

City Council  
March 23, 2011

A Work Session of the Mayor and City Council and the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Waxahachie, Texas, was held in the Council Conference Room at City Hall, 401 S. Rogers on Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at 4:30 p.m.

Members Present: N.B. (Buck) Jordan, Mayor  
John Wray, Mayor Pro Tem  
Chuck Beatty, Councilman  
Kevin Strength, Councilman  
Mark Singleton, Councilman

Planning & Zoning  
Commission Members  
Present:

Jim Cooper, Chairman  
Rick Keeler  
Bonney Ramsey  
Anthony Mottla  
Melissa Ballard

Members Absent: Betty Jefferson, Vice Chairman  
Mary Lou Shipley

Others Present: Paul Stevens, City Manager  
Michael Scott, Assistant City Manager  
Steve Chapman, City Attorney  
Lori Saunders, City Secretary  
Clyde Melick, Director of Planning

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Chairman Jim Cooper called the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting to order.

Mayor Buck Jordan called the City Council meeting to order and announced the meeting had been called to discuss the Zoning Ordinance related to signs.

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Planning Director Clyde Melick reviewed proposed sign regulations amendments as follows:

**Banner:** added definition not allowing as a permanent wall signs

**Electronic Message Signs:** Signs may be illuminated; shall have no stroboscopic lights; fluttering, undulating, swinging or otherwise moving parts. Signs shall not impair driver's ability to see pedestrians, obstacles, other vehicles or emergency vehicles. Electronic marquee type signs may be allowed by Specific Use Permit upon approval of City Council.

- a) A maximum of 70% of the sign face may be devoted to changeable sign copy
- b) Changeable marquee copy signs may not be used to display commercial messages relating to products or services that are not offered on the premises

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- c) Any marquee signs that are illuminated by artificial light or projects an electronic message through a changeable copy sign that is within 400 feet of a residence, park, playground, or scenic area as designed by the City Council shall not be lighted between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- d) Such signs shall not exceed a brightness level of 0.3 foot candles above ambient light. In all zoning districts such signs shall come equipped with automatic dimming technology, which automatically adjusts the sign's brightness based on ambient light
- e) Additional requirements may be set forth by the Planning & Zoning Commission and/or City Council

**Incidental Signs:** Changed a small sign from less than 2 square feet to 3 square feet in a surface area of a noncommercial nature which is intended primarily for the convenience of the public and now allows for civic organizations signage.

**Pole Signs:** No sign shall exceed seventy-five (75') to top of sign

**Promotional Signage:** Allowed for four (4) weeks out of a quarter and cannot run consecutive

**Sandwich Board Sign:** portable sign consisting of two panels of equal size, which are hinged at the top and placed on the ground or pavement so as to be self-supporting; shall be removed everyday after close of business; and shall not cause an obstruction to pedestrian traffic.

**Wall Sign:** Signs and their words shall be mounted; shall not extend above the wall or building surface to which the sign is attached. Banner signs shall not be utilized as permanent wall signs, but only as Promotional Signs.

**Illegal Nonconforming Signs:** If a permit is not granted, the sign must be removed within three (3) months of original notification.

**Prohibited Signs and Activities:** Added all billboards and signs advertising off premise sale, service or activity. Deleted "Certain illuminated signs prohibited" and "Portable Signs" language.

Mr. Dick Fraiser, representing the Harbors at Willow Grove, noted people have a difficulty locating their development and explained, because of their location, they are not allowed to advertise on Highway 77. Council suggested he purchase small square footage of land near Highway 77 to put his sign on. Mr. Melick recommended he advertise on the Kiosk signs which will lead people into his development.

**After a lengthy discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m. No action taken.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Saunders  
City Secretary