

ARTICLE XXI.

SIGNS

Section 1001. Amendment and re-enactment of Ordinance No. 1593

Ordinance No. 1593 was amended and re-enacted so as to impose the regulations created therein only in those Zoning Districts designated as C-2, C-3, M-1 and M-2. It was further ordained that all other Zoning Districts shall continue to follow sign regulations as outlined in Article V of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance.

(Ord. No. 1688, 5-3-94)

[DIVISION 1.] TEMPORARY SIGNS

Section 2001. Removal, alteration or maintenance of signs.

- 2001.1. All signs which are no longer functional or are abandoned, shall be removed, or relocated, at the owner's expense, in compliance within the provisions of this ordinance with one year following dysfunction.
- 2003.3. All outdoor advertising signs and sign structures shall be kept in repair and in proper state of preservation.
- 2003.4. Weeds and grass shall be kept cut in front of, behind, underneath and around the base of the ground signs for a perimeter distance of ten (10) feet, and no rubbish or debris that would constitute a fire or health hazard shall be permitted under or near such signs.
- 2003.5. All temporary, legal off premises signs not otherwise permitted are allowed for a maximum two-week period.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92)

Section 2002. Prohibited signs.

- 2002.1. Prohibited signs are subject to immediate removal, unless noted otherwise (See section 2005).
 - (1) Any sign erected or painted upon a sloping roof, fence, tree, stand pipe, fire escape or utility pole.
 - (2) Any sign which uses the word "stop" or "danger" prominently displayed and/or which is a copy or imitation of official traffic control signs.
 - (3) **Signs which are electronic, display video, animated, flashing or with intermittent illumination except time and temperature or public service signs unless otherwise permitted in Article XXI 2005.2(6)(f) of the City of Thibodaux Sign Ordinance. (Ord. No. 2369, 12-18-07)**

- (4) Signs which emit visible smoke, vapor, particles, or odor.
- (5) Signs with any lighting or control mechanism which causes radio or television or other communication interference.
- (6) Any sign or sign structure placed upon any street or highway right-of-way, except directional signs.
- (7) Any sign affixed to any fence, tree, utility pole or traffic sign standard.
- (8) Any sign attached to or painted onto a vehicle parked adjacent to or on a public thoroughfare for the principal purpose of advertising.
- (9) Sandwich signs.
- (10) Snipe signs.
- (11) Window signs which identify or advertise activities, services, or products available within the building which collectively cover more than thirty (30) percent of the window glass surface area.
- (12) Bench signs with messages.
- (13) Portable signs.
- (14) Streamers.
- (15) Revolving signs.
- (16) Banners.
- (17) Erection of all on-site pylon type signs shall be prohibited. In their stead, monument type signs shall be erected as per Section 2005 – On Premise Signs, section #2005.2.6 (a) through (e).**

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92) (Ord. No. 2014, 5-1-01) **(Ord. No. 2206, 7-6-04) (Ord. No. 2369, 12-18-07)**

Section 2003. Nonconforming signs.

Any nonconforming sign in existence on the date of enactment of this ordinance shall be considered nonconforming sign and shall be subject to the following conditions:

2003.1. The following to be removed or made to conform to this ordinance within ninety (90) days:

- (1) Nonconforming signs made of paper, cloth, plastic, or other nondurable material.
- (2) All temporary signs other than those permitted herein.

2003.2. If any nonconforming sign is removed or destroyed then the replacement sign shall be in conformity with the requirements of this ordinance.

2003.3. When a change in use, occupancy or ownership occurs, the new business, if begun within one year after previous business closed, may utilize the existing signs even though they may be nonconforming signs. Existing nonconforming signs may be refaced during the aforesaid one-year period.

2003.4. Upon failure to comply, the building official is hereby required to cause removal as provided by law of such sign and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner, agent, or lessee of said sign or of the property owner upon which the sign is located. The time period for this is six (6) months.

2003.5. Existence of any nonconforming sign on the premises will prohibit issuance of further sign permits while nonconforming use exists.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92)

Section 2004. Exempt on-site signs.

2004.1. Except as otherwise provided, the following on-site signs are exempt from the provisions of this ordinance and may be erected without securing a permit, subject, however, to meeting all other applicable codes and regulations.

- (1) One professional nameplate for each occupant. Each professional nameplate shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area.
- (2) One identification sign for each premise, denoting only the name, street number and business of an occupant in a commercial building or public institutional building. An identification sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area.
- (3) One bulletin board or identification sign per site for public, charitable, educational or religious institution located on the premises of said institution and not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet in area.
- (4) Legal notices and official instruments.
- (5) Flags or insignias of a governmental, religious, charitable, or fraternal organization mounted on a single pole. Flags or insignias shall be limited to fifty (50) total square feet in area.

- (6) Decorative flags, banners or bunting authorized by the city building permit official for a citywide celebration, conventions, commemorations, fairs and parades.
- (7) Holiday lights and decoration only during customary duration of holiday period.
- (8) Memorial signs, tablets or cornerstones, names of buildings and date of erection when out into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other noncombustible materials.
- (9) Non-advertising (not to exceed four (4) square feet in area) directional signs or symbols (e.g. entrance, exit, caution, slow, no trespassing) located on and pertaining to a parcel of private property.
- (10) Identification signs at the entrance drive of residences, estates, farms, ranches, and plantations which do not exceed four (4) square feet in area.
- (11) Political signs, on private property, provided such signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area (six (6) square feet in a residential district). Such signs shall not be erected more than one hundred twenty (120) days before an election and must be removed within fourteen days after the election.
- (12) Window signs which identify or advertise activities, services, goods or products available within the building and which collectively cover thirty (30) percent or less of the window glass surface area.
- (13) Directional and regulatory signs erected by an agency of government or any lawfully constituted utility.
- (14) One under-canopy sign per business not to exceed three (3) square feet, in area.
- (15) **Special Event "Temporary" Signs:**

Any one business, individual or organization may display a banner sign or product promotional "special event or temporary sign" on as many occasions as needed during a twelve (12) month period provided:

- (a) **Any such sign shall be temporary in nature and is not allowed as a permanent on-premise sign. All such signs and any components shall be kept in good repair and be maintained in a safe condition. These signs shall be maintained in a neat, clean and attractive condition and shall be kept free of peeling and/or fading or other deterioration. Signs in violation of this section shall be**

removed in accordance with the enforcement section of this ordinance.

- (b) Any such sign shall be non-electric.
- (c) Such signs shall be permitted in multi-tenant buildings only when they are properly fastened to the building and shall drape in a manner parallel to and not perpendicular to the building and not be allowed to flutter, other than where such signs are allowed under the grand opening provisions of this section.
- (d) Such signs shall be professionally designed, printed and produced (hand grafted/written signs will be prohibited) and shall include franchise advertising and product promotional items.
- (e) No more than one (1) temporary sign, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet (back to back) shall be allowed per premise. A business with a premise containing greater than 100 feet of street or thoroughfare frontage shall be granted one (1) additional sign.
- (f) Such signs shall be attached and properly fastened to the building and shall drape in a manner parallel to and not perpendicular to the building and not be allowed to flutter.
- (g) Signs that contain statements, words or pictures of an obscene, indecent or immoral character that will offend public morals or decency are prohibited.
- (h) Temporary signs not affixed or attached to a building shall comply with the provisions of Section 2002 (Prohibited Signs) and the following requirements:
 - 1. Signs shall be firmly affixed to the ground to which it is attached and shall not be allowed to flutter.
 - 2. Any sign which by reason of it's location, position, size, shape or color that may obstruct, impair, obscure or interfere with the view of or confuse traffic shall be prohibited.

Type of Temporary Sign Allowed: Attached or Detached

Number of Signs: One (1) sign per event, per premises with less than 100 feet frontage on a thoroughfare. An additional one (1) sign

shall be granted for a premises with greater than 100 feet of thorough-fare frontage

Number of Faces: Two (2) per sign (back to back)
Sign Area: 32 square feet maximum

Set Back: 15 feet from public right-of-way

Maximum Height: 6 feet

(i) Special event signs promoting the grand opening of a business shall comply with the provisions of this section, with exception to the following:

- **Such signs shall only be displayed for a period not to exceed fourteen (14) days**
- **Such signs will be permitted under this section in multi-tenant buildings**
- **An additional two (2) temporary signs, not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet shall be permitted**
- **One inflatable sign/advertising will be permitted under this section in addition to temporary signs**

Type of Temporary Sign Allowed: Attached or Detached

Number of Signs: Two (2) additional per grand opening

Number of Faces: Two (2) per sign (back to back)

Sign Area: 32 square feet maximum each

Set Back: 15 feet from right-of-way

Maximum Height: 6 feet

(j) Political campaign, real property sale, school, spirit, religious or charitable organization or other like activity temporary signs shall be permitted on private property at the property owner's discretion under the provisions of this ordinance. However, such signs shall conform with the provisions of this section and shall be prohibited if, in combination with any other temporary sign, the provisions of this section are violated.

(k) Any sign or promotional product not included in this ordinance will be considered prohibited.

(l) Enforcement:

The Zoning Administrator of the City of Thibodaux and his designees shall be authorized to enforce this ordinance.

- 1. The zoning administrator shall order the removal of any sign erected or maintained in violation of this ordinance.**
- 2. The zoning administrator shall remove a sign at cost to the owner, immediately and without notice, if in his opinion the sign presents an immediate threat of danger to the safety of the public.**
- 3. If the owner of the sign and/or premises fails or refuses to comply or remove the sign or is unable to be located, the zoning administrator may remove or authorize others to remove such sign at the expense of the owner. The zoning administrator shall not be responsible for any sign that has been removed and may dispose of it in any manner he deems appropriate.**

(m) Penalties

- 1. Each sign placed in violation of this ordinance shall be deemed to be a separate violation.**
- 2. Refer to Article XVI, Section 1602 of the Thibodaux Zoning Ordinance No. 1593 for Penalties for violation.**

(Ord. No. 1593, 10-1-91) (Ord. No. 2244, 5-3-05)

Section 2005. Sign standards--On-premises.

2005.1. *Visual obstruction:* Signs in a sight triangle shall not obscure vision between heights between three (3) and seven (7) feet above grade.

2005.2. Ground signs, wall signs, mansard signs, marquee and canopy signs shall be subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Temporary signs on private single-family residential property are permitted at the property owner's discretion, provided, however, the sign shall be removed upon termination of the activity, such as, garage or yard sale, political campaign, real property sale or other like activity, for which it was erected. Signs permitted hereunder shall not exceed six (6) square feet in surface area.

- (2) No new ground sign shall be larger than **thirty-two (32)** square feet, except as otherwise provided herein.
- (3) **Business within fifty (50) feet of right-of-way may have one of the following: wall sign, mansard sign, marquee or canopy sign, not to exceed sixty-four (64) square feet. Over fifty (50) feet, business is allowed one sign equal to one-half the distance from right-of-way. (Ord. No. 2391, 4-15-08)**
 - (a) In professional business area developments, fifty (50) square feet.
 - (b) In all other districts where allowed, one hundred and fifty (150) square feet up to three hundred (300) feet setback from the roadway. For setbacks greater than three hundred (300) feet, any increase in sign area must be approved by the planning commission.
- (4) Signs in multi-occupancy nonresidential building. Where a single building or complex of buildings contains two (2) or more separate activities or establishments, the individual establishment located therein shall be permitted a wall sign and wall sign area based on portion of building frontage used by establishment as though there were individual buildings with individual street frontage. Such multiple occupancy buildings will be permitted one directory on a common single multi-listing sign with each individual occupant a surface area not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet and with a minimum height of seven (7) feet.
- (5) **Maximum number of signs. Only one (1) ground sign and two (2) wall, mansard, marquis or canopy signs shall be allowed for each premises except that on corner and double frontage lots, two (2) ground signs and three (3) wall signs are allowed.**

Any premise may utilize up to the maximum sign surface allowed for each frontage, but no transfers of allowable area may be made from one frontage to another.
- (6) **Ground signs.**
 - (a) **Single businesses shall be allowed one (1) monument type sign not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.**
 - (b) **Multiple businesses in a single building shall be allowed one (1) monument type sign not to exceed sixteen (16) square feet per business.**
 - (c) The above The above mentioned signs shall be set on a block type base not less than one (1) foot in height, nor more than three (3) feet in height, the overall height of the monument sign shall not

exceed six (6) feet. **In a single building over one hundred (100) feet from right-of-way, with multiple businesses in excess of eight (8) occupants, the overall height of the monument sign shall not exceed nine (9) feet in height.**

- (d) Existing on-site pylon signs shall be “grandfathered” and allowed to stand. All signs which are no longer functional or abandoned shall be removed or relocated at the owner’s expense in compliance with the provisions of this article within one (1) year following dysfunction.
- (e) **One changeable letter sign per premise shall be allowed with permanent on-premise signs and shall be an integral part of the structure. The first sixteen (16) square feet of a changeable letter sign face shall not be calculated in the total sign area and such changeable letter sign area shall not exceed a total of thirty-two (32) square feet. The amount of square footage in excess of sixteen (16) will be included in the maximum square footage allowed in aggregate on that sign structure and such signs shall meet all other regulations as set forth herein. (Changeable letter signs that are an integral part of a permanent on-premise sign are not considered temporary signs.)**
- (f) **One electronic message display board per premise shall be allowed with permanent on-premise sign. The electronic message board shall be an integral part of the on-premise sign not to exceed sixteen (16) square feet and the total area of the sign shall not exceed thirty two (32) square feet. Such signs shall meet all other regulations as set forth herein. The electronic message display board must consist of only alphabetic or numeric characters on a plain background and may not include any graphic, pictorial or photographic images. Lightness, brightness and color must remain constant within a message and between messages. The electronic sign must not exceed a maximum illumination of 5,000 nits (candelas per square meters) during daylight hours and a maximum illumination of 500 nits (candelas per square meters) between dusk to dawn as measured from the sign’s face at maximum brightness. All electronic message display signs shall be required to have an ambient light monitor or similar device that will automatically adjust the brightness level based on ambient light conditions.**

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92) (Ord. No. 2014, 5-1-01) **(Ord. No. 2206, 7-6-04) (Ord. No. 2369, 12-18-07)**

- (7) Wall sign projection. Base of wall signs may not project more than twelve (12) inches from the building to which they are attached.

- (8) Mansard signs. Unless otherwise specified, the mansard type roof portion of a structure may be used for the mounting of a sign, provided such sign shall not extend above the break point of the mansard type roof line upon which the sign is mounted.
- (9) Marquee and canopy signs. Signs or sign structures located on a marquee or canopy shall be affixed flat to the surface and shall not be greater than two (2) feet in vertical dimension and shall not extend beyond the marquee or canopy.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92) (Ord. No. 2207, 7-6-04)

[DIVISION 2.]

REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO OFF-PREMISE OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

Section 2101. Definitions.

(a) **Off-premises sign** means any outdoor sign, display, figure, painting, drawing, message, billboard, or any other thing which is designed, intended, or used to advertise or inform, any part of which advertising or information content is visible from any place on the main traveled way of any thoroughfare in the city; but does not include on-premises signs advertising or identifying activities conducted on or products sold on the property upon which they are located.

(b) **Thoroughfare** means any street, road, expressway, freeway, or highway located within this city.

(c) **Sign** means all portions of an outdoor advertising structure, including structural elements, bases, sign faces, trim and borders.

(d) **Sign Face or panels** means that portion of a sign, including the display area, border and trim, but excluding the base, supports, and other structural members, facing traffic moving in one direction.

(e) **Back-to-back sign** means a structure with two (2) parallel sign faces oriented in opposite directions, or two (2) structures, each with one sign face and located not more than ten (10) feet from an obstruction preventing both structures from being seen at the same time from any point along the thoroughfare.

(f) **V-Type sign** means a structure or structures with two (2) or three (3) sign faces, forming the shape of the letter "V" or a triangle when viewed from above, with an angle between any two (2) faces of not more than sixty (60) degrees.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92)

Section 2102. Location of off-premises signs.

Off-premise signs which conform with the provisions of this section shall be permitted in all commercial and industrial zoning districts except C-1.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92)

Section 2103. Size of off-premises signs.

The maximum area of an off-premise sign face shall be four hundred square feet with maximum length of forty-five (45) feet, plus temporary embellishments not exceeding twenty (20) percent of the permanent sign area, but not to exceed one display panel on the same face.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92)

Section 2104. Location of off-premises signs.

Property facing thoroughfares and all other property which is zoned so as to permit the construction and maintenance of off-premises signs shall be subject to the following:

- (a) V-type or back-to-back off-premises signs shall be considered one sign.
- (b) No two (2) off-premises signs shall be spaced less than four hundred (400) feet apart in all directions on any thoroughfare.
- (c) No off-premises sign shall be located in such a manner as to obscure, or otherwise physically interfere with the effectiveness of, an official traffic sign, signal or device, or obstruct or physically interfere with a driver's view of approaching or intersecting traffic.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92 & Ord. No. 1883, 4-6-99)

Section 2105. Height of off-premises signs.

There shall be a minimum clearance of seven (7) feet to the bottom of an off-premises sign face and a maximum height of forty-five (45) feet to the top of an off-premise sign face, from grade of the thoroughfare to which the sign is oriented.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92)

Section 2106. Lighting of off-premises signs.

Off-premise signs may be illuminated, subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) No revolving or rotating beam or beacon of light that simulates any emergency light device shall be permitted as part of any sign. Flashing devices shall not be permitted upon a sign; however, illuminated signs which indicate customary public information, such as time, date, temperature or other similar information shall be permitted.
- (b) External lighting, such as floodlights, thin line and gooseneck reflectors, are permitted, provided the light source is directed on the face of the sign and is effectively shielded so as to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed into any portion of the thoroughfare.
- (c) The illumination of any sign within one hundred feet of a residential zone lot line shall be diffused or indirect in design to prevent direct rays of light from shining into adjoining residential districts.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92)

Section 2107. Prohibited off-premises signs.

The following off-premises signs shall not be permitted to remain or to be erected:

- (a) Signs which are obsolete structures not meeting city engineer construction standards, out-of-date political billboards, signs advertising defunct businesses and signs which have been erected without a building permit having been issued therefore.
- (b) Signs which are not clean and in good repair.
- (c) Signs which are illegal under state law or regulations.
- (d) Signs that are not securely fixed on a substantial structure.
- (e) Signs which attempt or appear to attempt to regulate, warn, or direct the movement of traffic or which interfere with, imitate, or resemble any official traffic sign, signal or device.
- (f) Signs which are erected or maintained upon trees or painted or drawn upon rocks or other natural features.
- (g) Signs which are nonconforming and damaged or destroyed commencing with the year 2000.
- (h) Signs that prevent free ingress or egress from any doors, window, or fire escape; or that are attached to a standpipe, fire escape.
- (i) Signs are prohibited on the batture (area between highway and bayou) or Bayou Lafourche within the city limits with the exception of the area in

between and including Ridgefield Road and St. Bernard Street. Signs are also prohibited on North Canal Blvd. from Bayou Lafourche North to the corporate city limits. The prohibited area on North Canal Blvd. shall be that area measuring 400' out from the center line of the thorough-fare extended both in an easterly and westerly direction.

(j) Sign panels cannot be side by side or stacked; single sign panels only.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92) & (Ord. No. 1883, 4-6-99)

Section 2108. Construction standards.

All off-premises signs shall be constructed in accordance with the Building Code of the city. The structural elements of all off-premises signs shall be of metal construction.

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92)

[DIVISION 3.]

GRANDFATHERING PROVISIONS

Section 2200. Provisions established.

All legal and permitted signs built and installed prior to this ordinance are "grandfathered."

(Ord. No. 1593, 2-4-92)