

**NORMAN PLANNING COMMISSION  
REGULAR SESSION MINUTES**

**JANUARY 14, 2016**

The Planning Commission of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in Regular Session in the Council Chambers of the Norman Municipal Building, 201 West Gray Street, on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016. Notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the Norman Municipal Building and online at <http://www.normanok.gov/content/boards-commissions> at least twenty-four hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Chair Sandy Bahan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

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Item No. 1, being:

**ROLL CALL**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Andy Sherrer  
Roberta Pailles  
Tom Knotts  
Sandy Bahan  
Dawn Jourdan  
Dave Boeck  
Chris Lewis

MEMBERS ABSENT

Erin Williford

A quorum was present.

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Connors, Director, Planning &  
Community Development  
Jane Hudson, Principal Planner  
Janay Greenlee, Planner II  
Wayne Stenis, Planner II  
Roné Tromble, Recording Secretary  
Larry Knapp, GIS Analyst II  
Leah Messner, Asst. City Attorney  
Ken Danner, Subdivision Development  
Manager  
David Riesland, Traffic Engineer  
Terry Floyd, Development Coordinator

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Item No. 10, being:

**O-1516-32 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA, AMENDING CHAPTER 18 OF THE CITY CODE (SIGN CODE) TO DEFINE FEATHER FLAGS/BANNERS AND ALLOW THEM IN CERTAIN ZONING DISTRICTS IN THE CITY; AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY THEREOF.**

**ITEMS SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD:**

1. Staff Report
2. Proposed Ordinance Language

**PRESENTATION BY STAFF:**

1. Wayne Stenis – This ordinance deals with feather flags, which are a type of wind sign. They are prohibited in our sign ordinance. There has been continued and more prolific use of these feather flags throughout the community. It has become an enforcement issue. So it came to the attention of the Council Business and Community Affairs Committee. They have requested a code amendment. They have reviewed it. We're bringing it forth to you to go through the process for public review and a recommendation. This ordinance would require permits, would allow and regulate the size, the spacing, the time period, and no illumination. They would allow them in almost all zones, except for low density residential zones. The number would also be regulated as to regards to the property and the number of tenants on the property. They would be regulated and allowed in lieu of either the regular temporaries that are allowed up to 60 days, or the temporaries that are an annual banner. Right now the annual banner is in lieu of the 60-day temporaries. This would be in lieu of either of those, so if you had the feather flags you couldn't have the others at the same time. I'd be glad to go through some of the details of the ordinance, or answer any questions.

2. Ms. Jourdan – I'm interested in two things. The first one is anchoring. It's very windy here in Oklahoma and I just wonder how you make these things safe so they're not blowing through the air. And then the second is maintenance. What kind of guidelines there are to make sure they're kept in good order and so forth?

Mr. Stenis – The sign code requires signs to be maintained in good order to be useful. There's also a statement regarding if they are torn or damaged, then they're supposed to be either removed or replaced with another one.

3. Mr. Lewis – I have two questions. One, I know that the definition is for feather flags or banners. My first question is, does this in any way, shape or form impede or impair – currently I know there is a business in Norman, Oklahoma that on game days puts out OU flags or on special event days puts out special event flags at businesses throughout our community. Does this in any way, shape or form impede that action by that business or restrict those flags being displayed?

Mr. Stenis – No, it does not impede those. Those are also regulated. They're exempt from a permit, but they do have to be on their own property and only during the special event.

Mr. Lewis – And, second, I do know that when we were speaking about our sign ordinance going forward, there were comments in regard to flying the American flag as an attraction for business. And my next question would be does this in any way, shape or form impede, restrict, redefine a business or an owner flying their flag at their business, whether it is for promotion purposes or whatever?

Mr. Stenis – No, this does not amend that portion of the code at all.

Ms. Connors – Just to address getting it in the ground – I wanted to address that. There is a statement that feather flags shall be secured in the ground. There was discussion at the City Council committee meeting about the fact that they need to be in the ground, so we will make sure that happens, because you can't use sandbags, for instance, to secure them. That was a discussion, so we will require that they be – that the shaft will be in the ground.

Mr. Boeck – And some kind of support system, like a pipe or something to make ...

Ms. Connors – Well, there's a definition. So they're defined to be on a metal pole.

Mr. Boeck – Well, I know you've got a metal pole, but that metal pole needs to sit in something. If you put it in the ground and it's blowing back and forth, it could come loose. Whereas if you had ...

Mr. Lewis – I know, Mr. Boeck, what I've seen and with the sign company that I spoke about that puts out the OU flags throughout our community, they actually drive a stake deep into the ground and then the flag actually sits over top of that. I'm sure that would probably comply.

Ms. Connors – Well, the other thing I would say is we have lots of these feather flags already illegally being displayed in our city and we haven't ever had an instance where one has blown away that I'm aware of, or damaged.

Mr. Boeck – I've never seen one blow away.

Mr. Stenis – The definition includes free-standing sign typically constructed with plastic or metal shaft driven into the ground.

**AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:**

None

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION:**

*Dave Boeck moved to recommend approval of Ordinance No. O-1516-32 to City Council. Chris Lewis seconded the motion.*

There being no further discussion, a vote on the motion was taken with the following result:

YEAS

Andy Sherrer, Roberta Pailes, Tom Knotts, Sandy Bahan,  
Dawn Jourdan, Dave Boeck, Chris Lewis

NAYES

None

MEMBERS ABSENT

Erin Williford

Ms. Tromble announced that the motion, to recommend approval of Ordinance No. O-1516-32 to City Council, passed by a vote of 7-0.

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