

Planning Commission Meeting
March 27, 2013
Verbatim Excerpt

S12-CW-2CP – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT (TELECOMMUNICATIONS
POLICY PLAN UPDATE)

After Close of the Public Hearing

Vice Chairman de la Fe: Any other comments? No? Mr. Murphy.

Commissioner Murphy: I have – just go ahead and close the public hearing.

Vice Chairman de la Fe: I thought I had closed it.

Commissioner Murphy: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, I want to thank all the folks for coming out and testifying this evening and, in particular, I want to thank Chris Caperton, who is doing a great job in this position and who has done a great job with this – pulling together all our comments for the product you see before us, which is this Out-of-Turn Plan Amendment. I want to make one point very clear. Contrary to public opinion, every telecommunication device that comes before the Planning Commission isn't approved. We do disapprove them and sometimes they're so ridiculous in where they're located or proposed to be located, they don't even see the day of light (sic) in this building before this body. But those that do come here, I can guarantee, are rigorously reviewed by the staff and the Planning Commission. And sometimes there is controversy – more times than not, as a matter of fact. And that's when you have to decide whether or not there is a public good that is served by this public facility or whether or not it should be rejected. And the decisions get tougher and tougher. It's not easy. But a lot of folks now – and it was brought up this evening in one form or another – they're giving up their land lines in their homes. They're going completely into cell communication. As I said at the beginning, life was much simpler for all of us when we just had cell phones and pagers. But now we have i-everythings and everybody is carrying them. And we are part of the problem because we keep buying this stuff and we keep putting it in our households and giving it to our children. And we expect them to have it and use it if they're staying out late or the car gets a flat tire or, God forbid, there's an accident. We need telecommunication devices in our fire engines and in our ambulances and in our police cars. At one time, we had a tremendous 911 gap in our County in the Springfield and Lee Districts because we didn't have the proper towers with telecommunications on them to serve our own first responders. As I said, it's now ingrained. It's part of our culture. We have to deal with it. We have to make the hard calls. And the folks in the communities, they have to make some hard calls too. They have to decide how they want their community to fit into this network, which we're all dependent on for better or for worse. We have a lot of stuff to look at and because the Board of Supervisors will be using this room for their public hearings on the budget and we'll need more than a week, I'M GOING TO MOVE THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION DEFER DECISION ONLY ON S12-CW-2CP TO A DATE CERTAIN OF APRIL 18, WITH THE RECORD REMAINING OPEN FOR COMMENT.

Commissioner Hart: Second.

Vice Chairman de la Fe: Seconded by Mr. Hart. Is there any discussion? Hearing and seeing none, all those in favor, please signify by saying aye.

Commissioners: Aye.

Vice Chairman de la Fe: Opposed? Motion carries.

//

(The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Sargeant having recused himself; Commissioners Flanagan and Hall absent from the meeting.)

JLC