



**PED
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, August 18, 2015**

Board Members in Attendance: Vice Mayor Marc Hunt, Council Member Jan Davis

Staff in Attendance: Sam Powers, Robin Currin, Catherine Hofmann, Joey Robison, Shannon Tuch, Jon Fillman, Kerby Smithson, Alan Glines, Amber Weaver, Walter Ear, Greg Schuler, Melissa VanSickle

Board Members Absent: Council Member Gwen Wisler

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Vice Mayor Hunt moved to accept, Council Member Davis seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

2. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Consideration of Application for Emerging Opportunities Grant and Grant Match Funds; Jon Fillman

Staff member, Jon Fillman informed committee members of the grant program that includes a quantitative research study evaluating the economic impacts and results of the City's work with special events. The City intends to provide a 50/50 match for the grant through existing economic funds. Mr. Fillman explained that the city currently has various qualitative data in regards to special events but is in need of more evidence-based data to determine what portion of economic strategies should be dedicated to special events. It is hopeful to develop a model or tool to share with surrounding communities. Mr. Sam Powers added to the conversation, explaining that the City expects this to ultimately be a tool to help evaluate the type of events and partnerships the City engages. Mr. Powers described this as an opportunity for growing the City's relationship with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). Members then discussed the City's relationship with the ARC and their funding. Discussion also included the importance of this opportunity to improve relationships and the existing and possible future engagement of other local stakeholders. It was recommended with approval by Vice Mayor Hunt and Council Member Davis that the consideration of the application move forward to Council.

b. UDO Updates; Shannon Tuch

• Proposed wording amendment adopting standards regulating utility substations

Staff member, Shannon Tuch informed members that currently, the UDO defines but does not outline regulation and therefore would like to recommend adopting new standards. The City has performed research in case law and investigated what others are doing and feel comfortable adopting standards that will not be too strict or impact costs/rates. Two sets of standards are being recommended that will be different for commercial and residential. Ms. Tuch describes these differences and explains the importance of also considering the basic needs of utility substations. Members discussed the regulations and the property lines of the substations and the participation of Duke Energy. The timeline and process of applying these regulations to future projects was also discussed, along with the consideration of setbacks and community concerns. Vice Mayor Hunt and Council Member Davis agree that the amendments should move forward quickly with continued research on buffers that are consistent with other commercial areas.

• Required UDO Amendments; Building Design Elements and Sign Codes

In regards to building design elements, Ms. Tuch outlined amendments that are necessitated from recent legal decisions and then moved forward to describe these legal changes. Ms. Tuch also explains the different types of applications and discussed the City's want to continue to encourage infill and bring compatible infill

back into the ordinance. Ms. Tuch is recommending these amendments to satisfy the requirements. Vice Mayor Hunt and Council Member Davis are ok with staff to move forward with amendments.

Recent Supreme Court decisions have impacted the City's sign ordinance and require staff to fix the ordinance. Ms. Tuch explained the Supreme Court's decision and that staff recommends building a new ordinance entirely. The City hopes to model the ordinance off of others city's rather than building the ordinance from scratch. Members then moved into discussion of the ability to find an "off the shelf product" and the past and present interests and concerns from people in the community concerning signs. Ms. Tuch and Members also discuss the possibility of proliferation of signs and how to address these issues. The timeframe of this amendment was discussed along with what other cities are doing. Further, the members discussed how to address issues, how much should be rewritten, and legally what can be done. It was suggested by Vice Mayor Hunt that staff continue into staff level reviews and then possibly circle back to Council to figure out a more formal process. Council Member Davis added that staff should apply what is needed now and then move forward.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS. None.

5. ADJOURN. The meeting was adjourned without objection at 4:20 pm.