

MINUTES
LOUISBURG TOWN COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 18, 2019

The Town Council met on Monday, February 18, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall. Mayor Karl Pernell and Council Members Bill Williamson, Tom Clancy, Betty Wright, Boyd Sturges, Emma Stewart and Chris Neal were present.

Town Administrator Jonathan Franklin was absent due to a death in the family; therefore Assistant Administrator Tony King was in charge of the meeting. Mr. King gave the invocation.

Council Member Sturges moved that the minutes be approved. Council Member Clancy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Pernell opened the public hearing to establish signage standards for Hospitals/Medical Complexes. No one was present to speak in favor of or against the signage standards. Mayor Pernell closed the public hearing. Council Member Sturges moved to approve the following:

1. Definition:

Hospital/Medical Complex: A multi-building facility consisting of various medical treatment, diagnosis, laboratory, medical offices, and emergency services being offered as a single, comprehensive, point of care and located upon a single development.

Hospital/Medical Complex Signage: Hospital/Medical Complexes are allowed monument signs, directionary signage, emergency entrance signage, ambulance portal signage, and attached wall-face identification signage, sub-unit or specialized wing identification.

- (1) Monument signage – one (1) accessory, monument type sign, may be located at the entrance of the complex adjacent to a main US highway. The sign shall be no taller than five (5) ft. from grade and no larger than 33 square feet each. There shall be no more than two (2) monument signs per complex.
- (2) Directionary signage – There shall be allowed one directionary type sign located at the junction of driveways surrounding the complex to provide assistance in directing patients to sub-units. Each sign shall be no taller than five (5) ft. from grade and no larger than 33 square feet each. There shall be no more than 3 directionary signs per complex.
- (3) Emergency entrance signage – Per the recognition and requirements for various accreditation agencies, each complex shall be allowed one (1) wall-mounted “Emergency” room identification sign. Such sign shall be no larger than thirty-five (35) square ft., and attached directly at the entrance to the “Emergency Room/Unit”.
- (4) Ambulance parking entrance – There shall be allowed one “Ambulance” parking portal identifying sign. Such sign shall be no larger than thirty-six (36) square ft. and attached directly at the entrance for ambulance parking, loading, and unloading.
- (5) Attached “wall-face” identification signage – Each wall facing a major US highway shall be allowed an attached identification sign naming the facility/complex. Each sign shall be no larger

than thirty-five (35) square ft. and internally lighted. Each sign shall be located on a wall elevation that is the same side as the monument sign. There shall be no more than two (2) such signs allowed per complex.

Council Member Stewart seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Pernell opened the public hearing on consideration of a Text Amendment to prohibit flashing, chasing, rope/string lights in commercial windows and window frames. Nick Leapley, 111 Person Street, Louisburg, N. C. stated that he had operated a business that had a flashing open sign. Mr. King said the open sign would be allowed but the flash would be turned off. Mr. Leapley asked if the rope lights would be included and Mr. King said that they would. Mayor Pernell closed the public hearing. Council Member Sturges moved to approve the following text amendment:

2. Definition:

Signs Prohibited. The following signs are expressly prohibited within all zoning districts:

Flashing lights, "chasing" lights, and string or rope lighting that is not explicitly associated with the traditional observance of a holiday is prohibited. Displays and lighting erected in observance of a holiday and that do not bear any advertising messages shall be exempt from this prohibition but must be removed within ten (10) days following the holiday. All lighting regulated by this section is required to be removed no later than July 1, 2019, in order to comply with this section.

Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mayor Pernell opened the public hearing on consideration of a Text Amendment to establish in which districts "sweepstakes" are allowed as a permitted use. Linda Keith, 122 Grant Street, Louisburg, N. C. asked if we have to have so many sweepstakes. Mr. King explained that the Town has no authority to limit the number. Bobby Cooper, 701 North Main Street, Louisburg, N. C. asked where B-1 is located. Mr. King explained that B-1 (Downtown Business) is downtown and B-2 (Highway Business) is on Bickett Boulevard. Mr. Cooper was concerned with the sweepstakes having a negative effect on property values. Attorney Ed Bartholomew, 105 Justice Street, Louisburg, N. C. explained that the legislative process may take care of the sweepstakes problem, as they are having discussions now. Council Member Williamson stated that maybe the matter should be tabled until the Town Attorney could take a closer look at it. Mayor Pernell closed the public hearing. Council Member Sturges moved to approve the following text amendment:

3. Definition

Video Sweepstakes Operation. Any business enterprise, whether as a principal or an accessory use, where persons utilize electronic machines, including but not limited to computers and gaming terminals, to conduct games of chance, including sweepstakes, and where cash, merchandise or other items of value are redeemed or otherwise distributed, whether or not the value of such distribution is determined by electronic games played or by predetermined odds. This term includes, but is not limited to internet cafes, internet sweepstakes, and cybercafes. This does not include any lottery approved by the State of North Carolina.

Consideration of Standards:

- (1) Unaccompanied persons under the age of eighteen (18) are prohibited from entering the premises.
 - (2) The hours of operation shall be limited to Sunday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., and Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.
 - (3) A maximum of one hundred (100) machines are allowed at each establishment.
 - (4) Two (2) or fewer machines are classified as an accessory use and shall not be bound by the standards of this section.
 - (5) All uses meeting the definition of Internet Sweepstakes Facilities that were established prior to December 3, 2012 shall cease operations and close or be brought into compliance with North Carolina law.
4. Amend the Ordinance by listing "Video Sweepstakes Operations" as a permitted use only in the Highway Business, B-2 zoning district.

Council Member Wright seconded the motion. Mayor Pernell and Council Members Neal, Stewart, Sturges, Wright and Clancy voted in favor of the motion. Council Member Williamson voted against the motion. Motion carried.

Council Member Sturges moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-1 to amend the Louisburg Zoning Ordinance to regulate development and use of land. Council Member Clancy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to appoint Linda Keith to the Planning Board. Council Member Clancy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to appoint Terri Elliott to the Historic Preservation Commission. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to move Elizabeth Hathcock from an alternate member of the Historic Preservation Commission to a full-time member. Council Member Clancy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Sturges moved to approve the financing for two trash trucks and a dump truck, \$275,000 at 3.10% for a period of 5 years with First Citizens Bank. Council Member Stewart seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Assistant Administrator of Operations Ray Patterson explained that there is no place for dumpsters behind the businesses on East Nash Street due to the renovations at the rear of the buildings. He explained that the Town Administrator has spoken with Safe Space about moving the dumpsters behind the Safe Space Variety Shop on Spring Street. Council Member Sturges moved to approve the lease with Safe Space, giving the Town Administrator authority to make minor changes if necessary. Council Member Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. King presented a Petition for Voluntary Annexation for lots on the east side of Woodbine Drive. He explained that a portion is in the city but half of it is out. Council Member Sturges moved to have the Town Clerk to certify the Petition for Voluntary Annexation of Contiguous Property, 5 lots owned by R & R Construction of Louisburg, LLC, Tax #2805-95-6883. Council Member Clancy seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Council Member Clancy moved to adopt Ordinance 2019-2 amending Chapter 38, Article III of the Town of Louisburg Code of Ordinances regarding Load Management. Council Member Sturges seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Patterson explained that Boy Scout Troop #555 would like to have a Soap Box Derby in September and would need to block off a street, preferably North Main Street since it has a good hill for the Derby. Scoutmaster Dan Ellis said he will make the kits and the scouts, parents and grandparents will help customize them. He explained that the first step was to get permission for the street to be blocked off. Council Member Sturges moved, subject to DOT approval, that North Main Street be blocked off in September for the Soap Box Derby. Council Member Neal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

During public comment, Ed Bartholomew, 105 Justice Street, Louisburg, N. C., commended the Council and staff for all the hard work to make downtown what it is today. He asked the Council to reconsider the intersection of Nash and Main Street where the parking spaces were removed, as it would be nice to reinstate those spaces. Mr. Bartholomew also asked about re-striping the parking spaces on Court and Market Streets so people will have a better idea about where they are supposed to park. Mr. Patterson explained that the striping is done in the spring and is already on the schedule.

Council Member Sturges moved that the meeting be adjourned. Council Member Neal seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Carolyn D. Patterson

Administrative Assistant/Town Clerk CMC