

**TOWN OF HOPE MILLS
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019, 5:30 P.M.
BILL LUTHER BOARD MEETING ROOM**

Mayor Jackie Warner called the Special meeting of the Hope Mills Board of Commissioners to order on Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 5:34 p.m.

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Jackie Warner, Commissioners Jessie Bellflowers, Pat Edwards, Meg Larson and Jerry Legge.

ABSENT

Mayor Pro Tem Mike Mitchell.

STAFF PRESENT

Town Manager Melissa Adams, Town Clerk Jane Starling, and Development & Planning Administrator Chancer McLaughlin. Also present was Attorney Katie Barber-Jones.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The invocation was led by Commissioner Jerry Legge, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Jackie Warner.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS.

Motion made by Commissioner Edwards and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda as presented.

2. PRESENTATIONS.

- a. Consideration and discussion of proposed changes to the sign ordinance.

Development and Planning Administrator Chancer McLaughlin presented this item by aid of PowerPoint slides. Mr. McLaughlin commented at the most recent work session, the Board of Commissioners indicated that additional amendments were needed to fully address their concerns in regards to Hope Mills Sign Ordinance amendments. The Commissioners instructed staff to focus on ground signs, elimination of pole signs, and temporary banners.

Mr. McLaughlin commented staff proposes to add language that creates a distinction that specifically speaks to signs on standalone commercial properties. This will allow for a “tiered” approach to be created that establishes smaller heights and square footages for signs on standalone sites and larger heights and square footages for signs on sites with multiple tenants. Mr. McLaughlin also suggested amending current language to allow for temporary banners up to 90 days when associated with the grand opening of a new business or establishment.

Commissioner Bellflowers commented that he agreed with the 90 days being allowed for banners and that he feels signs damaged by 50% or more need more than 30 day to make repairs. Commissioner Legge commented that he agrees with more time. Development and Planning Administrator Chancer McLaughlin responded that the length of time can be whatever the Board decides.

Commissioner Larson commented the damage should be removed in a short time period with a longer amount of time to replace.

Commissioner Edwards commented monument signs look nice and she believes in a tiered approach.

Commissioner Legge commented regardless of whatever is done, there is always the option of amendments to the ordinance.

Mayor Warner commented signs on Main Street are already in the right of way and if they are damaged or change hands, when they comply with the setback, they will not be visible.

Commissioner Bellflowers inquired if we could make the time for all sign repairs six months.

Commissioner Edwards commented we still need pole sings and commissioner Bellflowers added that they are needed in limited areas.

The consensus of the Board was to have the item brought back to the February 18th meeting for a vote sending it to the Planning Board.

3. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made by Commissioner Legge and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

Mayor Warner adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Jackie Warner, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jane G. Starling, CMC
Town Clerk