

CITY OF BURTON
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 1993, 7:00 P.M., COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Meeting was called to order by Tom Martinbianco, President, at 7:07 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Abbey, Cox, Cross, Hammon, Martinbianco, Walls and Zelenko.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Charles H. Smiley; K. McArdle, Personnel Director; W. Walworth, Clerk; R. LaDuke, Building Supervisor; T. Strasser, Dep. Planning Official.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Discussion and possible recommendation concerning Zoning Case #201, Text Amendment Change, Ordinance #19, Section 5.27 by the City of Burton.

PRESENTATION:

Mayor Smiley said we must work with present and future business along our freeways. He said the proposed amendment to Ordinance 19 has been approved by the Planning Commission.

Mayor Smiley said, to attract business we must be competitive.

Mr. Strasser said the correct wording was on the inter-office memo he sent to the Mayor, which has been distributed to the Council.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

James Allen, 1105 Howe Rd., spoke against the change, as he thought it was for one business.

Betty Howlett, 5465 Maple, spoke for the change and said we need the change to encourage businesses in Burton. She said we need to continue to expand our tax base for the City.

Larry Petrella, 1081 Howe Rd., said it was not good for a small City like Burton to have these large signs. He said he would pursue a referendum of the voters if this was approved.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION:

Mr. Cox did not feel that the change would draw business to Burton. He asked if a business, within 1000 ft. of the expressway, but not bordering the expressway, could use the ordinance. He was advised yes.

Mrs. Walls asked if it was only for expressway. Mr. Hamilton said the ordinance change was only concerning the expressway signs.

Mr. Cox said that variances could be requested by businesses without an ordinance change.

Mr. Cross suggested that the ordinance be studied by the Legislative Committee. He asked if it had been studied by the Legislative Committee. Mr. Martinbianco said no, that it went to Planning instead.

Mr. Abbey asked about the Sam's sign in Flint Township. Mayor Smiley said that it was not on a freeway.

Mayor Smiley said Wal Marts sign was approved by the ZBA and it exceeds what is being recommended tonight. Mr. Martinbianco noted that it was not a free standing sign, but was on the building.

Mrs. Zelenko also suggested it go to the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Hammon said the ordinance was antiquated and that we should not continue to bring businesses before a commission for a variance. He said he was willing to compromise his position for something between 65 and 90 ft.

Mr. Cox said he had no problem with the square foot, but did on the height.

Mr. Abbey asked if the Mayor saw a need for an ordinance change. Mayor Smiley replied, yes. He said we should try to be consistent with other signs on the freeway.

Mayor Smiley said he was flexible on the figures in the proposed ordinance change.

Mr. Hammon said he would vote against the denial and would prefer it go to committee.

Mr. Cross said he supports the denial, as the Zoning Board could handle individual cases.

Mrs. Walls said she supports denial so it can go to the Legislative Committee.

Mr. Abbey said he wants compromise on the issue.

Mr. Martinbianco said that all concerned should look at what exists so that an acceptable solution can be arrived at by the committee.

COUNCIL ACTION:

Moved by Cox, supported by Cross to deny the text amendment to Ordinance 19 Section 5.28. Motion failed 3-4 with Cox, Cross and Walls voting yes.

Moved by Abbey, supported by Zelenko to send the recommendation of the Planning Commission to the Legislative Committee to study the matter and arrive at a compromise. Motion carried 7-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

William R. Walworth
Burton City Clerk

WRW/cml