

MINUTES

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF WARR ACRES
MONDAY
MARCH 23, 2015
7:00 P.M.**

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Declaration of a quorum present was given. The Flag salute was led by Chief Patty and the Invocation was given by Mayor Woolley.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

ABSENT

Mayor Patrick Woolley
Vice Mayor James Mickley
Councilwoman Cathy Maxey
Councilman Stewart Shapiro
Councilman Stephen Fuhrman
Councilman Roger Godwin (arrived at 7:39 p.m.)
Councilman William McClure
Councilman Glenn Lipinski
Councilman Donnie Ryan

Councilman Shapiro told the council that they had special guest with them tonight and they were from Putnam City High School and they had just returned from Alabama where they defeated the Alabama who was #1. Since there were on Spring Break last week their leader was able to get them here to attend the meeting on late notice.

2. A. Discussion and possible action on an Ordinance repealing the existing Title 15 (Signs) and adopting a new, comprehensive Title 15 (Signs). *Sign Committee* ****

The sign committee of Councilman Fuhrman, Councilman Ryan, Councilman McClure and Barbara Harris have worked on the revision of the Sign code for several months. Councilman McClure asked Councilwoman Maxey if she had invited Mr. Schweinberg. She stated that she thought he might be able to answer any questions they might have. He has been in the sign business for many years and serves as a Councilman in Mustang and has set on several sign committees. Councilman Fuhrman spoke on behalf of the committee. The council started by making several corrections to scrivener's errors.

Motion by Ryan, second by Mickley to amend the ordinance by correcting several scrivener's errors. Poll vote: McClure, yea; Ryan, yea; Lipinski, yea; Maxey, yea; Mickley, yea; Fuhrman, yea; Shapiro, yea; and Woolley, yea.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

Councilman Ryan asked when the council would take action to repeal the old code. Attorney Love stated that it was one action when they approve the new one the old one is repealed. Councilman Shapiro asked about if there would be any grandfathered in. Attorney Love stated that this law would make them non-compliant or legally non-conforming. Only when they tear down a sign would they fall under the new regulations. Mr. Schweinberg told what some other cities have done and explained some things about signs.

Motion by Shapiro, second by Mickley to amend 15.04.070 fees permits by adding the words legally non-conforming in front of non-accessory sign and removing the \$500 Initial fee; 15.04.095 remove the words except as provided in Chapter 15.12, (Non-accessory signs) and remove including non-accessory signs; and removing 15.12 in its entirety. Poll vote: McClure, yea; Godwin, nay; Ryan, yea; Lipinski, yea; Maxey, yea; Mickley, yea; Fuhrman, yea; Shapiro, yea; and Woolley, yea.

Motion Passed.

There was much discussion on pole signs and ground signs and how they should be defined. Mr. Schweinberg stated that they need to make sure that they make it clear on how they calculate footage and sight triangles so to make it easier for the contract to know. He stated that all signs are pole sign because they are all built with a base using poles.

Motion by Ryan, second by Fuhrman to amend 15.04.130 (D) change 12 to 8 and remove fading, rolling, shading, dissolving. Poll vote: McClure, yea; Godwin, yea; Ryan, yea; Lipinski, yea; Maxey, yea; Mickley, yea; Fuhrman, yea; Shapiro, yea; and Woolley, yea.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

There was a lengthy debate about pole signs. Councilman Lipinski asked if anyone could give a reason by they did not want pole signs other than that they just don't like the way they look. Attorney Love stated that the council sets the policy and they need some alternatives because they are not going to come to a resolution at this meeting. The Mayor stated that he would get with the staff and come up with an alternate plan. Attorney Love stated that they cannot just change a few words, they have to decide what the amendments will be and any conditions that would be allowed. The issue of graffiti was brought up and Councilman Shapiro stated the need to make sure they do not marry graffiti with a certain race.

He said the committee has done a marvelous job and the council needs to take their time. He has witnessed tonight very strong feelings on issues and respect needs to be shown and it is not tonight. Councilman Fuhrman thanked everyone for their time and said now the council understands what the committee has been going through. He said they are here to serve their constituents, and asked if there were any other changes or questions. He said hats off to the committee.

Motion by Woolley, second by Mickley to table the item to a special meeting on April 6, at 6:00 p.m. Poll vote: McClure, yea; Godwin, yea; Ryan, yea; Lipinski, yea; Maxey, yea; Mickley, yea; Fuhrman, yea; Shapiro, yea; and Woolley, yea.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

B. Approval of the emergency clause.

May include a presentation by Jeff Schweinberg with Metro Signs.

3. Adjournment.

Motion by Ryan, second by Godwin to adjourn. Poll vote: McClure, yea; Godwin, yea; Ryan, yea; Lipinski, yea; Maxey, yea; Mickley, yea; Fuhrman, yea; Shapiro, yea; and Woolley, yea.

Motion Passed Unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela McDowell-Ramirez
City Clerk/Treasurer