



**City of Blue Springs
903 Main
Blue Springs, Missouri 64015**

**Sign Code Task Force
MINUTES
Thursday, April 18, 2019**

A meeting with the Sign Code Task Force was held in the City Hall 210 Training Conference Room located at 903 W Man Street on Thursday, April 18, 2019 with the following members and staff in attendance:

ATTENDANCE

Ron Fowler, Councilmember
Kent Edmondson, Councilmember
Jerry Kaylor, Councilmember
Travis Graham, Planning Commission
Byron Craddolph, Planning Commission
Cynthia Savel, Public Safety Citizen Advisory Board
Jeff Grote, Chief, CJCYPD
Jason Woolf, Blue Springs School District
Lara Vermillion, Chamber of Commerce
Cindy Miller, Downtown Alive!
Dave Meyer, Co-Chairperson

STAFF

Thomas Cole, Director, Community & Economic Development
Mike Mallon, Assistant Director, Community & Economic Development
Nathan Jurey, Senior Planner
Matt Wright, Senior Planner
Jackie Sommer, City Attorney
Karen Findora, Liaison / Recording Secretary

OTHERS ATTENDING

Susan Culpepper, Councilmember

ABSENT

Nancy Yendes, Co-Chairperson

OATH OF OFFICE

Sheryl Morgan, City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to all of the members.



CALL TO ORDER

Dave Meyer, Co-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Tom Cole, Director, and Mike Mallon, Assistant Director, Community & Economic Development welcomed and thanked everyone for being a member of City's Sign Code Task Force. Each member introduced themselves.

SUNSHINE LAW & PUBLIC MEETINGS

Jackie Sommer, City Attorney provided copies of the State Attorney Sunshine Law handbook to each member. Ms. Sommer explained the public meeting criteria and provided Public Liability training to the Task Force.

SIGN CODE OVERVIEW/AUDIT

Nathan Jurey, Senior Planner stated that the Task Force was created by the Mayor and City Council, Resolution No. 08-2019 to review and address five (5) goals.

- Improve & update processes & regulations for signage;
- Address signage issues & concerns from the business community to encourage business growth;
- Ensure that visual discord and clutter of signage does not impact traffic safety or the citizens' enjoyment of the City;
- Balance the need for signage with the citizens' desire to preserve & enhance the visual aesthetics of Blue Springs;
- Revise regulations to comply with Supreme Court decisions.

SIGN LAW

Ms. Sommer stated that in 2015 there was a US Supreme Court Case, Reed v. Town of Gilbert. The Town of Gilbert Arizona's Sign Code was challenged because it restricted outdoor signs based on the type of message, which is First Amendment Freedom of Speech. Ideological signs, political signs and temporary directional signs all had different applicable time, place or manner regulations.

You can only regulate signs by:

- Time: Is it a permanent or temporary sign;
- Place: Involves land use, zoning, and locations of permitted uses;
- Manner: Construction material, internal or external lighting vs no lighting, size, and other physical features.

City Codes must be justified without referencing the content. The City must prohibit the least amount of speech possible to protect its interest.

There are two goals for Sign Code Regulations.

- Traffic Safety
- Appearance of the City and Community Aesthetics

COMMON ISSUES

Mr. Jurey discussed the cities current Sign Code Regulations.

- Permanent
- Temporary
- Master / Alternative Sign Plans
- Sign Area
- Façade
- Pole Sign
- Number of Signs
- Changeable Copy
- Enforcement

**FUTURE
ACTIONS/NEXT STEPS**

Fire Chief Jeff Grote expressed that he would like staff to highlight the sections of the Code they feel don't meet the Supreme Court Ruling.

Cynthia Savel would like to see a list of what citizens are complaining about pertaining to signs.

Councilmember Kent Edmondson would like to review the dis-repair of signs. "Property Maintenance Code"

Councilmember Ron Fowler would like to see a more condensed code that is easy to understand.

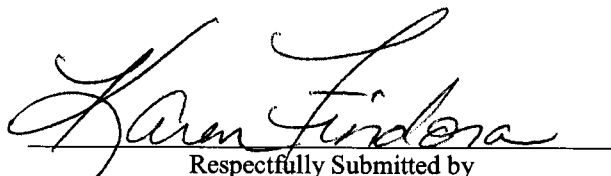
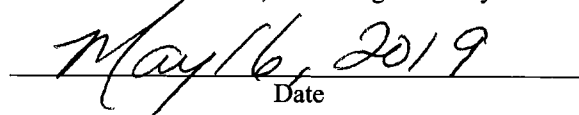
Cindy Miller would like to see what other cities Sign Codes look like. Mr. Jurey stated that most of the surrounding cities have not updated their Sign Codes. Staff can also look at Model Codes.

OTHER BUSINESS

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. located at City Hall – 210 Training Conf. Room.

ADJOURN

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.


Respectfully Submitted by
Karen Findora, Recording Secretary

Date