



MINUTES
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 25, 2008 AT 5:30 P.M
CITY HALL, 116 FIRST STREET
NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA

Pursuant to proper notice a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach was held September 25, 2008 at 5:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 116 First Street, Neptune Beach, Florida.

Attendance

IN ATTENDANCE:

STAFF:

Mayor Richard A. Brown
Councilor Eric Pardee
Councilor John Weldon
City Attorney Chris White
City Manager James Jarboe
Deputy City Clerk Karla Strait, CMC

Director of Public Safety Chief Sembach
Building Official Don Ford

ABSENT:

Vice Mayor Harriet Pruette
Councilor Fred E. Lee

Order Call

Mayor Brown called the special meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and explained the meeting was called in order to discuss political signs.

Res. No. 2008-16

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-16, POLITICAL SIGNS: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF NEPTUNE BEACH, FLORIDA DIRECTING STAFF CONCERNING THE PLACEMENT OF POLITICAL SIGNS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

Whereas, Political signs are not allowed on public property by City Code.

Whereas, Staff has expressed its concern to the Council concerning residents and candidates not knowing where public property begins and ends in front of their residences.

Whereas, The Council wants to clear up any confusion that residents, candidates, and staff may have concerning the placement of political signs.

Whereas, the City Council of the City of Neptune Beach, Florida, has determined that it is necessary to set forth guidelines for residents, candidates, and staff concerning political signs.

Now, Therefore, be it ordained by the City Council of Neptune Beach, Florida, the following rules apply to the placement of political signs:

Rules for placement of political signs in the residential zoned areas of the City –

1. All political signs in residential zoned areas must be placed at least six feet from

- the roadway, but in no case on the roadway side of side walks.
2. No political signs may be placed on public property within fifty feet of the Five-way Intersection (Penman, Forrest Ave., and Florida Blvd.), Third Street/Florida Blvd., the Third Street/Myrtle Street and Third Street/Seagate Intersections.
 3. No Political signs may be placed on Third Street, Penman Road, and Florida Blvd. (from Penman Road to Mayport Road) on public property.
 4. The Code Enforcement Officer, with the assistance of other City staff, is charged with the removal of political signs that do not comply with rules 1, 2, and 3 above.

The Resolution shall become effective after passage by the City Council

City Manager Jarboe stated staff was directed at the September 22, 2008, Workshop meeting to aggressively remove political signs from the city right-of-ways. However, after hearing many complaints from candidates and residents, he suspended picking up signs until further direction from the Council.

Councilor Weldon stated the direction given staff by the Council to aggressively remove political signs from the right-of-ways was not intended for code enforcement officers to remove the political from perceived front yards. City Manager Jarboe explained staff only removed the signs from public rights-of-ways. He added it is sometimes hard to interpret where the rights-of-ways are located.

Councilor Weldon suggested Council redirect staff to continue the aggressive enforcement in commercial rights-of-ways, major intersection, and major thoroughfares only, not in residents perceived front yards.

City Manager suggested striking number 1 from the resolution as follows.

~~4. All political signs in residential zoned areas must be placed at least six feet from the roadway, but in no case on the roadway side of side walks.~~

Councilor Pardee still felt the signs should be placed some distance from the road side of the sidewalk. .

Councilor Weldon suggested that number one be amended as follows:

1. All political signs in residential zoned areas ~~must be placed at least six feet from the roadway, but in no case~~ may not be placed on the roadway side of side walks.

Moved by Weldon, seconded by Pardee.

Motion: **TO ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 2008-16 AS AMENDED.**

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Richard Brown, Mayor

ATTEST:

Karla Strait, CMC, Deputy City Clerk

Approved: _____