

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

December 17, 2020

Zoom #880 0021 3159

Present: Kenneth DiFazio, Chairman
Brian Dwyer, Vice Chair
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor

Also Present: Robert Luongo, Planning Director
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chairman DiFazio called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. Councilor Mathews called the roll with all members present.

20 117-Town Council Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Section 120-64.7.1-Billboard Overlay District (One Year Moratorium on New Permit Issuance

This measure was introduced by Council President Mathews and Councilor Haugh and referred to the Ordinance Committee on November 16, 2020. The committee reviewed on November 24, 2020 and December 1, 2020, and a public hearing was held on December 7, 2020. After the Planning Board met on December 11, 2020 a memo was sent to the Ordinance Committee with its decision. The chair read the decision into the record:

“On December 10, 2020 the Planning Board met to deliberate Citizen Petition 20 117 following a joint public hearing with the Weymouth Town Council on December 7, 2020. As the public hearing was closed following the joint hearing, no additional testimony was accepted.

The Planning Board discussed the objectives of the measure as put forward by the Town Council as well as the public testimony heard at the public hearing.

It was the consensus of the Board the proposed moratorium represented an opportunity to pause the permitting of future billboards until such time as the negative impacts of the existing billboard at 611 Pleasant Street could be mitigated.

The Board then took action on Measure 20 117.

On the motion to recommend favorable action:

Sandra Williams- Yes

Paul Rotondo- Yes

Greg Agnew- Yes

The decision was unanimous to recommend favorable action to the Weymouth Town Council.”

Chair DiFazio then read the language of the measure into the record:

We are submitting the following measure, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40A, as a petition filed by the Town Council to propose a zoning change.

We are requesting that the Town of Weymouth Zoning Ordinance Section 120-64.7.1 is amended as follows:

Add a new section E. to the Billboard Relocation Overlay District as follows:

“A moratorium shall be in effect for the duration of one year regarding all electronic billboard issuances of new permits. This moratorium may be lifted only if Cove Outdoor, LLC, or its successor, fulfills all obligations included in the ‘Remediation Agreement for Neighborhoods Near the 611 Pleasant Street Digital Billboard’ dated December 18, 2019.”

This one year moratorium would be in effect one year from the date it is adopted by the Town Council. This will allow the Planning Director to amend the guidelines, as outlined in this ordinance and should include installation of light blocking technology, limitations on both height and size of boards, hours of operation, content of advertisements; and any actions which would mitigate the effects of electronic billboards on the residents in the effected neighborhoods.

The measure requires a legal notice, joint public hearing in conjunction with the Planning Board and a 2/3 vote of the Council.

Chair DiFazio noted they should amend the language to read a new section “F” since a new section E was added by the voting of a measure (#20 100) recently adopted.

A motion was made by Councilor Haugh to forward measure 20 117, amended with the new section E changed to new Section F, to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Mathews.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Mathews-Yes, Vice Chair Dwyer- Yes, Chair DiFazio- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:41 PM, there being no further business, a motion was made by Councilor Mathews to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Haugh.

A roll call vote was taken:

Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Mathews-Yes, Vice Chair Dwyer- Yes, Chair DiFazio- Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Kenneth DiFazio as Ordinance Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 4 January 2021