

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2018 - 6:15 P.M.**

Mayor Cedar convened the Special Meeting of the City Council as Zoning Board of Appeals for the Downtown Redevelopment District to order in the Municipal Building, 547 N. Carney Drive, St. Clair, Michigan, at 6:15pm to discuss the sign ordinance.

PRESENT: Mayor Cedar, Members Kindsvater, Klieman, Kuffa, LaPorte, McCartney

ABSENT: Member Ellery (excused)

ADMINISTRATION: Michael E. Booth, City Superintendent; James T. Downey, Kane, Clemons, Joachim & Downey, City Attorney; Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

AUDIENCE: There were 2 people in attendance

Approve variance request Section 8.32-Temporary Signs-ACE Hardware- Mayor Cedar reviewed the revised application as a request for three wind sails, described as banners, to be displayed on a daily basis during open business hours now until May 1, 2019. Two banners would be located at the North and South end of Riverview Plaza on M-29 and one on the West side of the Plaza on Third street in front of the business. The public hearing was opened at 6:19pm. Petitioner not present. One comment from the public for clarification. Closed at 6:20pm. Councilmember LaPorte stated the current temporary sign allowance is to allow 14 days of additional signage for no fee and on a 6-month basis and also if it's under 3 days the petitioner can be granted a temporary sign permit. No questions from Council. Mayor Cedar asked councilmembers for their comments on granting the approval.

Councilmember McCartney-My only thought is we have the ordinance in place that addresses the timeframe for the time these signs can fly-for special events. My opinion is to recommend that the current ordinance stand.

Councilmember Klieman-She's trying to follow the ordinance and to tell her no, I'm not quite sure, but I believe there are about 10 signs at the St. Clair Inn that are noncompliant. How can we tell her no if there is someone else is doing it? The rules are 15 feet from the curb and not in the public right of way. From what I can see they (signs at the St Clair Inn) are and how can we tell someone no who is doing it straight up?

Councilmember LaPorte-I concur with Mr. McCartney and she can have it for special events.

Councilmember Kuffa- I don't necessarily agree with the request. Its not our duty to supply signage for the Plaza when they don't supply signs for their tenants. Everyone in town knows where ACE can be found. I don't think I will be recommending approval either.

Councilmember Kindsvater-without the person here to hear the special need, when we granted it last time the person who presented the form was doing it because it was a new business. This business has been here for about 3 years. I'll have a hard time supporting this.

Mayor Cedar-I've always thought banner signs, wind sails, are for a special event to draw attention.

To say every day for 6 days a week is the not intent of what that was. With that in mind, the fact finding, is concluded. Mayor Cedar reminded Council the motion must be made in the affirmative.

McCartney motioned, Kindsvater seconded, FAILED, to grant variance request by ACE hardware.

Ayes: Klieman

Nays: McCartney, Kindsvater, Kuffa, LaPorte, Cedar

Public Comment-J. Shinske, Thornapple, questioned compliance of other various signs placement.

Adjourned 6:27pm

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor