

A RESOLUTION OF THE FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS EXTENDING UNTIL JUNE 16, 2017, AN EXISTING MORATORIUM ON ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR PERMITS TO UPGRADE NONCONFORMING SIGNS TO ELECTRONIC MESSAGE BOARDS

WHEREAS, Chapter 66 of the Forsyth County Code of Ordinances (“Sign Ordinance”) currently regulates the use of signage throughout Forsyth County, Georgia (“County”); and

WHEREAS, Section 66-101(b) and (c) of the Sign Ordinance (Section 4.1(b) and (c) of Ordinance 74) allows for the conversion of some existing nonconforming signs to electronic message boards in certain prescribed circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners (“Board”) is reviewing current Sign Ordinance provisions related to the upgrade of certain existing nonconforming signs to electronic message boards in certain prescribed circumstances, in contemplation of revising these provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Board is concerned that during this review process, the County may be inundated with requests for conversions of non-conforming signs to electronic message boards; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to maintain the status quo during this review; and

WHEREAS, the Board has asked the County Attorney and the Forsyth County Department of Planning and Community Development to evaluate the past and possible future impact of Section 66-101(b) and (c) as it relates to increases in the number of electronic message boards in the County; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2016, the Board adopted a moratorium (“EMB upgrade Moratorium”) barring until December 17, 2016, the acceptance of applications for permits to upgrade a nonconforming sign to an electronic message board pursuant to Section 66-101 (b) and (c) of the County’s Sign Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, on December 15, 2016, the Board extended the EMB Upgrade Moratorium until March 17, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds the extending until June 16, 2017, the existing moratorium barring the acceptance of applications for sign permits to upgrade a nonconforming sign to an electronic message board pursuant to Section 66-101 (b) and (c) of the County’s Sign Ordinance to be reasonably necessary, the least restrictive means available, a reasonable exercise of the County’s police power, and in the best interests of the public health, safety, and welfare;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners does hereby extend until June 16, 2017, the existing moratorium barring the acceptance of applications for permits to upgrade a nonconforming sign to an electronic message board pursuant to Section 66-101 (b) and (c) of the County's Sign Ordinance.

2. The moratorium imposed by this Resolution shall terminate on the earliest date of: (1) June 16, 2017; (2) approval by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners of an additional moratorium after a public hearing; (3) the adoption of an amendment of the current County Sign Ordinance with respect to upgrading nonconforming signs to electronic message boards; or (4) Board action terminating the moratorium within the moratorium period.

3. This Resolution shall be effective upon a majority vote by the Board of Commissioners.

4. The moratorium imposed by this Resolution shall have no impact on those applications for upgrade to an electronic message board under Section 66-101(b) and (c) of the Sign Ordinance received on or before the initial adoption of the moratorium.

SO RESOLVED this 16th day of March, 2017, the public's health, safety, and welfare demanding it.

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Todd Levent, Chairman




Rick Swope, Vice Chairman



Laura Semanson, Secretary



Ralph J. (Pete) Amos, Member



Cindy J. Mills, Member

Attest:


Clerk to the Board