

**TOWN OF DAVIE**  
**SIGN CODE WORKSHOP**  
**APRIL 3, 2013**

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present at the meeting were Mayor Paul, Vice-Mayor Caletka and Councilmembers Luis, Hattan and Starkey.

**3. PUBLIC HEARING - SIGN CODE**

Planning and Zoning Manager David Quigley said Council had directed staff to draft an ordinance addressing banners and other temporary signs as well as LED gasoline price signs. When the ordinance was presented to the Planning and Zoning Board, enforcement issues had arisen, leading to the workshop. Mr. Quigley gave a presentation describing the issues and showed photo examples of signage.

- Farm signs: remove references in code per new State rules
- Electronic fuel price signs: all gas stations to use static LED displays for gas prices only
- Banners
- Public message board for Rodeo Grounds
- Modify enforcement provisions for campaign signs
- Enforcement of snipe signs
- A-frame signs in western-themed areas

Mayor Paul pointed out that tracking and follow-up would be more difficult when so many different types of signs were allowed for specific uses. Every department must use the same tracking system prior to granting any permit, and there must be follow-up on restrictions, which would be time consuming for staff.

Mr. Quigley said some ways to address the snipe sign problem were: a bounty system for retrieved signs and robo-calling the phone numbers on signs to inform the poster that they were illegal. Mayor Paul was also concerned about the feather signs, which she felt made the street “look like a circus.” Mayor Paul wanted to educate business people in the downtown area to encourage western themed signs.

Councilmember Luis remarked on the financial hardships local business people faced, and said he felt some of the sign ordinance should be suspended to help local businesses. Business owners should also be involved in this process.

Councilmember Starkey suggested adding timelines for candidates to be reimbursed for their sign fees. She wanted to clarify the difference between banner signs for elections and other purposes. Councilmember Starkey agreed that LED gas price signs should be allowed.

Vice Mayor Caletka disliked the feather flags. He acknowledged that businesses believed sandwich board signs helped their business, but he wanted to enforce the western theme.

Councilmember Hattan felt the human signs were a problem. Mr. Quigley said he had not taken up that issue. Councilmember Hattan asked if Battens Farms was exempt from the sign code and Mayor Paul explained that their signs must serve an agricultural purpose. Mr. Quigley said State Statute controlled those signs, not the Town.

Mr. Quigley explained that indoor neon signs that were less than 10% of the window area were permitted; exterior neon was not permitted.

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
APRIL 3, 2013

Councilmember Starkey asked about picket signs and Police Chief Patrick Lynn stated picketers were allowed to stand on the public right-of-way or on private property with permission; they did not need to keep moving. Mayor Paul said this situation was outside the sign code.

Mayor Paul felt that trying to regulate garage sale signs would be a “nightmare” and most people would be unaware of any regulations anyway. The Town should just remove garage sale signs posted illegally. Mr. Lemack reminded Council that the Town prohibited the posting of signs on public property. Mr. Quigley agreed to provide additional information and options to Council.

Councilmember Starkey thought the proposal would prohibit an individual from posting an open house sign when selling his/her own house and also would prevent an HOA from posting a meeting announcement sign. Mr. Quigley stated signs other than public safety signs were never permitted on the public right-of-way. He thought realtors’ open house signs were allowed in the right-of-way.

Todd Evans informed Council there was a loophole with pseudo-neon storefront window signs. He suggested the CRA purchase standardized western-themed A-frame signs for Davie Road. Mayor Paul said they could be offered for sale to businesses.

Richard Abraham, Abraham and Associates, suggested speaking to landlords as well as business owners, so the regulations could be incorporated into lease documents.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss and no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 4:53p.m.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor/Councilmember

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk