

**PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD MINUTES FOR MEETING HELD TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER 2019, 7:30 PM,  
CITY HALL AUDITORIUM, 110 RIVER STREET**

The meeting of the Planning and Zoning Board came to order at 7:30 p.m.

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Nancy Austin, John Grant, Jim Kader, Brian Kaligian, Scott Marlow, Carl S. Moore, Tom Panzella, Jim Quish, Robert Satti

**Not Present:** Peggy Kearney

**Staff:** David Sulkis, City Planner; Meg Greene, Rec. Sec'y

**Chairman Quish** opened the meeting.

**C. OLD BUSINESS:**

**VOTE BY FEBRUARY 6, 2020**

- 1) Proposed Change to City of Milford Zoning Regulations:** Petition by Kevin Curseaden, for changes to Article 5, Sections 5.2.1, 5.2.5, 5.3.6 and 11.2 to allow for Electronic Digital Billboard Signs.

**Chairman Quish** reviewed the status of the hearing and asked the board for comment. He stated that he viewed the meeting on MGAT for the meeting he was unable to attend. He said that he considered the signs safe as located along the I-95 corridor.

**Mr. Panzella** stated that he was also in support of the billboards, which he said can be made aesthetically pleasing and provide public information. He said he considered it a win for the city.

**Mr. Grant** said when considering a change to the regulations, he reviews Article 1 of the zoning regulations to remind himself of the criteria to be used. He said he could not find how the proposed regulation benefits the public per the guidance reflected in that article. He said he didn't see a direct benefit to the community as is the intention of the regulations and that he personally considered them a traffic hazard. He said the regulation is not currently requesting billboards in three zones and suggested barring them in those zones in the future. He additionally suggested that a Special Permit be required.

**Mr. Satti** said he agreed with Mr. Grant, and that the burden is on the applicant to prove safety. He noted the amount of pushback to the billboards proposal during public comment. He said the property tax does not provide a significant benefit to the City. He said he agreed fully with the regulatory comments Mr. Grant made, and he preferred that 8-second displays be used, not 10.

**Mr. Marlow** said he agreed with Messrs Grant and Satti. He asked if this is where the City should be headed. He said he dislikes billboards in general, but he said at night when they change constantly, it's still a distraction.

**Mr. Kader** said he was initially in support, but was moved by the public comments. He noted his own experience of driving by a billboard of interest, resulting in an increase in his level of distraction. He said he also feared their encroachment into areas other than along the interstate.

**Mr. Moore** said he was not convinced the billboards represent a safety hazard and felt the City was not keeping up with the digital environment we now live in. He said maintaining safety while driving is incumbent upon the driver.

**Chairman Quish** said he agreed with Mr. Moore that we live in a digital world. He reemphasized the potential for beneficial public safety alerts and general advertising for City events. He felt it would be a boon to economic development and business-friendly.

**Mr. Panzella** said it was only a matter of time before everything went digital. He said drivers become acclimated to roadside sights and drivers' phones are a far more dangerous distraction.

**Ms. Austin** said she works in advertising and disagreed that billboards flash like Las Vegas style displays. She said most people will be past the billboard well before it changes. She said she works with small businesses and this is a very appealing opportunity for such businesses.

**Chairman Quish** asked for a motion.

**Motion:** **Mr. Satti** moved to shift this item for review by the Regulations Subcommittee. The motion did not receive a second.

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**Mr. Panzella to approve as presented (or) [I move to approve with the following conditions]** the Petition: Petition by Kevin Curseaden, for changes to Article 5, Sections 5.2.1, 5.2.5, 5.3.6 and 11.2 to allow for Electronic Digital Billboard Signs. Effective Date: January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Mr. Grant** asked to add an amendment to the motion, which Mr. Panzella allowed: that Zones CDD-3, CDD5, and IDG be deleted from the proposal and the word Special be reinserted into "subject to a permit".

**Second: Mr. Moore** seconded.

**Mr. Satti** made an additional amendment to limit the billboard display cycles to 8 seconds, which Mr. Panzella also allowed, as did Mr. Moore.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** Motion failed because 6 votes are required for a regulation change.

Votes were as follows:

**WITH THE MOTION:** N. Austin, B. Kaligian, C.S. Moore, T. Panzella, J. Quish

**AGAINST THE MOTION:** J. Grant, J. Kader, S. Marlow, R. Satti

**NEW BUSINESS**

**VOTE BY FEBRUARY 20, 2020**

1. **5 Year Capital Improvement Plan** Referral pursuant to CGS Section 8-24, to approve the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan for 2020-2024.

**Mr. Sulkis** described the process for Capital Improvement Plan approval.

**Chairman Quish** introduced Mayor's Chief of Staff Justin Rosen, who was there to answer questions; none were raised.

**Motion: Mr. Satti moved to approve as presented**, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24, the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan for 2020-2024, submitted by Mayor Benjamin G. Blake.

**Second: Mr. Grant** seconded.

**Discussion:** None.

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**F. LIAISON REPORTS**— None.

**G. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**— None.

**H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – 12/03/2019: Approved unanimously.

**I. CHAIR'S REPORT** – **Chairman Quish** handed out Certificates of Appreciation to Messrs Grant, Marlow, and Panzella.

**J. STAFF REPORT** – **Mr. Sulkis** also expressed his appreciation for the service of board members whose terms were complete.

**K. ADJOURNMENT** was at 8:20.

Attest:

M.E. Greene

**New Business, not on the Agenda, may be brought up by a 2/3's vote of those Members present and voting.**

**ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, (203) 783-3230, FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE.**