

Camden County Planning Board
Minutes
December 16, 2009, 7:00pm
Historic Courtroom
Camden County Courthouse Complex

Members Present: Chairman Rodney Needham, Calvin Leary, Michael Etheridge,
Ray Albertson, John Aydlett,
Fletcher Harris

Absent: NONE

Call to Order & Welcome

Chairman Rodney Needham called to order the December 16, 2009 meeting at 7:00 PM.

Others Present at Meeting

Present were staff members Dave Parks, Flood Administrator & Permit Officer and Amy Barnett, Clerk to the Board.

Consideration of Agenda

Chairman Rodney Needham called for the consideration of the agenda. Dave Parks asked to amend the agenda to include as item #2, a proposed amendment to chapter 151 of the Camden County Code of Ordinances regarding Internet Sweepstakes Cafe's. Chairman Needham called for a vote to approve the amended agenda (no motion was made). The amended agenda was approved with Chairman Rodney Needham, Members Calvin Leary, Michael Etheridge, Ray Albertson, John Aydlett, and Fletcher Harris voting aye; none voting no; none absent; none not voting.

Consideration of the Minutes- August 19, 2009

Chairman Rodney Needham called for the consideration of the minutes from the August 19, 2009 meeting. Calvin Leary made a motion to approve the minutes from the aforementioned meeting as written. John Aydlett seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Chairman Rodney Needham, Members Calvin Leary, Michael Etheridge, Ray Albertson, John Aydlett, and Fletcher Harris voting aye; none voting no; none absent; none not voting.

Comments from the Public.

None - No Public Was Present

Old Business

None

New Business

Item # 1 - Discussion Concerning "Internet Sweepstakes Café's"

A discussion took place concerning Internet Sweepstakes Café's. Issues discussed are listed below:

- Elizabeth City, NC has adopted ordinance language regarding Internet Sweepstakes Café's
- There are/is active Café'(s) in Williamston, NC
- Internet Sweepstakes Café's allow a user to pay for internet time, then it is up to the user to decide to gamble or not
- Planning issues related to Internet Sweepstakes Café's:
 - Zoning districts to allow this in, looking more at CCD and HC
 - Hours of operation
 - Alcohol use on the property, allow or not
 - Design standards for the building
 - Age restrictions for entry into the building, or employees (minimum age)
 - Limitation on number of terminals in building or base it on square footage of building
 - Would require a Special Use Permit to operate
 - Restrictions can be placed on SUP to control the Internet Sweepstakes Café's
- Calvin Leary voiced an opinion in favor of these as businesses due to business and tax revenues that would be brought into the county.
 - Dave Parks stated that the only tax revenues would probably be from the employees, building, and the land.
- Dave Parks pointed out that persons can actually go online at home and gamble on their own.
- Dave Parks also pointed out that it is a legal use that is defined, and as such has to be placed in the appropriate district. It can't be left out just because the board decides they do not want to have it.
- Rodney Needham went on record as being against anything to do with gambling.

- Fletcher Harris asked if the establishment in Williamston had experienced any episodes of violence or roughness among the clientele.
 - Dave Parks responded: Not that he knew of, but also that they do not allow alcohol at their establishment.
- Dave Parks made the following recommendations regarding Internet Sweepstakes Café's:
 - ½ mile between uses (establishments wherein Internet Sweepstakes gambling takes place)
 - No alcohol use on property
 - Design Standards for the building should be defined in the SUP
 - Hours of operation should be defined in the SUP
 - Minimum Age of Employees and Patrons to be Clearly Defined
 - Number of Parking Spaces defined at 1 to 1.5 spaces per terminal, to be defined at SUP.
- Dave Parks stated he would prepare an ordinance language document to bring to the Board at the next meeting on this issue if the Board so wished it.
- Calvin Leary made a motion to table this issue until the next meeting pending the ordinance document that Mr. Parks will prepare and bring back to the Board. Ray Albertson seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Chairman Rodney Needham, Members Calvin Leary, Michael Etheridge, Ray Albertson, John Aydlett, and Fletcher Harris voting aye; none voting no; none absent; none not voting.

Item # 2, Proposed Amendment to Chapter 151 of the Camden County Code of Ordinances, Table of Permissible Uses, Use#15.210-15.230 (Airports and Air Strips)

Dave Parks described this proposed amendment to Chapter 151 of the Camden County Code of Ordinances, Table of Permissible Uses, Use Numbers 15.210-15.230. This is a proposed amendment that was recommended to the county by the law firm that is helping the county fight the OLF. By limiting where the OLF can be placed, it may help in the fight against it. This amendment deletes the allowance of Airports and Air Strips in areas defined as General Use District. This proposal deletes the prior requirement of a special use permit in that zoning district, such that once approved no airport or air strip can operate in the aforementioned areas defined as general use district.

Calvin Leary made a motion to send Item #2, Proposed Amendment to Chapter 151 of the Camden County Code of Ordinances, Table of Permissible Uses, Use#15.210-15.230 (Airports and Air Strips), to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration. Fletcher Harris seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Chairman Rodney Needham, Members Calvin Leary, Michael Etheridge, Ray Albertson, John Aydlett, and Fletcher Harris voting aye; none voting no; none absent; none not voting.

Information from Board and Staff

- 2010 Planning Board Schedule

Consider Date of Next Meeting – January 20, 2010

Adjournment

At 7:15 PM, Ray Albertson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Aydlett seconded the motion. The motion was approved with Chairman Rodney Needham, Members Calvin Leary, Michael Etheridge, Ray Albertson, John Aydlett, and Fletcher Harris voting aye; none voting no; none absent; none not voting.

Post Adjournment Presentation - Terri Griffin

It is with a sad heart, that we say good bye to our former Vice Chairman Terri Griffin, as she leaves us to begin work with the Camden Economic Development Board. We would like to recognize her for her many years of faithful service. We wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

Date: _____

Approved: _____
Chairman Rodney Needham

Attested: _____
Amy Barnett, Planning Clerk