



Town of Pittsboro, North Carolina

Department of Planning

(919) 542-1655

MEMORANDUM

TO: Bryan Gruesbeck, Town Manager

FROM: Jeff Jones, Planning Director

SUBJECT: Signs on Utility Poles

DATE: July 20, 2016

Background: During the June 13 Board of Commissioners meeting you discussed a recurring issue with signs placed on utility poles, particularly in the historic downtown business district (see attached memo from the June 13 meeting). In this memo, I indicated that current regulations appear to prohibit signs on utility poles. However, the Town may strengthen this prohibition by adding additional language in the Town Code (Chapter 3 – Advertising) as follows:

3-104 Sign on Utility Poles

It shall be unlawful for any person(s) to advertise, or attempt to advertise, by placing signage on any public utility pole within the right of ways of the Town of Pittsboro. Public regulatory signs and public utility signs are exempt from this code.

In the meantime, Staff has reached out to the company responsible for many of the signs - ThePosterGuys.com - and spoke to its representative, Matt Barrett. Mr. Barrett informs Staff that since the day he spoke to the Mayor no signs have been placed on utility poles by his company. He indicates the only place he places signs now in the Town of Pittsboro is at Chatham Market.

Further discussion on this topic is needed and any regulations we write to the Zoning or Town Code would have to be consistently enforced on a daily basis.

If the suggested language is appropriate you could set a public hearing and begin the process of amending the Town Code of Ordinances. You may also direct Staff in another direction.

Action requested: Review the suggested language and direct Staff, as appropriate.

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