

**King & Queen County  
Planning Commission Minutes  
January 3, 2017**

The King & Queen County Planning Commission met on Tuesday, January 3, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in the King & Queen County Courts and Administrations Building in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room for their regular monthly meeting.

*\*Note – Notice was posted on the front doors of the Courts and Administrative Building and on the front doors of the General District Court Room to notify attendees that the meeting will be held upstairs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room.*

**Planning Commission Members Present:**

Franklin Massey  
Milton Watkins  
David Campbell  
Robert Harvey (*arrived at 6:05*)

Sheila Morton  
Barbara Hudgins  
Robert Coleman, Jr.

**Also in Attendance:**

Donna E. Sprouse, Assistant Zoning Administrator

**Call to Order**

Vice Chairman, Mr. Watkins called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call/Determination of Quorum**

Mr. Campbell took roll call and determined that a quorum was present.

**Election of Officers for 2017**

Mr. Watkins stated that he would now accept nominations for Chairman. A nomination was made by Mrs. Morton to have Mr. Richardson serve as Chairman, seconded by Mrs. Hudgins.

Voting For: Watkins, Harvey, Campbell, Hudgins, Morton, Coleman, Massey  
Voting Against: None  
Abstain: None

A nomination was made by Mr. Coleman to have Mr. Watkins serve as Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. Massey.

Voting For: Harvey, Campbell, Hudgins, Morton, Coleman, Massey  
Voting Against: None  
Abstain: Watkins

A nomination was made by Mrs. Morton to have Mr. Campbell serve as Secretary, seconded by Mr. Harvey.

Voting For: Watkins, Harvey, Hudgins, Morton, Coleman, Massey  
Voting Against: None  
Abstain: Campbell

**Approval of Minutes  
November 7, 2016**

After brief review of the minutes a motion was made by Mr. Massey to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Mrs. Morton.

Voting For: Watkins, Morton, Campbell, Hudgins, Massey  
Voting Against: None  
Abstain: Harvey & Coleman

**Citizens Comment Period**

Mr. Watkins noted that there was no one in attendance at the meeting from the public, therefore citizens comment period was opened and immediately closed.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

**Electronic Controlled Message Signs in the Agricultural District (*discussion*)**

Mrs. Sprouse stated that she does not attend the Board of Supervisor monthly meetings, however was informed that during the November Board meeting, at the request of Board member Jim Burns, the Board agreed to ask the Planning Commission to determine if consideration should be made for electronic controlled message signs in the Agricultural zoning districts. Mrs. Sprouse stated that presently under the current ordinance, flashing and electronic controlled message signs are not permitted in the Agricultural zoning district. Mrs. Sprouse noted that this has come up since Poroporone Baptist Church had purchased an electronic controlled message sign. Mrs. Hudgins noted that the sign was installed and operational. Mrs. Sprouse confirmed what Mrs. Hudgins stated and said that Mr. Burns was informed that the church may request a text amendment to allow for electronic controlled message signs in the Agricultural zoning district. Mr. Coleman asked if permits are required for the sign install. Mrs. Sprouse stated that a sign permit is required to ensure zoning compliance regarding size, type, height and location. Mr. Watkins, Mr. Harvey and Mrs. Hudgins expressed concern that the sign was installed without permits and now ask for consideration for a code change to allow for such signs. Mrs. Hudgins asked what happens now that the sign is up. Mrs. Sprouse noted that since it is under consideration by the Commission and soon the Board to make changes to the ordinance regarding electronic signs in the Agricultural district, it will remain until we have a conclusion regarding the matter of electronic signs in the Agricultural district. She noted that we did the same with the lawn mowers at Wyatt's Pro Mechanics while we were considering an ordinance change to allow for them to be placed closer to the street. Mr. Coleman stated that with the technology provided now a days, it seems that we should consider keeping up with the technology as well when it comes to our ordinances. Mrs. Sprouse noted that consideration should be made with electronic controlled message signs, not solely based on this situation with the church, however for all such as schools, library, volunteer fire & rescue, churches, civic organizations, etc. Some members expressed concerns for the neighbors who may have the sign pointed towards their homes in rural areas. Mrs. Sprouse noted that though you cannot allow signs strictly by use, you could allow signs by zoning district within an overlay district, such as the economic development or hub. Mr. Massey noted that he liked that idea. Mrs. Sprouse noted that doesn't help all situations discussed however.

Mrs. Morton stated that her church wasn't in an overlay district and maybe they would like to have such a sign as well one day. Mr. Massey asked Mrs. Sprouse if she could provide more information at the next meeting regarding electronic signs, where they are typically used and some pros and cons of such for the commission to consider during their next meeting. Mr. Watkins stated that it's clear that the Commission has many different ideas at this point and maybe more time is needed to determine what changes, if any, are needed regarding electronic signs in the Agricultural zoning districts. The Commission agreed to talk about it more during their next meeting.

### **Staff's Comments**

Mrs. Sprouse asked that the Commission remember to bring their real estate disclosure forms with them (those that had not already turned them in) before the next meeting or to mail it in to the Administrator's Office.

Mrs. Sprouse noted that the Zoning & Planning Office has received an application for a conditional use permit and level 3 site plan from Bennett Mineral Company for a mining operation on property located on Canterbury Road not far from Walkerton Fire Department and across the way from the old brake shoe factory. She noted that the Commission will be receiving the file within the next few months for public hearing.

Mrs. Sprouse showed the Commission the final draft of the Comprehensive Plan. She noted that the plan will be sent to VDOT for review for compliance that she and Mr. Swartzwelder will now review for accuracy and will soon hold public meetings and a public hearing to adopt the plan sometime over the summer months. She stated that if the Commission would like to take a look at the plan, they may do so.

Mrs. Sprouse showed the Commission members the Municode website where the county ordinances are kept/maintained. She noted that the supplements/changes to the code is made twice a year. However, as ordinances or text amendments are adopted between supplements, they are now posted on the website so that you can ensure that you are reading the most current code while not having to wait for the biannual update. She informed the Commission where to find the site and briefly showed them how to use the search option, how to view prior amendments/changes, and how to search other localities ordinances should they be interested in how other counties address some zoning related issues.

Mrs. Sprouse also briefly showed the Commission the GIS mapping online and how to use it as well. She explained that it's not perfect, however as errors are found, they are addressed. She noted that the site is updated twice a year.

### **Commissioner's Comments**

Mrs. Morton wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Harvey stated that he is glad to be a part of the Commission and hopes to learn a lot and make the County better for all.

Mr. Coleman welcomed Mr. Harvey.

Mr. Campbell welcomed Mr. Harvey.

Mr. Massey wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Mr. Watkins wished everyone a Happy New Year and to be safe going home tonight.

Mrs. Morton stated that she wished to thank Mr. Richardson, Mr. Watkins and Mr. Campbell for a job well done as officers of the Commission.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Massey to adjourn the meeting. All those present ratified the motion by saying "Aye". The meeting was adjourned.

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Milton Watkins, Vice-Chairman