

Members Present: Council Member Laura P. Cox, Chair

Council Member Barbara Chick Council Member Darren Lathen

Guests: Council Member John Willis

Truett Welborn

Staff Present: Neil Montgomery, Senior Managing Director of Development Services

Mike Betz, Deputy City Attorney

Richard Briley, Managing Director of Health Steve Killen, Director of Code Compliance

Chairperson Laura Cox called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

The minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting were approved by unanimous vote of the committee.

Discuss Vehicle Signs Advertising Lawn Service Businesses

Staff indicated that this item had been brought up due to instances where lawn services companies have been observed blowing grass clippings and other material into the street or storm sewer. Because the vehicles did not have signs, with the name of the business and a telephone number, it is difficult to identify what business is responsible. Richard Briley stated that the enforcement officers currently use the license plate number to ascertain the owner and responsible party. After discussion, the Committee decided to forward a recommendation to the full Council that, because sufficient means are in place to provide enforcement, no further action be taken on this issue.

Consider the Adoption of Regulations Governing the Location and Placement of Newspaper Vending Boxes

Council Member John Willis described the problem he has observed at several locations with numerous boxes, blocking sidewalks, boxes not maintained and covered with graffiti. There were questions for the City Attorney regarding what the City can legally do to regulate this type of use. Mike Betz replied that requirements can be enacted ensuring that the sidewalk not be blocked and access to a bus stop be maintained, but the ability to regulate these boxes is very limited. Mr. Betz further indicated that if the Committee wanted to pursue the issue, he would do additional research and attempt to craft an ordinance to address their concerns. After discussion, the Committee asked Mr. Betz to do so and requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

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Consider Modifications to Section 32.52, Weeds, of the Code of Ordinances

This item was brought forward to discuss a proposed modification to the ordinance to lower the height threshold for high grass (currently 12"). Steve Killen distributed material regarding the current ordinance and the typical timeline of nuisance abatement for high grass and weeds. Mr. Killen also discussed the timeline for abatement if the ordinance was changed from a 12' threshold to an 8" standard and provided information on a survey of other cities' ordinances which indicated two cities (out of eight surveyed) had a standard less than 12". Richard Briley offered a couple of options: doing an annual notice for problem properties or incorporating an annual notice for any property that has a work order. The committee discussed this information and then asked staff to report back at the next meeting after consultation with the City Attorney's office.

Set Date/Time for Future Meetings of the Committee

The committee set their regular meeting day and time to be the first Tuesday of the month, coinciding with the first Council meeting, at 5:00 p. m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Submitted by: Neil Montgomery

Approved by Committee: November 2, 2009

Approved by: Council Member Laura Perkins Cox, Chairperson