

WILKINS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

PUBLIC HEARING, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010

The Public Hearing of Monday, September 13, 2010 was brought to order at 6:50 PM by President Sylvia J. Martinelli. A quorum was present as follows:

Mrs. Martinelli                      Ms. Fialla  
Mr. Padula                      Mr. Costa   Mr. Szoko

The purpose of the public hearing was to receive public comments on proposed Ordinance 1007. The proposed ordinance would amend the zoning code as it pertains to three types of signs, as follows:

1. Temporary Special Advertising and Real Estate Signs: Signs of this nature advertise a special event, or a sale or lease of property. Examples of these types of signs are “Grand Opening” signs and “Now Serving Breakfast” signs. The ordinance proposes to increase the number of signs permitted per lot from one to two per street front; sets the timing of installation and termination of use; and sets the size based upon the distance of the sign from a public right of way.
2. Freestanding Pole Signs: Freestanding pole signs are most prevalent in the Route 22 corridor, such as “Wendy’s”, “D’Imperios”, and “Pep Boys”. The Township’s current regulations only permit signs within this corridor to be a maximum of eight (8) feet in height. Because of the topography of Route 22, nearly all business owners have at one time or another approached the Zoning Hearing Board to request a variance from the height requirement. This has led to a hodgepodge of different sized signs within the area. The proposed ordinance separates streets based upon PennDot classification into arterial, collector and local. Commercial and industrial businesses located on arterial roadways, such as Route 22, will now be permitted to erect signs of no more than sixteen (16) feet in height. Commercial and industrial businesses located on collector roadways, such as Greensburg Pike and Brown Avenue will continue to be permitted to erect signs of no more than eight (8) feet. Commercial businesses located on local streets, such as Powell, will be permitted to erect signs of no more than six (6) feet in height. Signs on residential properties (R-1 through R-4) will be to a height of five (5) feet.
3. Political Signs: In March of 2010 the Township received correspondence from the American Civil Liberties Union seeking voluntary changes to the Township’s existing political sign ordinance as it involved signs on private property. The proposed amendment reflects the request of the ACLU and eliminates the length of time a political sign can be displayed, the number of political signs that can be displayed and the requirement that a property owner receive a permit prior to placement of signs on private property. The Planning Commission also modified the height and size of political signs on both private and public property.

Public Comments: None

Commissioners’ Comments:

Commissioner Padula asked Mr. Rushford whether the amendment met all of the requirements of the ACLU. Mr. Rushford replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner Fialla asked whether or not it was possible to get this amendment out to all businesses in the Township, like Sheetz, so they would be aware of the changes

Commissioner Szoko asked how this ordinance affects the Shop-N-Save super saver sale signs. Mr. Rushford stated that it does not affect Shop-N-Save because Shop-N-Save sought and received a variance to display their signs.

(224-10) MOVED PADULA-FIALLA to adjourn. The Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:59 PM. The motion was adopted by unanimous roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Bradley  
Secretary