

M I N U T E S

PUBLIC HEARING  
GLYNN COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
May 26, 1992 6:00 P.M.

Casino, St. Simons Island

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Evans, Chairman  
Sidneye Henderson  
William Holland  
Ira Moore

ABSENT: Carolyn Hill  
Benjamin Jaudon  
Wayne Stewart

STAFF PRESENT: Edward Stelle, Director  
Larry Taylor, Building & Development  
Jennifer Detloff, Planner  
Janet Loving, Administrative Secretary

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Mr. Edward Stelle called the meeting to order. He then introduced the Glynn County Planning Commissioners and County Staff. Approximately eight (8) citizens were in attendance.

Mr. Stelle stated that this is the second public hearing to discuss the St. Simons Village Plan. He then familiarized the public with the ordinance. He explained that the plan was written to help protect the historical and original architectural character of the village area. In addition to the regular ordinances now in place, the plan will create an overlay zone of rules and regulations for the area. The proposed document is a common sense guide for redevelopment or new development in the village area.

At the April 28th public hearing residents and property owners were issued an outline of the proposed ordinance along with a questionnaire which asked specific suggestions on protecting the integrity of the village. Mr. Stelle stated that staff reviewed the responses. He stated all suggestions and comments will be considered. The floor was then open for discussion.

Ms. Nancy Thomason, village merchant, and Ms. Kathy McCluskey, concerned citizen, had questions regarding the following section of the proposed ordinance:

Section 819.4

"No signs, stickers or advertising materials shall be located in windows, storefronts or glass areas of doors...No banners, decorative flags or temporary signs in excess of four square feet will be allowed."

Ms. Thomason stated that many citizens view this wording as a direct attack on personal liberties guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States. She stated this section of the ordinance was protested during the first hearing, was not deleted, and is being protested again. She further stated that this wording creates a dangerous possibility for abuse in suppressing political and

personal views both now and in the future. It also infringes upon the time honored custom of local churches, schools and civic groups to post notices of interest to the public concerning upcoming events.

Ms. Sidneye Henderson explained that the censoring of personal views was not the intent of the Planning Commission when drafting the ordinance, but that it was important to establish guidelines on the size and scale of signs to prevent potential eyesores. She stated she is concerned with the use of huge banners and shiny signs.

Ms. Thomason suggested that the word "stickers" be deleted. Chairman Larry Evans stated that staff would work on revising Section 819.4 before the July 7th Planning Commission Meeting.

Mr. David Newton expressed concern regarding sidewalk displays. He stated that it is not fair for merchants to assume the public right-of-way for private use. Ms. Thomason stated that in her opinion, sidewalk displays add interest to the area. Mr. Stelle stated that staff will investigate the number of complaints officially lodged against the display of merchandise on the village sidewalks before finalizing the ordinance.

Mr. Newton had further questions regarding trees in the area. Mr. Stelle explained that trees within the village which are larger than 12 inches in diameter, 38 inches in circumference or within 25 feet of the property line are protected by the plan.

Other sections of the ordinance discussed were landscaping and architectural regulations. Also affected by the plan will be the regulation of new buildings height, size, roof structure and color.

Concerns were expressed regarding the sparse attendance of the meeting. However, Mr. Stelle explained that the notice was advertised in the Brunswick News. Ms. Thomason stated that she "stumbled" across the brief notice placed in the legal section of the Brunswick News. She stated that the 65 people who attended the April 28th public hearing did not suddenly lose interest; they simply did not know about this meeting in time to attend. Mr. Stelle elaborated on advertisement procedures.

Chairman Larry Evans thanked everyone for attending and stated that all comments and suggestions will be reviewed further. A third public hearing will be scheduled before the ordinance is presented at the August meeting of the Glynn County Board of Commissioners.

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Meeting Adjourned At 7:00 P.M.