

**MINUTES
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
JULY 8, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairperson Rosenthal called the regular meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals to order at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 at City Hall, 101 Green Street, Galena, IL.

ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF QUORUM:

As Roll Call was:

Baranski	Present
Bochniak	Present
Cook	Present
Holman	Present
Nybo	Present
O'Keefe	Absent
Rosenthal	Present

A quorum was declared.

Zoning Administrator Matt Oldenburg, City Attorney Joe Nack and Zoning Secretary Deb Price were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Cook moved, seconded by Bochniak to approve the minutes for the April 8, 2015 meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes carried on voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

COUNTY ZONING

None

WORKSESSION/OTHER

Review new signage brochure for local businesses and discussion about flag signs.

Oldenburg explained that he is working on a signage brochure outlining and clarifying the sign ordinance. He is planning to hand deliver these to Galena businesses. He has been asked about approving flags or windsocks as signs. The only flags allowed in the commercial district are American, State or local flags. Residential districts can have small decorative flags displayed also. There are several flags being used to promote businesses – these were not approved and are illegal as the ordinance is written. It appears the issue has been discussed previously by staff, but nothing was done. In researching this it shows that as far back as 1993 flags have not been allowed. Oldenburg would like to know if the Board thinks the ordinance should remain as is or should a text amendment allowing flags be sought. If the Board feels the ordinance is fine as is, he will distribute an informational letter along with the brochure detailing why flags are not allowed and the schedule for removal of the flags. If flags are allowed we would potentially have a flag at every business.

Rosenthal said we should simply enforce the ordinance and leave it as is. He recounted his recent vacation to Myrtle Beach. Their streets and businesses have all kinds of stuff on display – so much so that it looks trashy.

Oldenburg said it appears that previously this was discussed with the Zoning Board. At some point the flags were allowed even though the ordinance prohibits them. This has led to people questioning why they are here if they are not allowed.

Nybo asked about how many flags are there in violation.

Oldenburg said there are probably about 20 flags on Main and Commerce Streets showing designs such as open or antiques. These businesses can have wall signs or projecting signs showing open or antiques. Allowing the flags that are currently flying but not approving any new ones is problematic. Changing the ordinance and allowing these flags could lead to flags at each business.

Nybo asked about grandfathering in those businesses who have continuously displayed a flag since 1993.

Oldenburg said they would need to show proof that they were flying the flags prior to 1993.

The Board asked what kind of flags are allowed by the current ordinance.

Oldenburg said American or State flags as well as a local flags can be flown. Anything else would be considered a sign.

Baranski said we could change the ordinance so it is more restrictive as well as listing what kind of flags and the allowed sizes.

Rosenthal asked if different locations could have different regulations.

Oldenburg said residential districts can have decorative flags as well as American and State flags.

Baranski said enforcement would be important.

Nack said regardless of whether the ordinance is changed or remains the same Oldenburg will have to enforce it.

The Board agreed that the ordinance should remain as is.

Oldenburg said he will go business to business to distribute the pamphlet and discuss the flags with individual owners.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

MOTION: Bochniak moved, seconded by Cook to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Motion carried on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted by

Deb Price
Zoning Board Secretary