

Commissioner Booth: We have one ordinance that we've overlooked. PZO-2017-02 requested by Larry Cochran, Parish President, to amend the St. Charles Parish Zoning Ordinance of 1981 Section X. Item G. a. to eliminate the requirement for co-locations to obtain a Special Permit. Ms. Stein you want to explain this ordinance to us?

Ms. Stein: Yes thank you Mr. Chair. St. Charles Parish adopted cell tower regulations back in 1997. At that time we defined co-locations as locating wireless communications equipment from more than one provider on one site or cell tower. Two months later that ordinance was amended so that it would be more efficient and try to make it easier for people for AT&T and Sprint to go on the same tower was essentially the intent. Unfortunately at that time we did not provide a simple permit process for co-locations and we required an antenna on the tower to go through these same special permit process that the original cell tower went through which was a little bit tough. The reason I think we did that was because we were not enforcing a building code and we wanted the time and it was an intense review and whatever cell tower somebody was adding new antennas on could withstand wind load and not fall apart and not crumble. Since that time we've adopted the Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code which is largely based on the international code. We've done some adjustments to make sure that our wind load is the same as that wind load and we've tried to keep our cell tower regulations in line with the building code. For the most part, the building official manages this for us, we don't need a special permit anymore for a co-location. There is just no reason to delay somebody putting extra equipment on a tower and as a matter of fact, we want to encourage that to occur so we don't see more and more towers coming up, we don't want to see. So it's a simple strikethrough of one word in the code of ordinances that changes the requirement from a special permit use that has to be decided by this body to a special exception which says that it still takes an intense review but can be handled in our office without a public hearing so we ask you to please support this change.

Commissioner Booth: Public hearing for PZO-2017-02 to clean up the cell tower problem to make it a little easier on us and fix this problem. Anyone here to speak for or against? Hearing none. The public hearing is now closed for PZO-2017-02. Any questions or comments? Cast your vote.

YEAS: Gordon, Richard, Booth, Frangella, Galliano
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Loupe, Granier

Commissioner Booth: That passes unanimously. Thank you.
