

September 14, 2010 Public Hearing On Amending the Political Sign Regulations

The Public Hearing on Amending the Political Sign Regulations Meeting called to order at the Village of Hainesville Council Chambers by Mayor Linda Soto at 7:02 p.m.

We are here meeting as the Zoning Board which in the Village of Hainesville the Board of Trustees and Mayor also serve as the Zoning Board.

Clerk Kathy Metzler took roll call. The following Officials were present: Mayor Linda Soto, Trustees Derenoski, Tiffany, Duberstein, Daley and Walkington

Also present were: Village Clerk Kathy Metzler, Deputy Clerk Roseann Stark, Treasurer Kelly Hensley, Building Official Russ Kraly, Public Works Superintendent Jeff Gately and Village Attorney Jim Rock

Absent: Trustee Barrett

Establishment of quorum

Mayor Soto stated that Trustee Barrett is traveling with his employer and therefore is absent.

Agenda Approval:

Trustee Duberstein motioned to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Trustee Walkington.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Trustees Derenoski, Tiffany, Duberstein, Daley and Walkington

Absent: Trustee Barrett

All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion on An Ordinance Amending the Sign Regulations of the Hainesville Municipal Code

Mayor Soto explained that the sign regulations are part of the zoning ordinance and in the past few years there has been difference in opinions regarding political signs. Ancel, Glink reviewed the ordinance and made a recommendation regarding the Sign Ordinance.

Attorney Jim Rock explained that the law has changed so that municipalities and government entities can no longer place a restriction on the amount of time political signs can be left up in a residential area. He stated that the ordinance does four things. First, eliminates the time restriction for political signs. Second, it eliminates the requirement for a permit. Third, it establishes

a total sign area that can be used in residential property. It limits the total square footage of signs to 32 sq. ft. and 6 sq. ft. per sign. Fourth, it prohibits placing political signs in certain places such as buildings, fences, mailboxes, utility poles, public signs and public rights of ways.

Discussion followed regarding the sign ordinance.

Attorney Jim Rock stated that the ordinance came about so that the right of free speech is not limited.

Public Comments

Ted Mueller, 318 Katherine Drive, Hainesville, IL 60030 – asked if this limits the number of signs that you can put on your property. Attorney Rock stated it doesn't specifically address the number of signs, what it addresses is the amount of square footage of signs that you can have on your lot. Signs are limited to 6 sq. ft per sign with a maximum of 32 sq. ft. You could place five signs that were 2 ft. by 3 ft. and that would still be within the ordinance.

Chris Larson, 91 E. Haines, Hainesville, IL 60030 – asked if there were any restrictions on vacant properties. Attorney Jim Rock stated that this would be handled on a case by case basis. However, the Village passed an ordinance related to the timing in terms of cleaning up vacant property. If the vacant property has overgrown weeds, then it would be okay to take the sign down. Mr. Larson asked if the ordinance applies to commercial property. Attorney Jim Rock stated that it is just the ordinance as it already reads. Mr. Larson also asked if the homeowner's association can enforce their own rules regarding signs. Attorney Rock stated that he would be cautious because if it is seen as a restriction to the message that is on the sign or the duration of time the message is up it could cause difficulties. Mayor Soto and Attorney Rock also recommended that Mr. Larson discuss this question with the condominium association's attorney. Attorney Rock added that he will check into this issue.

Trustee Duberstein motioned to make a recommendation that the Village adopt the modifications listed in this ordinance at the Regular Board Meeting which will follow the Public Hearing; seconded by Trustee Daley.

Roll Call:

Aye: Trustee Tiffany, Duberstein, Daley, Walkington

Nay: Trustee Derenoski

Absent: Trustee Barrett

Trustee Walkington motioned to adjourn the September 14, 2010 Public Hearing on Amending the Political Sign Regulations; seconded by Trustee Duberstein.

All in favor say aye, motion carried.

The September 14, 2010 Public Hearing on Amending the Political Sign Regulations adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Metzler, RMC, CMC
Village Clerk