

ARTICLE VII SIGN REGULATIONS

The purpose of these regulations is multi-faceted, benefiting property owners by preserving property values, the community by promoting an aesthetically harmonious environment in all areas, and the business man by preventing signs from reaching such excessive size or number that they obscure one another, which is to the detriment of all concerned.

Section I Signs for Which a Permit is Not Necessary

A permit is not required for the following types of signs in any zoning district.

1. Traffic directional, warning or information signs authorized by any public agency.
2. Official notices issued by any court, public agency or officer.
3. One non -illuminated "for sale," "for rent," or "for lease" sign not exceeding six (6) square feet in area in residential districts and located not less than ten (10) feet back from the street right-of-way line, unless attached to the front wall of the building.
4. Non-illuminated signs for home occupations and professional offices indicating only names of persons and their occupations or professions, not to exceed one (1) square foot in area.
5. Indirectly illuminated and non-illuminated signs indicating names of residents and house numbers, not to exceed one (1) square foot in area
6. Non-illuminated signs indicating the name and purpose of a non-residential building or apartment and the name of its management, not to exceed three (3) square feet in area.
7. Indirectly illuminated and non-illuminated signs of churches, schools, or other public or semi-public institutions and civic bodies, located at least ten (10) feet inside any lot line and not to exceed twelve (12) square feet in area.
8. Non-illuminated signs providing directions to churches or synagogues are permitted within all residential districts provided that: no such sign shall exceed three (3) square feet in area and will contain only pertinent directional information; no individual churches or synagogues may erect only three (3) such signs within the city limits; and, such signs shall be kept in good repair at all times.

Section II General Regulations

1. Existing Signs: No sign erected before the effective date of this Ordinance shall be repaired, altered or moved unless it be brought into compliance with the requirements herein. This section shall not prevent repairing or restoring to a safe condition any part of the structural supports of any sign or maintenance operations performed thereon. Any sign or any substantial part now existing which, for any reason or purpose, is blown down, destroyed, dismantled or removed, shall be made to comply with this Ordinance.
2. Roof Signs: Not more than one (1) roof sign structure may be erected on the roof of any one building. Said sign shall not, extend more than ten (10) feet above the elevation of the roof,
3. Wall Signs: These are signs attached to the walls of a building, including those both painted and projected, which shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. Subject to other provisions of this Section, the total area of all business signs for each establishment shall not exceed the square footage shown below for each linear foot of front building wall or front lot line, whichever is greater.

Zoning District	Front Building Wall	Front Lot Line
C-1	1.5 sq. ft. or	0.6 sq. ft.
C-2	3.0 sq. ft. or	1.0 sq. ft.
C-3	4.0 sq. ft. or	3.0 sq. ft.
I-1	3.0 sq. ft. or	1.5 sq. ft.
I-2	3.0 sq. ft. or	1.0 sq. ft.

- b. If an establishment has walls fronting on two or more streets, the sign area for each such street shall be computed separately.
 - c. If any sign or signs of such establishment projects more than eighteen (18) inches beyond any property line, the maximum permitted under a) above shall be reduced by one-third (1/3). Also, signs projecting over a sidewalk must be a minimum of ten (10') feet above the sidewalk.
 - d. Signs painted on or affixed to the inside or outside of windows on the ground floor, shall, not be included in this computation, unless their combined area exceeds fifty percent (50%) of the area of the window which they occupy.
 - e. The total sign area permitted on all sides of a structure must not exceed the total area permitted within the zoning district where the sign or signs are to be located.
 - f. Canopies and Canopy Signs are permitted in the Revitalization District. Signage must comply with the area limitations of this ordinance. Canopies must be a minimum ten (10') feet above sidewalks or pedestrian ways. Canopies may project no more than four (4') feet from the building wall to a vertical plane at the vehicle curb/street. (adopted as "d" by city council on 9/28/09)
4. Signs on Work Under Construction: One (1) non-illuminated sign not exceeding forty (40) square feet in area displaying the name of the building and the development agencies is permitted upon the premises of any work under construction, alteration, or removal. Such sign shall be set back ten (10) feet from the front lot line and be removed from the site within thirty (30) days after the completion of the project.
 5. Temporary Subdivision Signs: Temporary signs, not exceeding twenty (20) square feet in area, announcing a land subdivision development are permitted on the premises of the land subdivision. They shall be set back not less than ten (10) feet from the right-of-way of any street or from any boundary line of the land subdivision, Such signs shall be spaced not less than three hundred (300) feet apart. They shall be removed when seventy-five (75) percent of the lots are conveyed.
 6. Private Directional Signs: Signs indicating the location and direction of premises available for, or in process of development, but not erected upon such premises and containing the name of the owner, developer, builder, or agent, may be erected and maintained provided they conform to the following specifications:
 - a. The size of any such sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet and not in excess of three (3) feet in length.
 - b. Not more than one (1) such sign shall be erected in each five hundred (500) feet of street frontage.
 7. Sign Illumination: A sign employing motion or lighting of a flashing or intermittent type that could possibly create a nuisance to neighboring residential dwellings or a hazard to vehicular movement, shall be strictly prohibited. At no time, shall a sign, employing an operation that resembles a light of an emergency vehicle, whether connected to a sign or separately, be permitted,
 8. Yard Limitations on Signs: Except as otherwise specified, no regulated sign shall be erected within the front yard set back, side yard, or rear yards required for all buildings and structure in the district.
 9. A permit shall be required for the erection, alteration or reconstruction of any sign unless otherwise noted and shall be assessed by the proper authorities.
 10. Signs must be constructed of durable materials, maintained in good condition, and not permitted to deteriorate to any unsafe and unkempt appearance.
 11. Height, Setback and Location:
 - a. A projecting wall sign
 1. shall not project more than five feet from building
 2. shall have bottom at least ten feet from grade and top no higher than whichever is lowest: 25 feet above grade or the height of the building at building line
 3. shall have no exposed guy wires or turnbuckles
 - b. Free standing signs, awning signs, canopy signs, marquee signs and temporary signs must have a minimum setback from the curb of the street and in no case be installed within the street right-of-way or project into the vertical plane of the street right-of-way.

- c. Facia signs shall not project more than 18 inches from the wall of building and shall not extend more than six inches above the parapet, eaves or building facade.
- d. Roof mount signs may not project more than ten feet above the highest point of the roof or parapet.
- e. No sign shall obstruct any fire escape, or any window, door, or opening used as a means of ingress or egress for fire fighting purposes, or so as to prevent free passage from one part of a room to any other part thereof. No sign shall be attached in any manner to a fire escape or be so placed as to interfere with any opening required for legal ventilation.
- f. Temporary Signs: There are a number of instances in which a temporary sign may be necessary to advertise a unique event or business sale of short duration. Therefore, the zoning administrator may permit temporary signs in addition to the allowed permanent signs subject to the following conditions:
 - *.All temporary signs must receive a permit prior to being displayed or erected, and may not be permanently attached to the ground, buildings, or other structures.
 - *.All temporary signs must be located on the premises for which they are advertising.
 - *.Temporary signs shall be permitted for not more than 30 days in any six-month period in increments of not less than ten business days (Monday—Friday).
 - *.No signs may be placed in the public right-of-way.
 - *.A business may only have one temporary sign at a time.
 - *.Multi-tenant sites (less than five tenants): A multi-tenant site may only have one temporary sign at a time. Two stores on the same property may not have temporary signs at the same time. When that sign is removed a different business may have a temporary sign for 30 days. Under no circumstances shall a single store have a sign for more than 30 days in a six-month period, and cannot be permitted more than 45 days prior to placement.
 - *.Multi-tenant sites (more than five tenants): A multi-tenant site may only have two temporary signs at the same time. The temporary signs must be for different businesses. When one sign is removed a different business may have a temporary sign for 30 days. Under no circumstances shall a single store have a sign for more than 30 days in a six-month period, and cannot be permitted more than 45 days prior to placement.

g. Street furniture placed along the street to aid pedestrians shall not be used for advertising purposes. Examples of such items include benches, waste receptacles bike racks, drinking fountains, and public telephones.

12. Construction of Signs – The design, selection of materials, supports, installations, and electrical wiring for all permanent signs erected in the City of Woodruff shall conform to the Southern International Building Code and the National Electric Code.

13. Banners over Public Streets: (adopted by city council 09/28/2009)

- (a) The purpose of this section is to establish regulations which govern the hanging of banners across public right-of-way within the corporate limits of the city.
- (b) This section shall apply to all roads within the corporate limits of the city which are city or county roads. All roads, which are within the state highway system, shall not be governed by this section, but rather by the policies of the state highway department.
- (c) All persons desiring to fly banners over rights-of-way covered by this section shall be required to receive authorization from the office of the city manager. All requests to fly banners shall be submitted in writing to the city manager who will rule on the request within seven days of receipt of the request.
- (d) The following regulations shall govern the approval to fly a banner over applicable city streets:

- (1) The request must be for a nonprofit eleemosynary activity. Private for-profit activities are specifically barred from approval.
- (2) All banners must be erected by the city and meet the city's specifications for material and size. There shall be a fee of \$25.00 which covers the cost of installation and removal of such banner.
- (3)The banner must advertise an event occurring within the city
- (4) The maximum length of time the banner can fly is for a two-week period.
- (5)The time period for flying the banner must be within one week of the actual event advertised on the banner.
- (6) The city shall have sole discretion as to the point where such banner will be permitted to cross the public right-of-way.

14. **POLITICAL SIGNS:** Political signs shall mean any sign advocating or supporting a political candidate or political view defined as any matter upon which an election, general or special, is held. Political signs shall be permitted on private property for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days before the applicable election and seven (7) days after the election. Political signs shall not exceed a total of sixteen (16) square feet (eight (8) square feet per side of a two-sided sign or two (2) feet by four (4) feet). Political signs shall not be placed on public property or on public right-of ways, except when a portion of the right-of-way is maintained by a private property owner, provided that the private property owner consents to the placement of a political sign. Any sign that the city determines to be a visual obstruction shall be removed. No sign shall be placed between the sidewalk and the street/road. (see city council ordinance amendment dated 6/22/09)

Section III Prohibited Signs

1. No sign shall use words such as "stop," "danger," or a similar word or phrase, symbol or character in a manner that might mislead or confuse an automobile or other vehicular driver.
2. Except as stated here, no sign except traffic signs and signals and information signs erected by a public agency is permitted within any street or highway right-of-way.
3. **Certain Attached and Painted Signs:** Signs painted or attached to trees, fence posts, and telephone or other utility poles is prohibited. Also, signs painted on, or attached to rocks or other natural features, or painted on the roofs of buildings are prohibited.
4. **Non-Rigid Signs:** Signs constructed of muslin or similar fabric, either tacked completely to a surface or used as a banner or similar devices, are prohibited except the flags of governments and any public agency.
5. No sign of any kind shall be erected in such a manner as to obstruct the line of sight of traffic or traffic lights at an intersection.
6. Mobile signs employing flashing lights.
7. Signs which are no longer relevant to the occupying business or enterprise for which the occupancy has changed. A six month time frame is given for altering, amending, or removing the non conforming sign. (Adopted by city council 9/28/09)
8. Skeletal or structural supports for signage no longer in use or relevant to the occupying business or enterprise. (9/28/09)

Section IV Signs in Zoning Districts

The following signs are permitted in R-1, R-2, R.2A, R-3, and R-3A districts:

1. Signs for which permits are not required,
Signs for multiple family dwellings, group dwellings and for buildings other than residential permitted in the residential areas or non-illuminated business identification signs or bulletin boards, which shall be set back not less than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way line unless attached to the front, wall of a structure.

The following requirements shall apply to all signs in C-1, C-2, C-3, I-1, and I-2 districts.

1. All signs permitted in residential districts are permitted in commercial and industrial areas. On any occupied zoning lot in a commercial or in an industrial district, not more than four signs of any type having a total area of not more than six hundred (600) square feet shall be permitted. Appeals may permit additional sign area not to exceed seven hundred (700) square feet for each commercial and industrial enterprise.
2. Commercial or industrial uses located on major streets or controlled access thoroughfares in commercial or industrial districts may include as part of their total permitted sign area one business identification pylon sign, which shall be erected so that no portion of the sign shall be less than ten (10) feet back from, the street right-of-way.
3. Roof signs and wall signs shall in no case exceed the requirements herein.
4. On any lot in a commercial or industrial district on which no business enterprise is located, one free-standing structure having a combined total sign area not exceeding six hundred (600) square feet is permitted, Additional sign structures, each of which does not exceed six hundred (600) square feet in combined total sign area, are permitted providing they are spaced not, closer than three hundred (300) linear feet from any other sign structure on the same side of the street.
5. Signs in any commercial or industrial area may be illuminated provided they conform to the standards herein.