



To: President Mellon and Member of the Town Council

From: Town Manager - Dustin Anderson

Date: September 21, 2020

Re: Resolution #2074 Temporary Signs on Public Property

Background

The Town of Munster has traditionally foregone the installation of political signs on the public right of way and on Town Hall properties.

Munster zoning ordinance treats all temporary signs the same regardless of content, so a candidate sign is regulated as a temporary sign. The Town Hall property is located within a CZ – Civic Zone District. The excerpts from the code that address number and placement of temporary signs in this district are as follows:

Sec. 26-6.701.B.3.b

Except in Districts CD-3, CD-3.R1, CD-3.R2, CD-3.R3, and CD-4.R4, there shall be no more than one Temporary Sign per site, unless otherwise specifically allowed within this Section 26-6.701;

Sec. 26-6.701.B.3.e

Temporary Signs shall be owned and maintained by the owner (or tenant) of the site on which it is located;

The code does not require the Town to obtain a permit for a temporary sign.

Sec. 26-6.701.C.3

Signs Not Requiring a Sign Permit

Signs placed by the Town or any other governmental unit with jurisdiction over the area where the Sign is placed.

The placement of signs on the Town Hall property is prohibited by the Munster Zoning Code because it would violate the “one sign” rule and the “ownership” rule.

Senate Enrolled Act No. 348 overrules any municipal ordinance on the number or size of temporary signs during election season.

Methodology

There was a question of what to do about temporary political signs at Town Hall in this election

cycle.

Because of Senate Enrolled Act No. 348 our local zoning code is not relevant, leaving this a policy question regarding the use of the Town Hall grounds.

Staff drafted Resolution #2074 to reflect the past practice of keeping Town Hall and our public realm a neutral space.

This resolution would only apply to the public right of way and municipal-owned grounds.

Recommendation: By motion and roll call vote approve Resolution # 2074