



CITY OF COLTON
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Planning Commission meeting held on the above given date at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers of City Hall with Chairperson Mitchell presiding.

A. CALL TO ORDER.

At 6:34 p.m. Chairperson Mitchell called the meeting to order.

B. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present:

Chairperson Gary Mitchell

Vice-Chair Richard Prieto

Angel Delgado

Frank Navarro (Left Meeting at 8:50 pm)

Joe Perez III

Thomas Archuleta

Cynthia L. Ramirez (Arrived at 6:36 pm)

Staff Present:

Mark Tomich, AICP, Development Services Director

Jay Jarrin, AICP, Senior Planner

Rahsaan J. Tilford, Deputy City Attorney

C. INVOCATION

Commissioner Navarro led the invocation.

D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Commissioner Prieto.

E. ORAL COMMUNICATION

Ron Lawrence regarding election signs.

F. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

1. Minutes from Planning Commission Meeting of November 8, 2011.

Motion and second by Commissioner Navarro/Commissioner Perez; to approve; vote 6 to 0, with 1 abstention from Commissioner Ramirez (Absent from meeting)

2. Minutes from Planning Commission Meeting of November 22, 2011.

Motion and second by Commissioner Delgado/Commissioner Ramirez; to approve with corrections; vote 7 to 0.

G. COMMISSION CONSIDERATION

1. Planning Commission discussion with Director of Public Works regarding current and future projects.

Planning Commission conducted discussion with Amer Jakher, Public Works & Utility Services Director.

2. Sign Code Study Session

Jay Jarrin, AICP, Senior Planner provided a presentation summarizing items for workshop discussion during which time, the Planning Commission discussed the following:

- Suggestion to change role of Design Review Committee as an advisory body to the Planning Commission with limited approving authority.
- Require approval by the Planning Commission of murals, parapet roof signs and mansard roof signs on private property (instead of Design Review Committee as proposed) and of refacing of freeway-oriented signs.
- Need for policies to guide future review of murals due to subjectivity of art. Coordinate with Community Services regarding other processes regarding murals (approval process on public streets; mural contest year ago for La Cadena underpass). Research other communities interaction between Planning Commission and commissions dedicated to art/ murals.
- Confirm that code bans signs on vehicles.
- Allow exception to minimum 24-inch minimum for freeway-oriented signs for "City of Colton" text.
- Provide information on height of sign letters on existing freeway-oriented sign at 755 S. Ashley (Saddleback RV) for reference purposes.
- Add identification of major arterial roads where electronic changeable copy signs are to be allowed, note General Plan Circulation Element in addition to Master Plan of Streets.
- Emphasized that amortization program should be completed after sign code adoption.
- Confirm whether future ordinance affecting political sign regulations will be reviewed by Planning Commission since these regulations are part of the Zoning Code.
- Confirm whether the City Council campaign law subcommittee has been formed (and forward member names) that will also address political sign regulations. Comments (duration, size, private property restrictions) on political signs should be forwarded directly to Council subcommittee.

In addition, the following persons spoke:

- Ron Lawrence stated a concern whether changes to the political sign ordinance will be in place for the next election.

- Christena Elshof, City Economic Development, spoke in favor of removing the minimum 24-inch high letter size on freeway-oriented sign proposed to be applied to the “City of Colton” in addition to any business related text.

The Planning Commission directed staff to schedule a public hearing on January 10, 2012 to consider an ordinance amending the sign code.

3. Planning Commission Meeting Schedule – Year 2012

Approved with minor modifications.

H. DIRECTOR’S REMARKS/REVIEW OF CITY COUNCIL AGENDAS

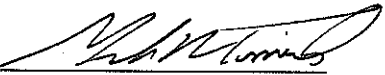
- Status of Habitat Conservation Plan.
- Demolition of Wells Fargo and Train Depot located between 9th Street and La Cadena Drive.

I. COMMISSION COMMENT

- Commissioner Perez suggestion that film/video student from San Bernardino Valley College tape city parades and special events.
- Commissioner Delgado suggestion that city tree-lighting ceremony also be recorded.
- Commissioner Archuleta commented regarding poor audio during City Council meetings.
- Commissioner Prieto discussed the following:
 - City should recommend 8’ high standards for residential walls and fences.
 - City should permit chain link around vacant lots.
 - City should look into windmills for electric generation.
- Commissioner Mitchell discussed the following:
 - Minutes from recent City Council Goals & Policies Workshop should be provided to Commissioners.
 - Minutes from Joint Planning Commission/City Council Workshop on General Plan Update should be provided to Commissioners as soon as available.

J. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:30 p.m., the Planning Commission Regular Meeting was adjourned.

Approved by: 
Mark R. Tomich, AICP
Development Services Director