

**TOWN OF EMERALD ISLE
PLANNING BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2009**

Chairman Jim Craig called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Members present were: Jim Craig, Ken Sullivan, Linda Hughs, Bob Smith, Tom Kelly, Pete Wachter and Eddie Barber. Also present was Kevin Reed, Planning and Inspections Director and Peggy Grammer, Permit Technician.

A motion was made by Linda Hughs to approve the minutes of the Planning Board Meeting held on June 22, 2009. The motion was seconded by Bob Smith and passed unanimously (6 to 0).

Mr. Reed advised that for the month of June, the Planning and Inspections Department had issued one permit for a new home and the total estimated value for all permits was approximately \$549,585. This brings the fiscal year total to over \$11.4 million in construction value and the department has collected approximately \$107,675 in permit fees.

Discussion regarding Chapter 6, “Development Standards”, Section 6.6 “Signs”, of the Town’s Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) in order to discuss possible amendments regarding the regulation of LED-LCD and Electronic Message Signage.

Mr. Reed indicated that there were no clear provisions within the Town’s Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) for the Town to allow or not to allow LED-LCD and Electronic Message Signage. Staff felt that the proper way to address this issue would be to create a text amendment to the UDO that would clarify the use standards or a prohibition on these types of signs. Mr. Reed introduced Mr. Barry Taylor who is a business owner specializing in providing electronic message signs. Mr. Taylor showed a demonstration of different types of Electronic Messaging so that the Board members could better understand the types of signs that are available in his industry. These types of messages included: flashing signs, scrolling (not recommended by Mr. Taylor), static displays (changing of message timing/delays), static transition signs, graphics signs, and other types of message boards. Mr. Taylor also explained the Nits standard which is a measurement of the light’s intensity and brightness for electronic message boards. There were a number of questions from Board members to Mr. Taylor regarding his presentation and the regulation of such signs. After some further discussion, the Planning Board requested that Town staff develop an amendment to the UDO that would prohibit LED-LCD and Electronic Message Signage in the Town. The prohibition would not apply to any sign erected by the Town of Emerald Isle or any other governmental entity.

COMMENTS:

Chairman Craig gave a brief report on behalf of the Emerald Isle Sea Turtle Protection Program.

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Eddie Barber to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Linda Hughs and passed unanimously (6 to 0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Peggy Grammer, Secretary
Town of Emerald Isle Planning Board