

**TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS
MEETING MINUTES
November 2, 2017
6:00 P.M.**

The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) of the Town of Rocky Mount, Virginia met at the Rocky Mount Municipal Building on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., with Chairman Charles L. Hutto, presiding.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT

Board Members Present: Chairman, Charles L. Hutto, Jr.; Vice Chair, Susan Hapgood; Board of Zoning Appeals Members John Speidel, Lucas Tuning and C. Holland Perdue III.

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant Town Manager; Jessica Heckman, Town Planner; Town Attorney, John Boitnott and Cherie Compton, Board of Zoning Appeals Clerk.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions or Corrections: None

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by: Member Lucas Tuning

Second: Vice Chair Susan Hapgood

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, the Board received the following draft minutes for review and consideration of approval:

- October 5, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the minutes as presented

Motion By: Member John Speidel
Second: Member Lucas Tuning
Action: Approved by unanimous vote

PUBLIC HEARING

Town Planner Jessica Heckman described the request and why the Town has brought the request before the Board.

Applicant, Franklin Heights Baptist Church requested a variance of Article 8-14-A-4 and Article 8-14-A-8 of the Town of Rocky Mount Zoning Ordinance to install an additional freestanding monument sign. The new sign will be ten feet tall and 25 feet wide with a sign area of approximately 75 square feet. In accordance with Article 11 of the Zoning & Development Ordinance of the Town of Rocky Mount and §15.2-2201 of the Code of Virginia, Franklin Heights Baptist Church desires a variance from the Town of Rocky Mount Zoning & Development Ordinance for the purpose of installing additional signage that exceeds the maximum of 45 square feet allowed in the Residential (R1) zoning district and the maximum of 20 square feet of signage per freestanding sign. The proposed monument sign also exceeds the maximum height of five feet allowed in the district. The applicant intends to install a monument sign at its secondary entrance on School Board Road to help eliminate some of the traffic on Hilltop Drive and Bernard Road.

Melvin Hunt spoke on behalf of Franklin Heights Baptist Church he described briefly how the sign would be constructed and that the goal was to eliminate some traffic in Franklin Heights. Members Tuning and Speidel questioned the design and size of lettering. An open discussion ensued.

Mary Sloper, 58 Bernard Road Rocky Mount, VA 24151 spoke in favor of the request.

John Boitnott reminded Board members that if considering in favor they could also set conditions. An open discussion ensued.

Hearing no further comments, Chair Hutto asked for a motion.

Motion: To approve the variance with the condition that the sign adheres to the design presented, and that any changes to the design require additional approval by Planning & Zoning.

Motion By: Member Lucas Tuning
Second: Member Holland Perdue

Chair Charles Hutto asked for a Roll Call Vote:

Member Lucas Tuning: Yes

Vice Chair Susan Hapgood: No

Member Holland Perdue: Yes

Member John Speidel: Yes

Chair Charles Hutto: Yes

Action: Variance granted with conditions that have been presented.

BOARD CONCERNS AND STAFF UPDATES

Matthew Hankins updated the board on the following:

- Verizon store still in progress but moving along hope to be open in January.
- Carilion Clinic is well underway and hopes to be paved and opened in January.
- B-Sides is open and doing well.
- Harvester has some news coming for February so watch ticket info.

Hearing no further comments, Chair Hutto asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Board Member Lucas Tuning

Second: Board Member Holland Perdue

Action: Adjourned by a unanimous vote of members present

Time of Adjournment: 6:28 p.m.

Charles Hutto, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:

Cherie Compton, Secretary