

## CHAPTER 1109

### ON-PREMISES EXTERIOR SIGNS

#### 1109.01 DEFINITIONS

- A. Banner Sign. A sign made of fabric suitable for exterior use and flame retardant that is no larger than 20 square feet and that is affixed to a building.
- B. Billboard. Any off-premise sign/structure situated on private premises.
- C. Business Center Sign. A sign for a group of uses, whether or not under single management, but located on a parcel of land in single ownership.
- D. Canopy Sign. Any sign that is a part of or attached to an awning, canopy, or other fabric, plastic, or structural protective cover over a door, entrance, window, or outdoor service area. A marquee is not a canopy.
- E. Free-Standing Sign. As used in this zoning code, a free-standing sign shall refer to any sign that is detached from a building but is permanently anchored.
- F. Instructional Sign. Any sign that has a purpose secondary to the use on the lot and is intended to instruct employees, customers, or users as to matters of public safety or necessity. This includes signage erected by a public authority, utility, public service organization, or private business or industry that is intended to control traffic circulation, direct or inform the public, or provide needed public service as determined by the rules and regulations of governmental agencies or through public policy.
- G. Marquee Sign. Any sign attached to, in any manner, or made a part of a permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building or extending along and projecting beyond the wall of the building, generally designed and constructed to provide protection from the weather.
- H. Off-Premise Sign. Any sign not related to the business or activity upon which premises the sign is placed.
- I. On-Premises Exterior Sign. A sign related to the business or profession conducted and/or to the commodity, service or entertainment, sold or offered upon the premises where said sign is located.
- J. Portable Sign. A free-standing sign not permanently anchored, affixed or secured to either a building or the ground, such as, but not limited to, "A" frame, "T" shaped or inverted "T" shaped sign structures.

- K. Projecting Sign. Any sign or graphic which projects from the building and is perpendicular to the street. A projecting sign is limited to a sign area of 9 square feet, shall project no more than 4 feet from the building façade, and shall be at least 10 feet above the sidewalk.
- L. Roof Sign. As used in this zoning code, a roof sign shall refer to any sign that extends above the parapet or roof line of the building to which the sign is affixed.
- M. Sign Area. The entire area within a circle, globe, or polygon enclosing the extreme limits of writing, representation, emblem, lettering only, or any figure of similar character, together with any frame or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate such a sign from the background against which it is placed. The sign area shall be considered to be the largest area that any sign would project on a plane.

For monument style signs (those without a sign pole), the sign base shall not count in the sign area, if it does not exceed 50% of the sign area. The portion of the sign base that exceeds 50% shall be included in the calculations of sign area.

Where a sign has two or more faces, the area of all faces shall be included in determining the area of the sign, except where two such faces are placed back-to-back and are at no point more than 18 inches from one another, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of one face if the two faces are of equal area, or as the area of the large face if the two faces are of unequal area.

Total sign area shall be the sum of all signs, not including instructional signs.

- N. Vehicular Sign. Any appliance or surface attached to any vehicle which is designated to advertise, convey information, or attract attention for the benefit of any person, organization, business or cause operating such vehicles; excepting vehicles used solely for the delivery of merchandise or the performance of services, or advertising the sale of the vehicle.
- O. Wall Graphics Sign. Any sign or graphic design which is placed directly upon a building's surface.

## **1109.02 RELATIONSHIP TO BUILDING CODE**

No provisions of this chapter shall nullify any provision or requirement of the Building Code, except as to the specific definitions, prohibited locations, and size limitations as listed herein.

## **1109.03 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT SIGNS**

Only the following types, sizes and locations of signs shall be permitted in residential districts.

- A. One non-illuminated free-standing or wall-mounted sign, not to exceed six square feet in area on any property, which sign shall not contain any commercial message except for a message drawing attention to an activity legally offered on the lot.
- B. One sign, with approval of the Planning Commission, for the following conditionally permitted uses in a residential district:
  - 1. Cemetery;
  - 2. Church, or other place of public religious worship;
  - 3. Governmental owned or operated building or facility, schools;
  - 4. Private or Governmental owned and/or operated park, playground, golf course or other recreational facility;
  - 5. Facility providing the following services:
    - a. Medical Care
    - b. Hospital
    - c. Clinic
    - d. Convalescent Home, Nursing Home, or Assisted Living Facility
    - e. Sanitarium
    - f. Philanthropic Institution
    - g. Child Care Center

The sign area may be one square foot for each foot of building frontage along a public right of way, not to exceed twenty-five square feet.

- C. One double-sided sign, or two single-sided sign(s) attached to a wall or other entrance feature at each entrance of a Residential Subdivision with a maximum sign area of 36 square feet and maximum height of 6 feet per sign with a setback of 10 feet from the right-of-way.

**1109.04 CENTRAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT SIGNS (CBDD)**

Identification signs shall not be permitted to exceed the following limitations:

- A. Wall signs as defined in Section 1109.01(O), banner signs as defined in Section 1109.01(C), and projecting signs as defined in Section 1109.01(K) are permitted in this district.
- B. A total sign area of two square feet may be permitted for each lineal foot of building frontage on the principal street. On a corner lot the sign area may be computed on the basis of the longer building frontage. Maximum total size is not to exceed 200 square feet.

- C. Free-standing signs are not permitted, unless sufficient yard space is available. Free-standing signs must meet the requirements of 1109.05(C). The sign design, placement, and size must be approved by the Design Review Board.
- D. Signage on canopies, awnings, or marquees cannot exceed 2 feet in height. Theater marquees may exceed this requirement with the approval of the Planning Commission. All signs of this style shall be approved by the Planning Commission.
- E. One non-illuminated sign is permitted on vacant lots and parking lots for on-premise activities. Such sign shall have a surface area not to exceed 32 square feet and shall not exceed 6 feet in height and will be setback 10 feet from the right-of-way.

**1109.05 C-1 THROUGH C-4 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT SIGNS**

Identification signs shall not be permitted to exceed the following limitations:

- A. Wall signs must be fixed flat against the wall of a building or on the face of a marquee wall. No sign may extend above or beyond the building wall or project more than one foot from the front of the structure.
- B. A total wall sign area of two square feet per business may be permitted for each lineal foot of building frontage on the principal street. On a corner lot the sign area may be computed on the basis of the longer building frontage.
- C. One free-standing sign with a sign area not to exceed one square foot for each foot of building frontage along a public right-of-way is permitted. Maximum total size for a free-standing sign may not exceed 50 square feet or exceed a maximum height of 10 feet above grade. Alternatively, one business center sign of no more than 200 square feet is permitted. The maximum height of this sign is 10 feet above grade. The maximum signage space to a given tenant is 50 square feet. The sign design, placement and size must be approved by the Planning Commission.
- D. If a lot has access on more than one street, one additional free-standing sign meeting the requirements of item C sign may be permitted, provided there is at least 300 feet of distance between the signs as measured directly between the two signs and that there is no more than one sign per street.
- E. A minimum setback of 10 feet from the right-of-way is required.
- F. Plantings arranged so as to spell out building identification or service offered will be considered a sign rather than landscaping.
- G. Maximum total signage on this lot is not to exceed 400 square feet per business.

## **1109.06 INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT SIGNS**

Identification signs shall not be permitted to exceed the following limitations:

- A. Wall signs must be fixed flat against the wall of a building or on the face of a marquee wall. No sign may extend above or beyond the building wall or project more than one foot from the front of the structure.
- B. A total sign area of three square feet for each lineal foot of building frontage on each street may be permitted, up to a maximum total area of all permitted signs for any establishment of 400 square feet.
- C. One free-standing sign with a sign area not to exceed two square feet for each foot of building frontage on a principal street is permitted. The total maximum size of the sign shall not exceed 80 square feet with a maximum height not to exceed 10 feet. The sign design, placement and size must be approved by the Planning Commission.
- D. If a lot has access on more than one street, one additional free-standing sign meeting the requirements of item B sign may be permitted, provided there is at least 300 feet of distance between the signs as measured directly between the two signs and that there is no more than one sign per street.
- E. A minimum setback of 25 feet from the right-of-way is required.
- F. Plantings so arranged so as to spell out building identification or service offered will be considered a sign rather than landscape.

## **1109.07 TEMPORARY SIGNS**

- A. A temporary sign not exceeding 32 square feet may be erected or placed at a premise, but shall be removed forthwith upon fulfillment of its purpose. A temporary sign may not be displayed for more than sixty days in any six month period.
- B. Temporary signs, including vehicular signs, shall require a special permit issued by the Director of Public Safety and Service. A permit is nonassignable and the sign can only be placed on the property designated in the permit. There will be no fee for this permit. The Director of Public Safety and Service shall have the right to designate placement of temporary signs.

## **1109.08 NON-AFFECTED SIGNS**

- A. Signs incidental to the election process, legal process and/or necessary to the public safety and welfare.
- B. Chapter 1109 shall in no way affect signs which have been or will be approved by City Council under "Conditional Use" or any other special use approved by the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and/or City Council under procedures enumerated in this code.
- C. Non-illuminated temporary sign advertising the development of the premises upon which it stands or the opening of a new subdivision development where such sign is located. Such sign shall have a surface area not exceeding 32 square feet and such sign shall be located at least twenty-five (25) feet from the street right-of-way line.
- D. On-premise real estate sign advertising the sale, rental or lease of property, not to exceed 6 square feet in a residential district and 32 square feet in a commercial or industrial district. Such sign to be removed when property is no longer for sale, rent or lease.
- E. Instructional signs shall be exempt provided such signs comply with the following:
  - 1. Instructional signs shall be clearly intended, designed and located for instructional purposes, as determined by the Safety-Service Director;
  - 2. Each sign shall not be larger than necessary to serve the intended instructional purpose;
  - 3. The sign is not in a location and does not possess the design characteristics that constitute or serve the purposes of an identification sign;
  - 4. If the Safety-Service Director determines that the proposed sign(s) does not serve instructional purposes, it shall be considered a free-standing or wall sign, as applicable, and subject to the pertinent regulations in this Chapter.

**1109.09 SUPPLEMENTARY REGULATIONS**

All signs are subject to the following regulations.

- A. Any type of illuminated sign shall require the approval of the Planning Commission.

- B. No sign or outside lighting shall flash, be animated, rotate, or have the appearance of movement.
- C. No sign shall contain banners, posters, pennants, ribbons, streamers, strings of light bulbs, spinners, or similarly fixed or moving devices. The devices when not part of any sign are similarly prohibited unless they are approved by the Director of Public Safety and Service, who will specify location and the permitted period of time such devices may be displayed.
- D. All electrical wiring serving free-standing signs must be underground.
- E. No free-standing sign may be erected closer than 40 feet to any intersection with the exception of those signs incidental to the legal process and necessary to the public welfare or wall signs attached to the building of businesses closer than 40 feet to an intersection.
- F. All signs must be constructed and placed so as not to obstruct traffic sight lines.
- G. No sign shall be located in or project over a public right-of-way or public property, except for temporary signs with approval and receipt of a permit from the Director of Public Safety and Service, or signs on awnings, canopies, or marquees in the CBDD as provided in Section 1109.04(D).
- H. All signs shall comply with all other requirements of the Building Code.
- I. Billboards and roof signs are not permitted in the City of Orrville.

**1109.10 REGULATIONS FOR NONCONFORMING SIGNS**

- A. Nonconforming signs shall be maintained in good condition pursuant to Section 1109.09(I).
- B. Nonconforming signs shall be removed and any subsequent modification or replacement (excluding maintenance pursuant to section 1109.09(I)) shall conform to all requirements of this ordinance as follows:
  - 1. When more than fifty (50) percent of the value of the sign has been destroyed or has been taken down;
  - 2. When the use which the nonconforming sign is accessory to is vacant for ninety (90) consecutive days; and
- C. A nonconforming sign shall not be altered, modified, or reconstructed other than to comply with this ordinance except:

1. When the existing use has new ownership which results in a change in the name of the use or business on the property; or
2. When the space is reoccupied by a similar use and the new occupant requires no external building or site renovation; or
3. When the existing owner intends to update their current sign and requires no external building or site renovation; or
4. A new sign pursuant to (1), (2), or (3) above may be changed by replacing a sign panel or by repainting a sign face only. Such alterations shall not require changes to the structure, framing or erection, or relocation of the sign unless such changes conform to this ordinance. Such alterations shall not exceed 50% of the replacement cost of the sign.

**1109.11 ABANDONED SIGNS AND FAILURE TO MAINTAIN**

- A. The face of any permanent sign which advertises a business that has not been conducted on the premises for 180 consecutive days, or fails to serve the purposes for which it was intended, or evidences a lack of maintenance, shall be removed by the owner, agent, or person having the beneficial use of the building, structure, or land upon which such sign is located, within ten (10) business days after written notice by the Safety-Service Director, and the sign area shall be replaced by a neutral, single background color panel or similar cover. If the sign is comprised of individually raised letters, the letters shall be removed.
- B. Upon failure to comply with such notice within the time specified in such order, the Safety-Service Director is hereby authorized to cause removal of such sign. After the work is done by or under the direction of the City, the City shall give notice, by regular mail, to the owner of the building, structure, or land upon which such sign is located, at their last known address, to pay all service charges and expenses, including labor cost and fees for service of notice and return. In the event the same is not paid within thirty days after the mailing of the notice, then such amount shall be certified to the County Auditor for collection the same as other taxes and assessments are collected and returned to the General Fund.

(Amended Ord. T-07, Passed 1-7-08.)

(Amended Ord. F-09, Passed 3-16-09.)