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MEETING - ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
    CITY OF NOVI
TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2023 7:00 p.m.
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Council Chambers | Novi Civic Center | 45175 W. Ten Mile Road

BOARD MEMBERS :

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    Joe Peddiboyina, Chairperson
    Michael Longo, Secretary
    Siddharth Mav Sanghvi
    Clift Montague
    Linda Krieger
    Michael Longo
    Michael Thompson
    Jay McLeod
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ALSO PRESENT:

Kristin Bricker Kolb, City Attorney Alan Hall, Comm. Development, Dep. Director Sarah Fletcher, Recording Secretary

Reported by:
Darlene K. May, Certified Shorthand Reporter

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| Novi, Michigan |  |
| Tuesday, August 8, 2023 |  |
| 7:00 p.m. |  |

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Good evening.
Today is August 8th and today is Novi City Zoning Board of Appeals.

Call to the order.
Pledge of Allegiance. Please stand up all of
you, followed by Michael Longo.
(Pledge of Allegiance recited.)
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you so much.
Please be seated.
Roll call.
MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, Sarah.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
MEMBER LONGO: Here.
MS. FLETCHER: Member McLeod?
MEMBER MCLEOD: Here.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Here.

MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
MEMBER KRIEGER: Here.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
MEMBER SANGHVI: Here.

MS. FLETCHER: MEMBER THOMPSON?

MEMBER THOMPSON: Here.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you, Secretary.

And the public hearing format and Rules of Conduct, you can get that one in the back. And today's agenda. Please make your phones on silent mode so that we have no distraction. Once the case calls you, please come to the podium and you can speak and you can present whatever you have.

If anybody wants to speak, also the public hearing is allowed for only three minutes of time.

Okay. Thank you so much. I appreciate and we have three cases. Before that, approval of agenda. If somebody can make a motion?

MEMBER KRIEGER: I move to approve the agenda as written.

MEMBER LONGO: I second.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you. And
thank you, Thompson -- I'm sorry. Michael Longo.
And say "Aye" all in favor? Any changes or anything?

MEMBER KRIEGER: In favor, Aye?
THE BOARD: Aye.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you.
Any nays?
No. Thank you.
And minutes of July 2023? Somebody can make a motion.

MEMBER KRIEGER: I move to accept the minutes for July 2023.

MEMBER SANGHVI: Second.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
Okay. Say all in favor "Aye."
THE BOARD: Aye.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Any nays?
Okay. Public remarks.
Anybody who would like to have any public comments or anything you can keep put it -- you can keep it on the agenda, if anybody wants to add anything, this is the time where you can place your public remarks.

Okay. Public hearings?
Okay. Looks like none. And we'll go for the case number one today.

PZ23-0021, Brian Wilson, 24451 Christina
Lane, East of Taft Road, North of Ten Mile, Parcel 50-22-22-378-008. The applicant is requesting a use variance from the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance Section 5.1 .9 to allow parking of a commercial vehicle in a residentially zoned property. This property is zoned One Family Residential, R-4. This case was tabled from the July 11th meeting.

Is the applicant present?
Okay. Please, spell your name clearly for our secretary and for the court record. And they will take the oath.

MR. WILSON: My name is Brian Wilson. That's B-r-i-a-n, Wilson, W-i-l-s-o-n.

MEMBER LONGO: Are you a lawyer?
MR. WILSON: No.
MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell the truth in this case?

MR. WILSON: Yes.
MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Brian, please proceed where we can help you tonight on this case. I know you came on July 11th meeting. And please where we are standing of that previous month meeting and what you are planning to issue on today's meeting where we can help on the board. Thank you. MR. WILSON: Yeah, that's correct. I was here last month. An issue -- we postponed it to get the truck weighed. The truck did come in overweight. It was 6800 pounds naked, meaning no tools, no equipment on the truck. With all that, it did come in at 8200 pounds. So I'm asking for you guys to revisit the issue and take the weight out of the equation. Special circumstances: It's my only vehicle. So it gets me around everywhere I need to go. I don't have another vehicle. My wife does, but she also works. So I'm asking that.

A couple of things that come to light. I did mention the church parking lot last time $I$ was here. I have got everything the church needs in place from my employer, if that is an option. They just wanted some kind -- something on writing liability wise for my truck to be parked in their lot, which I did receive
and submitted to the church. And they're okay with my truck being parked in the church parking lot.

Option two, I don't know if this is a loophole or something we can discuss is parking my truck on the street. It's not private. It's a public street. So I don't know if that makes a difference in that variance or not. But I'm asking you guys to consider that as well.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Brian, anything else you want to add?

MR. WILSON: No.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. That's good. And from the City?

MR. HALL: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.
Yeah. So we were -- postponed this meeting to have the vehicle weighed and, obviously, it has come in overweight. So that would be in violation of the ordinance. We don't see the unique character that's being displayed here for this residence. This could be displayed in anybody's house, not just this one. The approval tonight would be carrying to the lot and that -- it's not a general approval, it's a specific approval and there's no really unique factor saying it
needs to be this way.
So we don't look favorably on this approval.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you from the City.

Correspondence, Secretary?
MEMBER LONGO: There were 38 mailings for this. Four were returned. Two objections and one approval. First objection is from Don Taylor, lives across the street. He feels that having this -- this vehicle's been here for over a year. He says, "I've lived across the street in my house for 15 years and no other large commercial vehicles with man lift and large tool side boxes and so forth of Spectrum have littered parking in our area."

The second one is: "I've lived a few doors down from Brian and I've rarely spoken to him. I'm assuming someone has complained about his work truck being parked in the driveway. There are many ways -there are many work vehicles in people's driveways in that neighborhood. It seems to me that the variance should be granted, if no other reason that the environment -- that of environment protection." This was from Bob Crump (phonetic).

And lastly is: "The truck parked at the house is a large work truck with a cherry picker bucket on the back not visible in the picture submitted in the application. There used to be a van, Spectrum, parked there. That is fine. The heavy equipment is not acceptable. Ordinances are written as they are for a reason. We shall not make an exception."

That was Kim and Marc Wagner.
That's it.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you so much, Michael.

And any public hearing, anybody would like to speak. This is the time where you can come onto the podium and you can spell your first and last name and your address for the secretary and you'll take the oath, if you're not an attorney.

Yeah. Mr. Wilson, can you please step to the side and he can come. Thank you.

MR. FORSYTH: Hi, my name is Doug Forsyth. D-o-u-g, F-o-r-s-y-t-h.

There was actually -- I'm not a lawyer. I'm actually Brian's direct neighbor. There was a fourth approval. We actually had written in. It was actually
by my wife Kristin. We've lived next to Brian for a couple of years now. I guess my stance is it's not an eyesore by any means. And my claim is just as a person. I mean, he's trying to raise a family, you know what I mean? You guys are kind of, by not approving this, forcing him to go purchase a vehicle and do all these things when he's just trying to put food on the table. That's how he gets to and from work.

You know, so just from my perspective, being a family man, that's what he's trying to do with what he's doing. So that's my stance. It's not an eyesore. It's not a problem to us. And we're literally 20 feet from his driveway. It's not a hindrance to anything. So, that's all.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you.
Anybody on this case would like to speak, this is the time where you can.

Okay. Looks like none.
It's open to the board.
Dr. Sanghvi, please go ahead.
MEMBER SANGHVI: Mr. Chair?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, please.

MEMBER SANGHVI: We went -- I went and saw this place. I have seen this parked in the parking lot and all that. But that's not the issue. My biggest question here to the City and the attorney both, if he parks it on the street, what happens? Instead of his driveway. Then he's not breaking any ordinance.

MS. KOLB: I'm going to play a little bit dumb because I am filling in for the regular attorney, but I am not aware of any prohibition parking a vehicle on a public street. Now, I have not read your entire code. There may be something in there I'm just simply not aware of. But if it's a public street, it's possible there's no --

MEMBER SANGHVI: In my subdivision just across from where $I$ live on the other side, there is a van parked of a plumber and he lives there and he's on call. And he has to go anytime, especially in winter and other times. And so long as he doesn't park in his driveway, he's not breaking any ordinance. He's on the street.

And this is really a philosophical issue as well as compassionate issue. What do you do with them, tell them to park it on the street instead of their
driveway?
MR. HALL: If I could answer your question,
sir. I guess the decision would be where would you draw the line? This is an ordinance question and this would be a higher value for it. So if everybody parked in the street and became a hazard for fire equipment to go through, that would be a different story all together. So we would have to look at that in terms of the City and we'd have to research that. So we couldn't make a decision today.

MEMBER SANGHVI: There is something wrong with the ordinance if you're parked in your own driveway, you are breaking the law. If you are not and put it on the street, the same thing just on the other side, you are doing okay. It doesn't add up to any common sense.

And I think sometimes we have to let common sense rule the road rather than -- that is why they used to say in England, that the law is in us sometimes.

And also, $I$ can say what my father was an appellant attorney and $I$ used to do a lot of legal reading for him because he was getting catching. This
was over 70 years ago.
And he used to tell me, "Mav, the lady justice is blindfolded, but the scales of justice must be tempered with must see."

And we need to think in a little different way in a situation like this, even though it is not acceptable. Economic hardship is not a hardship and all kinds of things. But we want to think hard about it before declining him his livelihood by telling him he can't keep it there.

He can keep it on the street, that's fine. And I can't officially tell him, though, you keep it on the street, you're not breaking any ordinance. So please think about it before you take any decision.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you, Dr. Sanghvi.

Any other board member would like to speak on this case, please?

MEMBER KRIEGER: A question also.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. Go ahead, Linda.

MEMBER KRIEGER: So for us if we deny it,
it's because of the weight solely of the vehicle?
MR. HALL: Yeah. There's a number of items, but that's what kicks the ordinance in. It's a commercial vehicle on a driveway within a residential district.

So the threshold is the weight. It goes over that so it's within the ordinance.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Oh, so if I bought a semi truck, I couldn't park it in my driveway?

MR. HALL: If it was a vehicle, like a commercial vehicle, yeah.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Oh my goodness. I never thought of that.

Then also, he's renting -- I believe that's right --

MR. WILSON: Correct.
MEMBER KRIEGER: -- from last time. So it's okay -- do you have a written documentation for -- that you can park that vehicle on that driveway?

MR. WILSON: Yeah. I believe actually my landlord did submit something to the City.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Okay. I don't remember seeing it.

go with that?
MR. WILSON: Correct.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Okay. That's all my questions.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you, Member Linda.

Okay. Go ahead, Member Montague.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yeah. It's an unusual
case. We're here to rule on a variance and economics cannot be the reason that we give a variance. That's the facts and that's where we are. I was hoping you would come in under -- we talked last time -- under the 8,000. But the church to me has been there seems like a pretty good option. It's right next door to your property.

MR. WILSON: Right.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: So it's not like we're going to make you walk a mile or a half a mile.

MR. WILSON: Right.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: So, again, I'm going to be voting for not giving the variance and would recommend you use the church.

MR. WILSON: So is that an option? Is that
something I can do with not --
MEMBER MONTAGUE: You've got permission from the church. So ...

MR. WILSON: So I don't need any approval -MEMBER KRIEGER: Yeah. If we deny then, yeah, then your option is the church or as Mr. -- our other member said, you can park it in the street.

MR. WILSON: Okay.
MEMBER KRIEGER: Which that's the new quandary is, $I$ mean, if it was me, $I$ would park in the street then and then it becomes an issue. So I'd rather it be a friendly win-win situation. So if you could go along with the church avenue and then have it parked in there and work out something with them, that would be great for the overall --

MR. WILSON: I would be more than happy to take that avenue.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Okay. Is there anything we can do so we don't approve or deny that and just let him do what he's planning on doing?

MR. HALL: We have some further information about the street.

MEMBER KRIEGER: All right. Cool.

MS. KOLB: So in the code outside of the zoning ordinance in the regular city code there is prohibition against parking commercial vehicles in excess of 5,000 pounds on the street. So that is something the police would write a ticket for. That would not be enforced by code enforcement.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: What is the weight you mentioned, 6,000 or something?

MR. WILSON: No. It's 8200 with all my tools and everything on it.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: After removing your tools, what is the --

MR. WILSON: 6800.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: 6800. You're saying that 5,000 , no?

MS. KOLB: That's under the code, yes. In excess of 5,000 pounds cannot be parked on the city street.

MEMBER KRIEGER: For how long?
MS. KOLB: Ever.
MR. HALL: Any time.
MEMBER KRIEGER: Half hour?
MS. KOLB: Except for unloading.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Okay.
MS. KOLB: Except for loading and
unloading.
MR. WILSON: I mean, I would be more than happy to park in the church anyway over the street.

So if that's a solution to this problem, then that would be great for me.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Okay.
MEMBER McLEOD: The only thing I would like to add is the weight restriction on driveways does exist for a reason. The cement used for a driveway, the cement used for a sidewalk is not made for heavy vehicles driving on it. The grade is definitely different than a street or say a highway. So there's a legitimate reason for weight limits on cement. It will eventually crack and break. Especially if it was sitting on a sidewalk, if there's a sidewalk out there.

So it's not because we're trying to be, you know, cruel. It's there because it will eventually destroy the pavement far faster than normal residential vehicle.

MR. WILSON: So it's never on the sidewalk. Obviously, I've got to drive over the sidewalk to get
into my driveway, but it's never across the sidewalk. I'm assuming if $I$ did damage to my driveway, that's -- that would be my responsibility and not anybody else's.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
MEMBER LONGO: Yeah. I have a question for
Alan.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, Michael
Longo.
MEMBER LONGO: He's considering parking in the church's parking lot. Doesn't -- isn't there an ordinance that he can't park there either?

MR. HALL: That's what we're looking up right now.

MEMBER LONGO: Okay.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. About to ask the same question.

MEMBER LONGO: I would think they would be the same ordinance.

MR. HALL: It would be the same ordinance and it's in a residential district so we're trying to see --

MEMBER LONGO: I mean, I don't want to give
him an idea if it's something he shouldn't be doing.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. Once we give an option --

MR. HALL: So it would be the same -- using the church is the same zoning district as the houses in that area with a special use approval.

We're trying to look it up right now, but I'm thinking you're correct. I think that would be the same ordinance.

MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Let's wait for the attorney while she speaks on this case.

Anybody who would like to speak on this case on the board members?

Yeah, Michael Thompson?
MEMBER THOMPSON: One of your neighbors had said that, like, previously you had a van there?

MR. WILSON: Yeah. So I used to have a -- an actual just a regular full size van without the picker on the back. So I'm assuming that's what they're referring to.

MEMBER THOMPSON: Is there a chance like vehicles would be changed out?

MR. WILSON: No. This is a -- I got a promotion so this is a new position for me, which requires me to have the actual bucket on the back of the truck. So the biggest issue is that on call, like we talked about previously, without allowing my vehicle to be where I have access to it $24 / 7$, I lose that ability to be on call. That's the biggest hiccup for me. Obviously, other than having to go buy another car, but I'm losing so much income, which I know that doesn't factor into this decision or not.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, Mr. City. MR. HALL: Some information.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, please go ahead.

MR. HALL: So the church is in the exact same zoning district as the home.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Oh. Okay. Anybody would like to say or make a motion?

Jay, you want to say. Okay.
MEMBER McLEOD: Just to confirm, if the church should be in the same exact position as the home, does that mean he would need to come back again to park in the church or the rejection here would just
be rejecting all of it?
MR. HALL: The weight limit kicks the ordinance in.

MEMBER MCLEOD: Oh, the weight limit. I see.
MR. HALL: And so that the church would fall in the same as the driveway. It's the zoning is the trick. Not a house thing, it's a zoning thing. So the church would fall in the same zoning district.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
MEMBER THOMPSON: So a question on that. I
have some commercial real estate. And the church parking lot is owned and maintained by the church. MR. HALL: Correct.

MEMBER THOMPSON: Wouldn't that fall under something different 'cause it's their parking lot?

MR. HALL: No. 'Cause it's their zoning district, but they got a special use. All churches get a special use to be in a zoning district. They can go any zoning district. So they get a special use to put a church there. So they would still be under the rules of that zoning district.

MEMBER THOMPSON: Okay. I know the commercial stuff I have, like, a church's could be
considered like a heavy use parking lot. All the people coming in and out and maintenance vehicles similar to this one coming in and out, I would assume that the church parking lot was poured thick enough where a commercial vehicle driving over it is not going to affect it.

MR. HALL: That would have to be determined. So if that was the case and they had, you know, some kind of writing or something of that nature we could look at it, like he's looking at this case. We would look at the same case in the church's property if the church wanted to get that variance.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. Go ahead, Clift Montague.

MEMBER MONTAGUE: Could we -- are we then just supposed to -- would we just deny this or could we pass that he could park in the church parking lot as a variance?

MS. KOLB: It's a separate property with a different owner. So the owner of that property would have to apply separately for the variance.

MEMBER MONTAGUE: Okay.
MS. KOLB: He cannot request a variance on
behalf of a different parcel owner.
MR. WILSON: But I did for -- I'm renting my house and I was able to apply for a variance for the house I live in which I'm not the owner. And there was a box or something that $I$ had to fill out stating that and that was okay with --

MS. FLETCHER: The homeowner signed off on it.

MS. KOLB: Right. So either way the ZBA tonight cannot make a motion to approve you to park on the church parking lot. You would have to submit a separate application.

MR. WILSON: But I can submit that, not the -- the church does not have to submit that?

MS. KOLB: In the case of the property you're a tenant and you live there full time. That's a little different than --

MEMBER MONTAGUE: The church.
MS. KOLB: Yeah, than the -- you know.
MR. WILSON: I mean, if I have approval from the church, that doesn't --

MS. KOLB: They would have to sign off on the application.

MR. WILSON: Yeah, I understand. I understand that.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Yeah, Member Thompson?

MEMBER THOMPSON: Are we able to table this until he applies for the church one?

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: No. We are not going to table this. He has to come up with the other option. Attorney mentioned that the church has to come in a different application.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Why can't we table it?
MR. HALL: Because it's a different property. MEMBER KRIEGER: Oh.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, that's a different property. I can't table that one. Because I already did that last month.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Sorry. Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. And please, Linda, can you make a motion, please?

MEMBER KRIEGER: Okay. In case number PZ23-0021, I move that we deny the variance request for this property because the petitioner has not established a necessary hardship related to the current
zoning designation of the property in the subdivision because it's a residential area with weight limits.

The petitioner has not established unique circumstances or unique physical conditions regarding to this specific property in a residential area compared to others related to commercial vehicles on private property. The various request is based on petitioner's personal or economic hardship because petitioner is leasing the property from the property owner.

The property use will alternate the essential character of the area with the commercial vehicle in a residential area. And the petitioner has created the need for the variance by a commercial vehicle in a residential area.

MEMBER LONGO: I second that.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
Please roll call.
MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?

MEMBER LONGO: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member McLeod?
MEMBER McLEOD: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
MEMBER SANGHVI: No.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Thompson?
MEMBER THOMPSON: No.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Motion passes.
MEMBER KRIEGER: I'll see you at the church. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you so much.

MR. WILSON: What do you mean, I'll see you at the church?

MEMBER KRIEGER: If you want to come back -if you'll have the church people come back and --

MR. WILSON: Okay. So, I guess, can I ask for an extension or some kind of time frame on when I would have to have that truck out of my parking -- out of my driveway? You know, there's a lot of hoops I got to jump through right now with work and then, obviously, to buy another vehicle.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: No. Once we --
MS. KOLB: Yeah. It's effective immediately. So ...

MEMBER KRIEGER: He's had it there for a year, though, according to the residents. So ...

MR. WILSON: I've been in Novi for eight years.

MR. HALL: I mean, usually when a decision is made, it's immediate. It would have to be -- I don't know if you can make a motion on that. I think it's immediate action, so.

MS. KOLB: I think that's an issue for him to work out with code enforcement.

MR. HALL: Yeah. Have you been ticketed lately or no?

MR. WILSON: Just that brought this into light.

MR. HALL: Just the one. Yeah, yeah.
MEMBER McLEOD: I'm no lawyer, but if he were to start parking at the church, I think that would reset a different clock.

MS. KOLB: It's a different location. So I guess, yes.

MR. HALL: I can't comment on that. MEMBER KRIEGER: And you have the paperwork. So ...

MR. WILSON: It's already filled out and submitted.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Very good.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Today's case two -- number two, PZ23-0024, Motor City Hot Tubs, 25806 Novi Road, East of Novi Road, South of Grand River Avenue, Parcel 50-22-23-151-004. The applicant is requesting variance from the Sign Design and Review Manual of city TC-1 District to allow a non-conforming sign design style, translucent internally, of the Novi TC-1 District to allow a non-conforming sign design style, translucent internally illuminated signs are prohibited.

The applicant is also requesting a variance from the City of Novi Sign Ordinance Section 28-5(e)(1)a to allow a 13.67 square foot sign. The maximum allowed area is six square feet, a variance ever 7.67 square feet.

Section 28-5(e) (1)b to allow the placement of the sign at eight feet from the grade, the minimum is
8.5 feet, a variance of point five feet. And also height of 14.83 feet from the grade, the maximum allowed height of 12 feet, a variance of 2.83 feet. This property is zoned Town Center-1, TC-1.

Please go ahead and spell your first and last name clearly for our court record and if you're not an attorney, please take the oath from our secretary. MR. DEMPSTER: Good evening. My name is Robert Dempster from Dempster Designs. R-o-b-e-r-t, D-e-m-p-s-t-e-r.

MEMBER LONGO: Are you an attorney?
MR. DEMPSTER: No, no.
MEMBER LONGO: Then do you promise to tell the truth in this case?

MR. DEMPSTER: Absolutely.
MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you. And you also, please, going to.

MR. NAGEL: John Nagel, from Image 360.
That's J-o-h-n, N-a-g-e-l.
MEMBER LONGO: Are you an attorney?
MR. NAGEL: No.
MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell the
truth in this case?
MR. NAGEL: Yes.
MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
THE COURT: Okay. Who wants to speak first and please go ahead where we can help you tonight on this board.

MR. DEMPSTER: Okay. Good evening. What we are seeking is approval and a variance on the hot tub signs, the Motor City Hot Tub signs which is right at Novi Road and Grand River.

MR. NAGEL: Main Street.
MR. DEMPSTER: Oh, Main Street. Yeah, Main Street. That's right. It's on Main Street. We've been doing the signs there for years and Ace Cutting was in there and now there's Motor City Hot Tubs.

So we fabricated a projecting sign. And I think we are -- if I'm correct, we are below the maximum square foot area, correct?

MR. NAGEL: The square foot area that's allowed for that building is 24 square feet. However, in a projecting wall sign, our overall area with the rectangle around it is 14 square feet and we're requesting a variance on that as well because of the
six foot allowance on a projecting wall sign.
MR. DEMPSTER: Our Ace Cutting sign, if I may, it was projecting before. It was a V'd (phonetic)? Did anybody ever see that right there at the building? It was projecting. So when we applied for this permitting, we did not know that we could not have a projecting sign. And we've done a lot in the signage prior to this.

MR. NAGEL: TC-1.
MR. DEMPSTER: TC-1?
MR. NAGEL: Um-hmm.
MR. DEMPSTER: There are a lot of flat signs and there were -- there are currently projecting signs. So we did not know this was going to be any problem. The customer requested a projecting sign and I think it's a good idea because of the -- there's somewhat of a hardship there because if you're driving, you can't really -- you really don't know what the building is. And if possible, I would like to put -- add a few more things to the wall -- or some ideas that could be creative so the retailer could -- it's really a hard corner. So the projecting sign which they requested, we did not know that would even be a problem.

(Holding up sign.)
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: No, no.
MR. NAGEL: This right here.
MR. DEMPSTER: Oh.
(Document displayed.)
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah.
MR. DEMPSTER: This is like an existing sign here, which is quite large. It's larger. We never thought there to be any problems. So we're looking for a little bit of compassion. The retailer does need help. Every time I go in there, he needs more sales, so. The sign is small really for the building. And so we're looking -- seeking approval that we could continue to keep that sign.

For what it's worth, we have the flat signs I did Bi Bim Bab years ago. I think 20 years ago. So the projecting sign we can see both ways there on Novi Road. So that's why we're here tonight.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Do you have the sign? If you can present on that, the new one what you're looking.
(Document displayed.)
MR. DEMPSTER: Now, that's a close up, but we
can -- can you show another view where you can see the scale? Like there. Okay. That one's better.

MR. NAGEL: Yes.
(Document displayed.)
MR. DEMPSTER: You see that's pretty much in scale. And that's not a large sign. It's, you know, no problem with the easement and --

MR. NAGEL: The sidewalk is 10 feet from the building. So we have a 10 -foot area. The sign only projects three feet off the building. It's 84 inches tall. The dome centered is 24 inches. I can -- let me show you that.
(Document displayed.)
MR. NAGEL: Here's all the physical dimensions.

MR. DEMPSTER: Yeah. It's 82 inches tall, which is --

MR. NAGEL: 83 inches tall, yeah.
MR. DEMPSTER: Yeah. And the customer, he's done a lot to the landscaping there. He's made it beautiful. So he's really improved the area. So this is somebody that cares about Novi. Cares about business. And super appreciative if you consider, you
know, approving this.
MR. NAGEL: The overall face of the sign is eight square feet.

So the surface of the sign is eight square feet. But with the ordinance being the way it is, you draw a box around it, that's how we get to the 13.67 square feet. Like I said, when you go to the Mongolian Barbecue, which that sign is on the Main Street, in the walking district where cars are going by 20 miles an hour, 25, people are walking. That's a 72 square foot sign that is projecting. This is -- we went as minimal as we can to keep costs down for the customer and get visibility for the customer.

So this is an area, again, Novi Road. That building is kind of on the corner. It's missed even though there's a light there. And traffic's going by 35 to 55 miles an hour, depending on the time of the day. So that's why -- another reason why we went with the double-sided sign as opposed to a flat wall sign.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Anything you would like to add before going to?

MR. DEMPSTER: No.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.

MR. DEMPSTER: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you, Robert. From the City?

MR. HALL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the sign is already installed without a permit. It is residing into TC-1 district, which they mentioned. Being in a district, they are design sign ordinance correct. You got to abide by it and also, we have to abide by the sign design review manual for the TC -1 district. So there's an overlay of more standards that have to be applied to the sign. In that it has a size variance and that kind of stuff. They're asking for four separate variances tonight. But the TC-1 district according to the sign design review manual doesn't allow for internally lit signs. They're prohibited. This sign is internally lit. So they'll be asking for that variance also.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Correspondence, Secretary?

MEMBER LONGO: Yes. There were 15 of these mailed out. Two were returned. No objections and no approvals.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,

Secretary.
Okay. Anybody in the audience, public, would like to speak on this case? This is the time where you can speak.

Okay. Looks like none. Okay. It's open to the board. Dr. Sanghvi.

MEMBER SANGHVI: Thank you. Hi.
MR. DEMPSTER: Hi.
MEMBER SANGHVI: I came and looked at your sign. How long have you had that sign there?

MR. NAGEL: About six weeks.
MEMBER SANGHVI: Yeah. Did you realize that you needed a variance before you put the sign there?

MR. NAGEL: No. There was a -- it was a combination of some mishaps within my business.

MEMBER SANGHVI: It's a simple yes or no.
MR. NAGEL: Oh, no. No. Okay. The answer is no, we did not realize we needed a variance before the sign. The permit application had already been submitted with the city. We were waiting on approval from the city. When I came into the building department, I sat down with the permit, went over the design with them, discussed it. When I left the
building and the discussion $I$ had with them, I had no idea or was under no impression because they said this is fine. It looks like it's just got to go through the process. I said great. Thank you. And I left.

MEMBER SANGHVI: And you've been putting signs in the city before?

MR. NAGEL: I've put several signs in the city before. This has never happened to me, yes. MEMBER SANGHVI: You know what the ordinance is?

MR. NAGEL: I know exactly what your ordinances are in the general district. The TC-1 has got its own ordinance, its own separate design. And everything is -- varies. If you look at the next picture $I$ just put up, these are all TC-1 -- those -all of those signs are internally lit.

MEMBER SANGHVI: In spite of everything, you do it and then you make the sign and put it there even though.

MR. NAGEL: That was -- I can explain that. That was a mistake within my permit department and my production. Permitting department thought the sign was approved and stamped, sent it to production and
install. That one slipped by me. I'm the owner of the company. I have multiple departments, multiple people, so it got through. This is the first time it's happened to me in 33 years that anything got built prior to approval and installation.

So I already talked to Debra (phonetic) at the building and begged for forgiveness and she said, John, here's what -- here's your plan of attack. Go get a variance before we make you take it down or before we fine you. So she gave me the opportunity to present it because in her mind I guess she felt that this was a nice looking sign. We made a mistake. Let's fix it.

MEMBER SANGHVI: Thank you. I have nothing further.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you, Dr. Sanghvi.

Also, I'm not happy that you're a professional -- you're a professional sign business and you know what to do and you need to take the ordinance and all those things.

And also, you already installed also, then you applied for the permit. Okay. I'm also not happy
on that.
Anybody would like to speak, on the board? Okay. Member Thompson?

MEMBER THOMPSON: What is the speed limit?
You mentioned that the going is 20 or 25 . What is the speed limit going by that? 45?

MR. NAGEL: It's 45 on Grand River, yes.
MR. DEMPSTER: On Novi.
MR. NAGEL: On Novi Road. Sorry. On Novi Road, yes. Yeah. I just drove it.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: The speed limit?
MR. DEMPSTER: The speed limit going by the sign.

MR. NAGEL: It's going by fast.
MR. DEMPSTER: On the street going by the sign.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: On Grand River? On Novi --

MEMBER MONTAGUE: On Novi.
MR. NAGEL: On Novi Road.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: On Novi Road it's 45.

Okay. Linda?

MEMBER KRIEGER: On Main Street how would -the TC is on Main Street. So they -- I was here -- I was not here before the Mongolian Barbecue got their sign. So they can be because they're on Main Street versus Novi Road or it was from variances?

MR. HALL: I don't know. I don't know either. I'm sorry. We can look that up for you. I'm not sure.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Yeah, because it's a different location, but then they're still in the same district which when it said the TC, Town Center, I was thinking north of Grand River.

So when I was looking for the building, I came across it. I was looking for the numbers and that's how I found it versus the sign. Because I don't usually go out at night so $I$ don't pay attention to what's lit up at night except that it preferred that things not be lit up to decrease light pollution.

And also, I had a question about on the south side, is there also a sign?

MR. DEMPSTER: No.
MR. NAGEL: No.
MEMBER KRIEGER: So this would just be the
sign you want -- the only sign on the property? MR. NAGEL: Right.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: On the Novi Road. MEMBER: Main Street.

MEMBER: There's a big sign in the parking lot as is.

MEMBER KRIEGER: No. They're on Novi Road. MEMBER MONTAGUE: No. This is facing Novi

Road.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Facing Novi Road. MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yeah. This is Novi, yeah. MR. NAGEL: Right. This is Novi Road.

MEMBER KRIEGER: Yeah. The picture is from Main Street but the sign that you want is on Novi Road and lit from -- they don't want lit the -- they have a reason for it not to be in that regard.

So I'd like to hear from the rest of my team. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.

Mr. Montague?
MEMBER MONTAGUE: What are the hours of the store?

MR. DEMPSTER: I think 10 a.m. to 8:00. MR. NAGEL: That sounds right.

MR. DEMPSTER: 10 a.m. to 8:00.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Ergo then the want for the illumination for the -- it is in a bad spot in terms of visibility for sure.

MR. NAGEL: Right. I mean, that's --
MEMBER MONTAGUE: That's a corner. And actually, quite honestly the sign is not that evident when you go by. It is pretty small in relation to the building. So it is a bad spot. I have to reiterate, the sign being up before coming here is a huge negative and that does not make any of us happy.

MR. NAGEL: That is totally on me, like I said.

And, again, 33 years in the business. First time it's happened and, you know, I begged for forgiveness with Debra. She's helping me out. But I'm really begging for my customer. I hate to have my mistake fall back on them. Because regardless of anything, I would be here today because I believe this is the best option for the customer.

MEMBER MONTAGUE: Well, I agree there's a hardship in terms of the location and locating that.
'Cause even knowing where it was, as I went by, I'm
like, wow, that's a pretty -- that's pretty unobtrusive. That's pretty small.

MR. DEMPSTER: Thank you. Another part of this is, I'm also -- I own retail businesses and that's a very hard -- I'd like to do more if I could. We're at this point, but maybe we can readdress it and help the customer be successful there. He's got some beautiful hot tubs. But the signage and the way it looks doesn't show it.

So there you go. I mean, this guy's trying to make it happen there and he's committed to the city. He's a great person to have. And this came up and we're looking for compassion on this one, guys and gals, so it can --

MEMBER MONTAGUE: One other thing I would like to say, there is a banner on the side of the building. So ...

MR. DEMPSTER: There's a banner, but we're going to remove that. We did not put that there.

MEMBER MONTAGUE: I'm just saying --
MR. NAGEL: That's coming down.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: -- there was another
signage. That needs to come down. That is another
sign.
MR. NAGEL: It was going to coming down the second this -- yeah. That's coming down.

MEMBER MONTAGUE: I was there today and it was still there. So that also is not acceptable.

MR. NAGEL: Not a problem.
MR. DEMPSTER: That will come down
immediately. We had nothing to do with that, but we know -- we understand that. We want to take that down.

MEMBER MONTAGUE: All right. Thank you.
MEMBER McLEOD: And I can understand the concern about the light pollution from that, but when you look at where they're located, there really aren't that many -- or any residents there. The ones that are there are not likely to complain from the cemetery where it would have the direct view of the sign.

So I don't think it's going to actually disrupt any individuals from -- at night.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you. So Novi city is the best city in the country, and we always increase the businesses also. We do our best for the city and also revenue. We're not saying that, but we need to follow any guidelines. That's all we want.

And also, my fellow board member also mentioned, it's not residential. It's opposite a cemetery also. No residential in that area.

So, yeah, that's all I wanted to say. And anybody would like to speak on this?

Okay. None.
Please, Montague. Member Montague. Or
sorry. Member Thompson.
There is four, I think, motions, am I right, City?

MR. HALL: I didn't hear the question?
MS. FLETCHER: Does he want separate motions?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: These are separate motions or how you want to?

MR. HALL: I think you have to do separate motions for each one.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Attorney?
MR. HALL: You have to do a separate motion for each variance. There's four of them.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Each variance?
Okay. Mr. Michael Thompson, please proceed for four motions on this case.

MEMBER THOMPSON: Okay. I move that we grant
the variance in case PZ23-0024 sought by Motor City Hot Tubs for a sign variance because the petitioner has shown practical difficulty including a hardship, requiring a sign on the basis of any of the following: The failure to grant relief will unreasonable prevent or limit the use of the property and will result in substantially more than a mere inconvenience or inability to obtain a higher economic or financial return just because the location of the sign. And the speed limit being, you know, 45 miles an hour where it is.

I also feel that it's in a good spot compared to its local businesses.

I've never done four variances.
MEMBER LONGO: Repeat the thing four times with the different variances basically.

MEMBER THOMPSON: Okay. So that would be for PZ23-0024, like, number one?

MR. HALL: Yeah. The signs --
MS. FLETCHER: Say it --
MS. KOLB: I was going to say, can you identify exactly what that is?
(Pause.)

MS. KOLB: Yeah. The ordinance sections are all in there, so.

MEMBER THOMPSON: Okay. So that would be for the sign ordinance, Section 28-5 to allow a 13.67 square foot sign. The variance of 7.67 .

MEMBER MONTAGUE: I'd like to add to your motion on the condition that that banner come down on the building that's there now.

MEMBER THOMPSON: Do I have to say that or is that good?

MS. KOLB: If you agree just --
MEMBER THOMPSON: I agree.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, you agree. Make sure that PZ23-0024 on this case, four motions by Michael Thompson and he's agreed. Am I right?

MS. KOLB: That was one motion.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. One motion. Oh, that's one motion.

MS. KOLB: That was the first variance.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
MEMBER THOMPSON: That was number one.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah.
MEMBER THOMPSON: Okay. Number two, I move
that we grant the variance in case number PZ23-0024 -MS. FLETCHER: Yeah. Wait. MEMBER KRIEGER: I'm sorry. Can we do one at a time and vote on it one at a time?

MS. KOLB: We need a second for that motion and then a vote. And then a motion --

MEMBER KRIEGER: Right. So, Clift, and you second that --

MEMBER MONTAGUE: I will second that motion. Yes, I'll second with my amendment, yes. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Secretary? MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina? CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please. MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger? MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes. MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo? MEMBER LONGO: Yes. MS. FLETCHER: Member McLeod? MEMBER McLEOD: Yes. MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague? MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes. MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi? MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: Member Thompson?
MEMBER THOMPSON: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion passes. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.

Congratulations for the first motion. And go to the second motion for the, Michael Thompson.

MEMBER THOMPSON: Okay. I move that we grant the variance in case number PZ23-0024 as sought by Motor City Hot Tubs for a sign variance because the petitioner has shown a practical difficulty including hardship requiring a sign on the basis of any of the following: That -- Section 28-5 to allow the placement of the sign at eight feet from the grade, the minimum is eight and a half feet, a variance of . 5 feet. And also -- it's just that one.

Okay. The construction of a conforming sign would require the removal or significant alteration of natural features on the property because of the projecting sign. And it fits into the space that it currently is.

MEMBER SANGHVI: Second.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
MS. KOLB: Mr. Chair, before we have a vote.

Can we verify the ordinance section that the variance is from?

MEMBER THOMPSON: Would that be -- 28-5,
letter E , number 1.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah.
MEMBER KRIEGER: $1-\mathrm{A}$ or B ?
MS. KOLB: B. I think this one is B.
MEMBER KRIEGER: You're on B?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, B.
MEMBER KRIEGER: Gotcha.
MEMBER SANGHVI: Just state as stated on the
agenda. That takes care of everything.
MEMBER THOMPSON: As stated on the agenda.
MEMBER SANGHVI: Takes care of everything.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you. Call
for the roll call.
MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
MEMBER LONGO: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member McLeod?

MEMBER McLEOD: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Thompson?
MEMBER THOMPSON: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion passes.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Congratulations for
the second motion.
MEMBER THOMPSON: Number three, I grant -- I move that we grant the variance, the variance in case PZ23-0024 sought by Motor City Hot Tubs for a sign variance because the petitioner has shown practical difficulty including hardship requiring a sign variance on the basis of any of the following: That also a height of 14.83 feet from the grade, the maximum allowed height of 12 feet, a variance of 2.83 feet.

That the construction of the conforming sign would require the removal or significant alteration of natural features on the property because of the projecting sign that $I$ believe fits into the space it currently is.
 ahead. You are done?

MEMBER LONGO: One more time.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
Congratulations on the third motion.
And fourth motion, Mr. Thompson, please proceed on that.

MEMBER THOMPSON: I move that we grant the variance in case PZ23-0024 sought by Motor City Hot Tub for a sign variance because the petitioner has shown practical difficulty, including hardship, requiring a sign variance on the basis of the following: That the property is zoned in Town Center-1, TC-1.

The failure -- that the failure to grant relief will unreasonably prevent or limit the use of the property and will result in substantially more than a mere inconvenience or inability to obtain a higher economic because of the location of the sign is in a good place compared with its local businesses.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Before you move to second, what is the company name?

MR. NAGEL: Image 360.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Image 360. I would
like to add, if you fail in Novi city without any permission, they're going to deny in future cases on
your business.
MR. NAGEL: I'm sorry. Again, fail to.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Before taking a permission.

MR. NAGEL: Oh, yes.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Please, make a note on that.

MR. NAGEL: Yes, sir.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: So we would like to increase, but we don't want to take your bread and butter, but you need to follow the rules and regulations. Please add on that one.

Thank you. Please move to -- somebody can make a second, please.

MS. KOLB: Wait. Hang on.
MR. HALL: Mr. Chairman, can we add to the motion that it's the variance to the Sign Design Review Manual and it's allowing this sign to be internally lit, which is prohibited.

MS. KOLB: And you specify that that's what you're moving to grant the variance for?

MR. HALL: That's the variance is to be lit inside.

MS. KOLB: Thank you.
MEMBER SANGHVI: And may I offer a friendly amendment to this motion and just add that these variances are necessary for business identification?

MS. KOLB: That's up to the maker of the motion if he wants to incorporate that.

MEMBER SANGHVI: So that --
MEMBER THOMPSON: Because it's necessary for
business --
MEMBER SANGHVI: Identification.
MEMBER THOMPSON: -- identification.
MS. KOLB: Now we need a second.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. Okay. Who can make second?

MEMBER SANGHVI: Second.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: You want to make a second, Dr. Sanghvi?

MEMBER SANGHVI: I make a second.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you.
And call for the --
MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?

MEMBER KRIEGER: No.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
MEMBER LONGO: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member McLeod?
MEMBER McLEOD: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Thompson?
MEMBER THOMPSON: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion passes.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
Congratulations, Mr. Robert. Good luck.
MR. DEMPSTER: Thank you very much in getting us out of the hot tub and you're welcome to come to the hot tub one day. Okay? Thank you very much. It was a beautiful night. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you so much. MR. NAGEL: Nice job, Mike. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Good luck. MEMBER THOMPSON: Thanks, guys. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. And today's

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last case, PZ23-0026, Davide Piccirilli-Hannon Systems USA, LLC, 39600 Lewis Drive, West of Haggerty Road, South of Thirteen Mile, Parcel 50-22-12-200-026. The applicant is requesting a variance from the City of Novi Sign Ordinance Section 28-5(d)d to allow an additional wall sign on the northeast elevation, maximum of two wall signs are allowed for this tenant, a variance of one additional wall sign. This request would increase the total allowed number of signs for this tenant, including entrance ground signs, to five. This property is zoned Office Service Technology, OST.

Okay. Please go ahead. Spell your first and last name clearly for our court record and my secretary will take the oath if you're not an attorney.

MS. KOESTER: Evelyn Koester. Evelyn, E-v-e-l-y-n. Koester is $K-o-e-s-t-e-r$. And then -MEMBER LONGO: I'm sorry. Are you an attorney?

MS. KOESTER: No.
MEMBER LONGO: You promise to tell the truth in this case?

MS. KOESTER: Yes.
MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you,
Secretary.
Evelyn, anybody would like to join on this case? We have a few or you are the only one before we start the case?

MS. KERN: I'm here just in case --
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. Please go ahead. Spell your name, first name --

MS. KERN: Katie Kern. K-a-t-i-e, K-e-r-n.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Come to the podium near to the mic so that way we can hear everybody. MS. KERN: It's Katie Kern. K-a-t-i-e, $\mathrm{K}-\mathrm{e}-\mathrm{r}-\mathrm{n}$.

MEMBER LONGO: Are you an attorney, Katie?
MS. KERN: No, I'm not.
MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell the truth in this case?

MS. KERN: Yes.
MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Be up to the podium, please.

MR. SMITH: Yes. Good evening. Steve Smith. Steve, S-t-e-v-e. Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

MEMBER LONGO: Are you an attorney? MR. SMITH: No.

MEMBER LONGO: Do you promise to tell the truth in this case? MR. SMITH: Yes, I do. MEMBER LONGO: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you, Steve. And the three of you stand at the podium until this case is done. Okay.

And please proceed, Evelyn. I appreciate. Go ahead whoever wants to first present. We can help you tonight where we can.

MS. KOESTER: Okay. Thank you very much. So we're here today to discuss our request for a variance onto our existing signage. Hannon Systems is located at 39600 Lewis Drive in Novi, which is located on the southwest corner of Haggerty Road and Lewis Drive, between Twelve and Thirteen Mile Road. Wasn't quite sure everyone knew where that was.

We are currently expanding our lease space. We'll soon occupy 75 percent of the building. And our building is configured in an $L$ shape which faces both Haggerty Road and Lewis Drive. As a result of this
expansion, we expect additional customers, suppliers and guest to be visiting our facility. The building currently has two existing lobby spaces. And without the Hannon Systems sign on the canopy sign, it will be difficult for our guests to know which lobby to enter. To know which entrance is the correct one.

As our application indicates, the canopy lettering is not lit, it is not visible from Lewis Drive or Haggerty Road. The sign becomes visible only after entering our parking lot. It sits back a small distance from the parking lot due to our circular drive. And without the canopy lettering, there's no signage on the inset portion of the building to guide our customers into Hannon Systems lobby space or our entrance.

At some point we expect the tenant -- the other tenants will occupy the remaining 25 percent of this building and -- but for now, the other lobby entrance is empty and unmanned. To avoid visitors from trying to enter that lobby, we are asking for your approval to allow us to keep our existing canopy sign so that doesn't cause any inconvenience to any of our customers or our guests.

Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you.
Katie, do you want to speak anything?
(Document displayed.)
MS. KOESTER: I'm going to just --
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Oh, okay. Go
ahead.
MS. KOESTER: Unfortunately, we didn't have a color copy of this. But you can see the L shape of our building here. We currently have the first and second floor here and we're -- and we've currently expanded to this section here of the first floor.

You see Lewis Drive. You see Haggerty Road here. And when you come in, you have to turn off of Haggerty Road onto Lewis and you pull in here and then you come down and around and here is our lobby.

We have a circular drive here. Customer parking is here. There's a lobby here and then here is the other new lobby that was built for this section here. But this is our main lobby here.

Any questions?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Steve, do you want to speak on anything?

MR. SMITH: Sure. Yeah. I can elaborate a little bit more. I mean, we have a current concern on the site. The building is very large. There's over 180,000 square feet in this building. We occupy 75,000 -- 75 percent of that. Before Hannon has expanded into that space, there is confusion on site currently. People don't know where to go in the building and they park at the other lobby. Have to make a phone call, you know, get to where they're going. It's difficult even with the existing sign that's there to locate the lobby. It's about a hundred yards, 300 feet from the street, from both Haggerty and Lewis Drive. So you cannot see that sign until you get on the property. So we think that's a good reason to have the sign and also, you know, not a big violation of the ordinance having a small non-illuminated sign at the entry to help people get where they're going once they're on site.

And I do want to make sure it's clear that, you know, we have submitted for permit for the two illuminated building signs that is currently under permit review right now. And this waiver, this variance is to request keeping the existing
non-illuminated smaller sign for the exact reasons that we just discussed.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Steve, can you show me on the picture where the signs are going now? MR. SMITH: Yes, I can.

So the existing -- there's an existing sign right here at this corner of the building. This is an exterior illuminated building sign that's going to remain and be replaced with a new illuminated sign of the same size. Just different logo, updated sign. On this corner of the -- this is the east wing facing Haggerty, right where this arrow is pointing. There's a proposed new sign. This is the expansion space, this wing of the building. We're taking over the first floor. So we're getting a permit to install our second ordinance compliant sign on that side of the building facing Haggerty so we have representation on both Haggerty and Lewis Drive that you can see from the street. But it's about a hundred yards away. It's hard to see from Haggerty or Lewis unless we had our illuminated sign.

The existing canopy sign is right here where this arrow is pointing. And this is a -- it's about 12
foot high canopy. The sign is non-illuminated. It's about two foot high by six foot wide. I can show you a picture of the -- this is the existing sign. This is it during the day. And obviously during the night to show you it's not illuminated. And this is the entry under the canopy that you walk into. So without it, this is what used to exist before the sign was, you know, permitted. The last time we came through, there was no designation on the building and started some of the problems we were talking about. That's one of the reasons why we did come through last time to get the canopy sign permitted. We removed a sign to get that in place because it was an issue.

But, again, we're looking for the waiver because we have such a large space and we want to get all three signs on the building for the customers. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you. Anybody would like to speak on this? MS. KERN: No. They covered everything. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. From the City, Alan?

MR. HALL: Yes. This is an existing building and with two wings in an $L$ shape. And we have no
objections to the added signs. We think it does provide more way of finding them on the site and it's more efficient.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you.
Correspondence, Secretary?
MEMBER LONGO: Yes. There were 44 letters mailed out, none returned.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: No objections, no approvals?

MEMBER LONGO: None returned.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you.
Okay. And public hearing, any on the audio or video or anybody? Looks like none.

Okay. This looks like it's a huge big building. And you mentioned 180,000 square foot. Yeah. The L shape is -- the building is only single floor, am I right?

MS. KOESTER: It's two floors. One side is two floors and the other -- the new addition is one floor.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. That's what. New one.

MS. KERN: We'll occupy both.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. New one is a single floor.

How many square feet is that one?
MR. SMITH: The additional space, the first floor is about 40,000 square feet.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay.
MS. KOESTER: The additional.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: What kind of
business is that?
MS. KOESTER: We're an automotive supplier.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Automotive supplier.

Okay. Thank you so much. I have no objections. And let's open to the board.

Please go ahead, Dr. Sanghvi.
MEMBER SANGHVI: Thank you. I came and drove around. I also got lost driving around there. It's such a humongous complex. It's just very hard to comprehend by just looking at the pictures how big it is. And you only have a tiny little sign to put it over there. I think you are going to need directional signs inside for people to find where you are located in that complex.

MS. KOESTER: Agreed.
MEMBER SANGHVI: I have no problem with your request for this little sign for your canopy.

MS KOESTER: Thank you.
MS. KERN: Thank you.
MEMBER SANGHVI: It's much smaller than I would have expected for the size of the complex here. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you, Dr. Sanghvi.

Anybody in the board, please.
MEMBER McLEOD: So just a question. In your presentation you mentioned that you guys are taking up roughly 75 percent of the building?

MS. KOESTER: Yes.
MEMBER McLEOD: According to the diagram we have on screen here, it indicates you're taking a hundred percent of the building so I was a little confused by that.

MS. KERN: We're only -- so this side of the building, we're only taking the first floor.

MEMBER McLEOD: Oh. So --
MS. KERN: Yeah. There's a second level
floor --
MEMBER MCLEOD: I thought you meant there was -- there is a second floor.

MS. KERN: Yeah.
MEMBER McLEOD: It's just you don't have it. Got it.

MS. KERN: Which could be occupied later.
Yeah.
MEMBER McLEOD: I thought you meant there was only one story available on that half and the other half had two stories. Got you.

CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.
Anybody?
Looks like none.
I would like to request a motion.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Motion.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah, Clift
Montague.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: I move that we grant the variance in case number PZ23-0026 for a variance from the City of Novi Sign Ordinance Section 28-5(d) to allow an additional wall sign on the northeast elevation. This will result in five total signs on the
site. It's based on the fact that the location of the entrance in relationship to the roads and the parking lot makes it difficult to identify the lobby. The size of the building contributes to that. It is a tough entrance to find.

In addition, it really is offset by other improvements. This is way back from the roads and there's an awful lot of landscaping which makes it really hard to see coming up Haggerty and all.

MS. KERN: Sure does.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Nice landscaping. So it does have additional assets that offset that.

And the relief is consistent with the office park nature of the area.

MEMBER SANGHVI: Second.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Thank you.
Roll call, please.
MS. FLETCHER: Chairperson Peddiboyina?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, please.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Krieger?
MEMBER KRIEGER: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Longo?
MEMBER LONGO: Yes.

MS. FLETCHER: Member McLeod?
MEMBER MCLEOD: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Montague?
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Sanghvi?
MEMBER SANGHVI: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Member Thompson?
MEMBER THOMPSON: Yes.
MS. FLETCHER: Thank you. Motion passes. CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Thank you.

Congratulations.
MS. KOESTER: Thank you.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. In other
matters before I adjourn, yesterday I sent to the mayor and the counsel members, there is an India Independence Day, that it means July 4th, like that. We are celebrating on August 19th at Suburban Showplace. All the board members and the city people, I request you to attend a beautiful parade and food and cultural. I'll be there. I request everybody to attend. And it's a free event. No charge. It's in Suburban Showplace on Saturday, 9:30 a.m.

I request you, everybody please join the
parade and along with our mayor and city council people and city office. That's all. Thank you.

Any other agenda for anybody?
MEMBER MONTAGUE: Is that this Saturday?
Which Saturday?
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Coming Saturday.
Yeah, August 19th.
MEMBER MONTAGUE: August 19th. Okay.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yes, sir. I'll be there.

MEMBER SANGHVI: Make a motion to adjourn.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Yeah. Make a
motion to adjourn this today.
MEMBER McLEOD: Second.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Okay. Anybody say all in favor "Aye."

THE BOARD: Aye.
CHAIRPERSON PEDDIBOYINA: Nays. Thank you. (At 8:10 p.m., meeting adjourned.)

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

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COUNTY OF OAKLAND)

I, Darlene K. May, Notary Public within and for the County of Oakland do hereby certify that I have recorded stenographically the proceedings had and testimony taken in the above-entitled matter at the time and place hereinbefore set forth, and I do further certify that the foregoing transcript, consisting of seventy-five (75) typewritten pages, is a true and correct transcript of my said stenographic notes.
/s/Darlene K. May Darlene K. May, RMR, CRR, RPR/CSR-6479

August 21, 2023

