

APPROVED

**MUNICIPALITY OF MT. LEBANON
PLANNING BOARD MINUTES**

DATE: Tuesday, October 23, 2012

TIME: 7 p.m.

PLACE: Mt. Lebanon Municipality – Commission Chambers

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Pope, Rick Sabeh, Carolyn Byham, Jackie Dunn, Alan London

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Municipal Planner Keith McGill, Municipal Solicitor Phil Weiss

Agenda Items

Minutes of the September 25, 2012, Planning Board meeting. Ms. Dunn moved and Mr. Sabeh seconded to approve the September 25, 2012, Planning Board minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

Request for a recommendation on An Ordinance of Mt. Lebanon, Pennsylvania Amending the Zoning Ordinance Regarding Electronic Signs.

The ordinance allows programmable electronic signs in Residential zones as an accessory use to Places of Worship, Public and Semi-Public and other similar uses. The ordinance also imposes restrictions relating to size, lighting, time, setback, message time and flashing/blinking.

Mr. McGill said there have been numerous requests for this type of signage that is not provided for in the zoning ordinance. Therefore when such a sign is requested the applicant needs to go before the zoning hearing board. There are several of these types of signs such as at Southminster Presbyterian Church, the municipal library, and Temple Emanuel. All of these entities went through the zoning hearing board process; each one was granted approval with conditions attached. There was also one applicant that went before the zoning hearing board and their application was denied; and there are two that are pending awaiting the outcome of this proposed ordinance. When there are repeated requests for a variance to a particular section of the code, the municipality will look at the code and determine if the issue is something that needs to be addressed. This ordinance will provide for regulations regarding size limits, lighting, the time the message may be displayed, and prohibition against flashing or blinking messages. Regarding the timing of the signs the ordinance would not allow the signs to be illuminated between 10 PM

and 6 AM due to their location in residential areas. The messages are limited to public services or specific to uses of the building. They are not intended for commercial messages.

Ms. Dunn asked for the definition of semi-public and for examples of these uses.

Mr. McGill said Salvation Army is considered semi-public. The definition from the municipal code book states: Public or semi-public uses are uses operated by a public or semi-public body such as schools, public libraries, public safety buildings, museums, public meeting halls and community centers. This definition shall not include hospitals and continuing care facilities.

Mr. Sabeh asked if the fire department's electronic sign would fall under this ordinance.

Mr. McGill said it would not be affected.

Mrs. Byham asked if real estate businesses could use one for an open house.

Mr. Weiss said only places of worship and semi-public uses would be allowed.

Citizen Comments

None

Mr. London moved and Mrs. Byham seconded to recommend the ordinance as reviewed and revised by the solicitor. The motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

a. None

Next Meeting - The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Mt. Lebanon Planning Board is **Tuesday, November 27, 2012**, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.