

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TOWN OF VINTON PLANNING COMMISSION
HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2007, AT 7 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT
THE VINTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING LOCATED AT 311 SOUTH POLLARD STREET.**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: **Bruce Mayer, Chairman**
Joan Drewery, Vice Chairperson
Dave Jones
Dawn Michelsen
Bob Patterson

STAFF PRESENT: **Anita McMillan, Planning and Zoning Director**
Karla Turman, Associate Planner/Zoning Enforcement
Julie S. Tucei, Planning and Zoning Coordinator

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of Minutes: October 12, 2006

III. Public Hearing Petition

- 1. The petition of Donnie Shelton for a Special Use Permit (SUP) to operate an indoor amusement center—Rack ‘Em Up Family Amusement, at 107 South Pollard Street, Tax Map Number 60.16-1-6, Zoned CB Central Business District.**
- 2. The proposed amendment to the Town of Vinton Zoning Ordinance, Article V, Division 7. Sign Regulations and Article X, Definitions.**

IV. Other Business

V. Adjournment

The meeting of the Vinton Planning Commission was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Mayer. Roll was called and all members were present.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of minutes from a meeting held on October 12, 2006. There were no additions or changes to the minutes; therefore, Mr. Patterson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted in favor of the motion to approve the minutes as submitted.

Chairman Mayer stated that the first petition, from Donnie Shelton, had been withdrawn by Mr. Shelton. Ms. McMillan said that Mr. Shelton had called the Planning office at 2:15 p.m. to request the withdrawal of the petition.

Next, the Commissioners reviewed the proposed sign ordinance changes page by page. The Commissioners made a few minor corrections to numbering or lettering where needed. Ms. Turman mentioned to them that, since they last saw the proposed ordinance, she had added that no banner sign could be made into a permanent sign. Ms. Michelsen stated that she felt that the sign ordinance was in place to promote economic growth by making the community attractive. She said that the Town should look at other communities to see what works for them and consider implementation here. Another item noted was that the setback in the CB district for temporary sale and lease signs may need to be revised. Ms. McMillan mentioned that usually in CB, businesses can't have freestanding signs. Chairman Mayer said that a lot of places would not be able to comply with the current regulations. He said they would pass that item on to Council with a question mark, as minor changes could be made by Council without bringing it back to the Planning Commission. Ms. Michelsen mentioned that she had a problem with allowing signs in the residential districts. She said she did not want signs to be allowed to advertise home occupations. Chairman Mayer stated that, he felt that if we allow home occupations, they should be allowed to advertise. Ms. Michelsen also questioned the height

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allowed for neighborhood signs. Ms. Drewery mentioned that they have to come up with regulations that are for the good of the whole community. Chairman Mayer clarified that the part Ms. Michelsen was questioning was for signs for neighborhoods, not businesses as Ms. Michelsen had thought. Ms. Turman stated that home occupations are only allowed to have signs of 2 square feet or less. Ms. Michelsen also asked about non-professionally done signs and if there was any way for the Town to regulate them. Ms. McMillan stated that the Town cannot regulate them at this time. Ms. Michelsen asked if the Town could have some design standards for signs. Ms. McMillan said she would have to consult the Town Attorney about it. Both Ms. Drewery and Mr. Jones said that some businesses just don't have the extra money to spend on signs. Mr. Jones stated that he had another item to address in the CB District. He stated that the poles that used to have signs on them need to be removed if they no longer are being used. Ms. McMillan said she would ask the Town Attorney if the Town can require the structure be removed if it is no longer in use. Ms. Michelsen once again reiterated that she felt that the Town should consider design standards for signs. Ms. Michelsen made a motion to recommend that Town Council adopt the sign ordinance amendment. Ms. Drewery seconded the motion. Chairman Mayer thanked Ms. Turman for all her work on the amendment. A roll call vote was taken and all members voted in favor of the motion. Chairman Mayer stated that the motion was unanimously approved and the amendment would now go to Council for their consideration.

In other business, they discussed that, by State Code, the Commission is required to meet at least 6 times per year. Ms. McMillan suggested that they meet every two months. She asked that they check their calendars and let staff know whether or not they would be available to meet on April 5, 2007. Ms. Michelsen wanted to know if, in the future, she would be able to go on the record for issues such as wanting the Town to have design standards for signs. Chairman Mayer said that they could add the design standards for signs to their work program, which he mentioned that they needed to prioritize at their next meeting. Chairman Mayer asked that Ms. Michelsen's comments about sign design standards be noted in the minutes for the record.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Patterson and a second by Ms. Drewery.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anita McMillan
Planning Commission Secretary