



**CITY OF SPARKS, NV
COMMUNITY
SERVICES
DEPARTMENT**

To: Mayor and City Council
From: Marilie Smith, Administrative Secretary
Subject: Report of Planning Commission Action
CA-3-09
Date: June 30, 2014

RE: CA-3-09 CITY OF SPARKS, Consideration and possible action on an ordinance to amend Chapter 20.56 Signs of the Sparks Municipal Code to change the method for sign calculations, add regulations governing digital signs, and provide for other matters properly related thereto.

An agenda item from Senior Planner Karen Melby recommending approval to the City Council of CA-3-09 to amend Chapter 20.56 of the Sparks Municipal Code to change the method for sign calculations, to add regulations governing digital signs, and providing for other matters properly related thereto.

This request is to amend Sparks Municipal Code Chapter 20.56 Signs. The amendments add regulations on digital signs and to address administrative issues staff had with the current Code of calculating the maximum sign area, the maximum sign area for all types of signs, the 25% opaque requirement, and temporary signs.

Ms. Melby reported that the City of Sparks was sued by the sign industry, requiring the City to adopt a new sign code in 2002 which the United States District Court for the District of Nevada ordered the City to adopt a sign code that is content neutral. A content neutral sign code is a sign code which only addresses "time, place and manner." The current code does not distinguish between off-premise and on-premise signs and the content of the sign cannot be taken into account.

Staff established stakeholder groups to work with on the revised sign code. Staff had 3 workshops with the Sign Industry, 2 workshops with Sparks business stakeholders and met with local sign political action groups. The draft code before you tonight includes the changes and comments from the stakeholder workshops.

Ms. Melby summarized the changes in the proposed draft comparing it to the current Sign Code. A summary of the changes included adding new definitions, changes to the method of calculating allowable sign area, separating the allowable sign size by sign type, adding digital sign standards and revising the temporary sign section.

The public hearing was opened.

The public hearing was closed.

MOTION: Planning Commissioner Sperber moved to forward a recommendation of approval to the City Council of CA-3-09 to amend Chapter 20.56 Signs of the Sparks Municipal Code.

SECOND: Planning Commissioner Fewins.

AYES: Planning Commissioners Sanders, Fewins, Lean, Nowicki, Sperber, and Cammarota.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAINERS: None.

ABSENT: Doug Voelz.

Passed.