.** There is no news about a grant to provide funding for a new land use plan, and if funding is not provided, the Village Board will provide enough for a small update of the present plan.

**AGENDA ITEM VII: PROPOSED SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE PZC MEETINGS.** Meetings will continue on the fourth Thursday of each month, however due to vacations and absences, the next meeting will be held off-schedule on August 1. After that meeting, the schedule will revert back to the original schedule.

**AGENDA ITEM VIII: NEW BUSINESS.** With no new business, Tatgenhorst entered a motion and Saller seconded that the meeting stand adjourned. Koutsky called the motion to a vote and it carried unanimously. The meeting stood adjourned at 8:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcy Meyer".

Marcy Meyer  
Secretary