

CITY OF PORTAGE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Minutes of Special Meeting – August 28, 2017

The City of Portage Zoning Board of Appeals meeting was called to order by Chair Seyburn at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Five people were in the audience.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Alexander Philipp, Lowell Seyburn, Jay Eichstaedt, Veronica Demaio, Linda Finch.

IN ATTENDANCE: Jeff Mais, Zoning & Codes Administrator and Charlie Bear, Assistant City Attorney.

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Brenda Carlton, John Byrnes, Natalie Rowe, Randall Schau

NEW BUSINESS:

ZBA #17-08, Johnson Outdoor Digital, 2375 East Milham Avenue: Mais summarized the request for a variance to modify a nonconforming freestanding sign. Gary Johnson stated a previous owner placed the existing sign in its current location, eight feet from the front property line and that the Board granted a variance (ZBA #08-14) permitting the sign in this location. Mr. Johnson stated they propose to modify the sign by removing the existing changeable copy board and 71.5 square-foot cabinet and replacing it with a 70 square-foot Electronic Message Display. The applicant said moving the sign to a conforming location two feet back could be problematic due to the presence of underground electrical lines that ran parallel to the edge of the off-street parking lot.

The public hearing was opened. John Haskins, 8837 New Haven spoke in support of the variance. The public hearing was then closed.

A motion was made by Eichstaedt, seconded by Finch, to grant a variance to modify a nonconforming freestanding sign, conditioned upon the leading edge of the sign may not extend closer than eight feet to the front property line. Upon roll call vote: Philipp-Yes, Seyburn-Yes, Finch-Yes, Eichstaedt-Yes, Demaio-Yes. Motion passed 5-0.

OTHER BUSINESS: The Board adjourned to Conference Room 1 and conducted a training session. Randall Schau entered and joined the training session following the conclusion of ZBA #17-08. Topics discussed included selecting appropriate criteria and standards for granting variances, conflicts of interest, the Open Meetings Act, and Roberts Rules of Order.

STATEMENT OF CITIZENS:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Mais
Zoning & Codes Administrator