



PLAINFIELD CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
(616) 364-8466

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLAINFIELD  
KENT COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

At a Regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Plainfield, Kent County, Michigan, held at the Township Hall within the Township on the 7th day of December, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Members Supervisor Meek, Clerk Harvey, Treasurer Stover, Trustees Borek, Hagedorn, Matthews and Weldon

ABSENT: Members None

Motion by Township Board Member Jack Hagedorn and supported by Township Board Member James Stover that the following Ordinance be adopted:

ORDINANCE NO. 823

RESOLUTION NO. 09-53

AN ORDINANCE TO IMPOSE A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON ANY ZONING APPROVAL, ZONING PERMIT, OR PERMIT FOR ANY ELECTRONIC READER BOARD, DIGITAL SIGN OR SIMILAR SIGNAGE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP, AND TO PREVENT THE CONSTRUCTION, SUBSTITUTION, PLACEMENT OR INSTALLATION OF ANY SUCH SIGNS DURING THE TIME WHILE THE MORATORIUM IS IN EFFECT.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLAINFIELD (the "Township") ORDAINS:

Section 1. Intent and Purpose.

The Township is in the process of reviewing regulations relative to the installation and operation of electric reader boards, LED signs and similar digital signage. Unless reasonably regulated, such digital signs can create potential nuisances for a community, including, but not limited to, visual blight, aesthetic concerns, safety issues, and distractions for drivers of vehicles.

The Township Board anticipates that the Township will have completed its multiple reviews of such signs and made a recommendation regarding their regulation early next year. The Township Board will work closely with the Township Planning Commission to conduct part of its analysis, including a review of current studies and other data regarding such signs and their impacts. Prior to that process being completed, the Township Board finds that this temporary moratorium is necessary for and will promote the public health, safety, and welfare of Township residents.

Section 2. Definitions.

For purposes of this Ordinance, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) Dynamic Display sign (or signage). A type of sign that has or appears to have movement or that appears to change, caused by a method other than physically removing and replacing the sign or its components, whether the real or apparent movement or change is in the display, the sign structure itself, or any other part of the sign. A digital sign often incorporates a technology allowing the sign face to change the image without the necessity of physically or mechanically replacing the sign face or its components. A digital sign may include any rotating, revolving, moving, flashing, blinking, or animated display and any display that incorporates rotating panels, LED lights manipulated through digital input, "digitalink," electronic message centers, or any other method or technology that allows the sign face to present different images or displays.

(b) Sign. A device, structure, fixture, presentation or display which may or may not use graphics, pictures, color, writing, letters, symbols, or written copy designed or used specifically for the

purpose of advertising, promoting, announcing or identifying an on-premises or off-premises establishment, product, service, business, person, entity, activity, use, or structure.

Section 3. Moratorium.

A moratorium is hereby imposed until April 16, 2010 with respect to the construction, placement, substitution, or installation of any digital sign, electronic reader board or similar type of signage anywhere within the Township, as well as the issuance of any approval or permit for the same. This moratorium shall begin once the notice of the adoption for this Ordinance has appeared in the newspaper and shall automatically terminate on April 16, 2010 without further action of the Township. During the moratorium the following shall apply:

(a) No new digital sign, electronic reader board or similar type of signage shall be installed, commenced, utilized, substituted, or constructed within the Township, and no existing such sign shall be replaced, altered, or rebuilt.

(b) No zoning application or request for a digital sign, electronic reader board or similar type of signage shall be processed, reviewed, or approved by the Township or any of its officials or bodies, including, but not limited to, any applicable special land use, variance, rezoning, or other zoning approval (whether any such request is pending or is requested hereafter).

(c) No building permit or other permit shall be issued or approved for the construction, placement, installation, substitution, or operation of any digital sign, electronic reader board or similar type of signage in the Township.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency ordinance and shall be effective immediately upon the date on which a copy of this Ordinance (or summary thereof) appears in the newspaper in accordance with law.

YEAS: Meek, Harvey, Stover, Borek, Hagedorn, Matthews and Weldon

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN/ABSENT: None

ORDINANCE NO. 823 DECLARED ADOPTED

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K. Scott Harvey  
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of an ordinance adopted by the Plainfield Charter Township Board at a Regular meeting held on December 7, 2009, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dated: December 9, 2009

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K. Scott Harvey  
Plainfield Charter Township Clerk