

**Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission**  
**City of Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia**  
**March 16, 2017/6:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order**

*Chair Bob Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Bob Simpson, Robin Cailloux, Mark Prater, and Alan Merrill. Rocky Reeves was absent. Also present was City Planner Mike Morton.*

**Pledge of Allegiance**

*Mr. Simpson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.*

**Approval of Agenda**

*Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Cailloux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of February 16, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes  
*Mr. Merrill made a motion to approve the February 16, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes. Ms. Cailloux seconded. The motion passed 3-0, Mr. Prater abstained.*

**Public Hearings**

2. Sign Ordinance proposed revision

*Mr. Simpson asked Mayor Reed to give a history of the sign ordinance. Mayor Reed said the city had initially adopted the Fulton County Sign Ordinance. When the city went through the Zoning Ordinance rewrite, a lot of discussion was about “doing no harm” and not impeding what citizens had historically done – some minor changes were made to the sign ordinance to reflect that. The current discussion stems from recent Supreme Court decisions, and changes to our sign ordinance that the City Attorney has recommended to stay in compliance with national law.*

*Mr. Simpson opened the Public Hearing.*

*Susan Tillander, 9900 Woodruff Road – said she had attended almost all of the Comp Plan meetings last year and it was clear that there is not a shared vision. People do not want everything to look the same. She also had discussions with people about the sign that prompted some of the changes to ordinance, and the conclusion was most people value freedom of expression the most.*

*Marcia Lee, 6520 Rico Road – said that she agreed with Susan Tillander. Hamlets can be restrictive, but rural is rural and people need to be left alone.*

*Ben Hoffman, 10975 Hutcheson Ferry Road – said that there needs to be a unified idea and definition of rural character before an ordinance is written. Without it, random numbers are just being thrown out and the size regulations do not always make sense. The city also needs to be cautious about regulating things already in the community like the mural on the Boy Scout House on Rico Road.*

*Betty Ferdinand, 10985 Hutcheson Ferry Road (comments read into the record by the City Clerk) – the residence on Hutcheson Ferry Road displaying the “Schoolhouse” sign was marketed as possible commercial and the size of the sign speaks to a commercial intent. If the proposed sign ordinance passed, sign litter will grow and the countryside will give way to sprawling sign blight. She asked that the revised sign ordinance not be approved. Complete comments were submitted for the record.*

*Victorena Datin, 10235 Henry Mill Road – said she agreed with Susan Tillander and Marcia Lee. She does not think sign permits should be required for residential and people should be able to do what they want. People can look the other way if they do not like something.*

*Cory Nestlehutt, 8820 Waktins Road – asked a question about the fence that was built on Atlanta-Newnan Road and then taken down. Mr. Simpson said the question would be answered after the public hearing.*

*Tom Reed, 9171 Selborne Lane – said he was a huge first amendment right person but the reality is people often call the city to complain. There are things, like blinking light signs, that may bother neighbors. Rules and processes are needed for those sorts of things. He agreed that the sign ordinance is not perfect, but there are many issues that must be balanced into one ordinance.*

*Mr. Simpson closed the Public Hearing.*

*City Planner Mike Morton presented the item. He read the proposed changes to the ordinance. The proposed changes to the ordinance are only those recommended by the City Attorney and did not include the recommendations made by the Planning Commission at the last meeting.*

*After discussion between Commission members, the consensus was that the changes recommended by the City Attorney to address the recent Supreme Court decision should be made now but more community input is needed before other changes are made to the sign ordinance.*

*These minutes are provided as a convenience and service to the public, media, and staff. It is not the intent to transcribe proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. Public comments are noted and heard by the Commission, but not quoted. This is an official record of the City of Chattahoochee Hills Planning Commission Meeting proceedings.*

*Mr. Prater made a motion to recommend adoption of the City Attorney's proposed sign ordinance revisions and to defer action on the Bluebird Schoolhouse sign until more public input is received. Ms. Cailloux seconded. After further discussion, Mr. Prater amended the motion to recommend adoption of the City Attorney's proposed sign ordinance revisions and to recommend that no code enforcement action be taken on the Bluebird Schoolhouse sign until more public input is received. Ms. Cailloux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Old Business** (None)

**New Business**

3. Planning Commission meeting schedule  
*City Planner Mike Morton presented the item. Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the meeting schedule with the meeting time changed to 6:30 p.m. Ms. Cailloux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Staff Reports**

*Mr. Morton gave an update on the property on Hutcheson Ferry Road where the people with the dogs had moved in. He recently heard from the real estate agent that the people have moved out, so it is no longer an issue.*

**Adjourn Meeting**

*Mr. Merrill made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Prater seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.*

Approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2017.

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Bob Simpson, Chairman

Attest:

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Dana Wicher, City Clerk