

MINUTES
WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING
PARKER CITY COUNCIL
August 11, 2020
4:00 pm

Mayor Musgrave called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Present: Council Members Barrow, Galbreath, Haney, Jones and Mayor Musgrave.

Also Present: City Attorney Sloan, Planning Commissioner Thomas and City Clerk Griffin. Code Enforcement Officer Talley attended the meeting virtually.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Setback Discussion

Council Member Barrow first questioned why the setbacks were established the way they were.

Mayor Musgrave responded that he was not part of the original decision-making process but that setbacks in general provide more curb appeal and normally higher property values. Attorney Sloan added that setbacks would provide more consistency in the neighborhood in regards to the front yard and corners. The vision of what the Council wants the City to look like would include what was appropriate or not for the community. He explained that the setbacks would have been included in the original Land Development Regulations (LDR) since its first inception around 1991 or 1992. The Attorney's concern was that the setbacks would be reduced but then it was determined to have been a mistake. It would be extremely hard to take back the property from the owner.

A spreadsheet was provided that compared Parker's setbacks to other municipalities in Bay County, including Callaway, Lynn Haven, Mexico Beach, Panama City, Panama City Beach, and Springfield. Parker's setbacks were equal to or less than the other cities.

Mr. Jones indicated he was not in favor of changing any of the current setbacks.

Mr. Haney expressed his concerns over the confusion after the hurricane of what was "grandfathered in" and what was not. Most people think they can just build back like it was instead of meeting current code guidelines.

The Council agreed the main issue is that property owners and contractors are not pulling the required permits up front.

Council Member Barrow commented that it is hard to apply the setback rules across the board – that we need to take into account each individual property and its circumstances.

Council Member Haney suggested that we create a Black List of contractors who are repeat offenders of permitting violations. The Mayor responded that he and Attorney Sloan were already working on this project.

Council Member Galbreath stated that our Code Enforcement process needs to be more pro-active instead of reactive. If we see something going up wrong, we should stop it. Although Code Enforcement Officer Talley assured the Council that he does issue stop work orders if he sees it in the field, he is only able to spend half a day in the field since he spends the other half in the office completing the required paperwork from the field work. (The grant that had provided Officer Talley with an office assistant is no longer being funded.)

Council Member Jones suggested a penalty for anyone who starts a job without the proper permit – maybe twice the permit fee. Attorney Sloan cautioned that the penalty could not exceed \$500 per the Code Enforcement Ordinance.

Recommendations:

- **Educate people on permit requirements.** The Mayor informed the Council that the message is repeated in almost every quarterly newsletter sent to the residents.
- **Post all permits on the job site.** Although EPCI requires the building permit(s) to be posted, the ones issued by Parker are not required to be posted onsite. For example, these permits would include fences, accessory structures, and driveways.
- **Establish level of pain for contractors for violating permit requirements.**

2. **Discussion on Ordinance No. 2020-388 Code Enforcement**

Any discussion on this Ordinance would be brought up at the Council Meeting for the second reading.

3. **No Wake Signs**

Council Member Haney asked for permission to obtain from the WFC “NO WAKE” signs to place in the Bayou. The Council was informed by resident Ms. Kathleen Obrien that these signs had already been ordered. However, because only one company out of Tampa was supplying the signs for the entire state of Florida, it would take some time to actually receive the signs.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.


Karen Griffin, City Clerk