0-10-08

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS FOR ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE COPY SIGNS IN THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of North Little Rock, through Ordinance Nos.7674 ("The Sign Ordinance") and 7697 ("The Zoning Ordinance"), regulates signs, including electronic changeable copy signs; and

WHEREAS, a moratorium was declared on issuance of permits for electronic changeable copy signs through September 30, 2009 (Resolution No. 7453) in order to study relevant issues concerning this type of signs; and

WHEREAS, the moratorium established by Resolution No. 7453 was clarified on September 28, 2009 through the adoption of Ordinance No. 8194 which extended the moratorium until December 31, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the informal committee that was initially formed by Resolution No. 7453, and clarified and extended by Ordinance No. 8194 to December 31, 2009 and further extended by Ordinance No. 8219 (amended by Ordinance 8222) to January 31, 2010, has met on several occasions to examine the law and facts regarding electronic changeable copy signs in order to find a proper point of regulatory balance among individual rights, commercial development, and public interests such as: aesthetic appearance, traffic safety, fair competition, light pollution, and sanctity of the home; and

WHEREAS, despite diligent work, the informal committee has not completed its study.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1: That the moratorium on issuance of permits by the North Little Rock Department of Community Planning ("Planning Department") for electronic changeable copy signs established by Resolution No. 7453 and extended by Ordinance Nos. 8194 and 8219 (as amended by Ord. No. 8222) is hereby extended until February 28, 2010.

SECTION 2: That all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 3: That the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any section, phrase or provision shall be declared or held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remainder of the sections, phrases or provisions.

SECTION 4: The City Council has found and determined that it is immediately necessary to allow the continued study of and granting sufficient time for the informal sign committee to advise the City Council on electronic changeable copy signs in the City, which is vital to the health, safety and welfare of the public; THEREFORE, an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

PASSED:

APPROVED:

Mayor Patrick H. Hays

SPONSOR:

Murry Witcher by JC

Alderman Murry Witcher

ATTEST:

Diane Whitbey, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

C. Jason Carter, City Attorney

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY/b

FILED 11:32 A.M. P.M.
BY City Atty Carter
DATE 1-19-10
Diane Whitbey, City Clerk and Collector
North Little Rock, Arkansas
RECEIVED by T. Mauldin