

ARTICLE 10

SIGN REGULATIONS

Section 10-1 Permit Required

With the exception of those signs specifically authorized in Section 10.11, no sign shall be erected without a permit from the Zoning Enforcement Officer.

Section 10-2 Permit Application

Applications for permits shall be submitted on forms obtained at the office of the Zoning Enforcement officer. Each application shall be accompanied by plans which shall:

1. Indicate the proposed site by identifying the property by ownership, location, and use;
2. Show the location of the sign on the lot in relation to property lines and buildings, zoning district boundaries, right-of-way lines, and existing signs;
3. Illustrate size, character, complete structural specifications, and methods of anchoring and support; and,
4. If warranted, the Zoning Enforcement Officer may require additional information to determine whether or not the sign will be erected in conformance with this Article.

Section 10-3 Structural Requirement

Structural requirements for signs shall be those required in the North Carolina State Building Code.

Section 10-4 Sign Area Computation

Sign area shall be computed by the smallest square, triangle, rectangle, circle, or any combination thereof which will encompass the entire sign, including wall work, frame, or supports incidental to its decoration. In computing the area, only one (1) side of the structure shall be considered.

Section 10-5 Maintenance

All signs, together with all supports and braces, shall be kept in good repair and in a neat clean condition. No sign shall be continued which becomes, in the opinion of the Zoning Enforcement Officer, structurally unsafe and endangers the safety of the public or property. The Zoning Enforcement Officer may order the removal of any sign that is not maintained in accordance with the provisions of this section.

Such removal shall be at the expense of the owner or lessee and shall occur within ten (10) days after written notification has been issued. If the order is not implemented within thirty (30) days, the Zoning Enforcement Officer shall remove the sign at the expense of the owner or lessee. Any temporary sign shall be removed within thirty (30) days from the date the purpose ceases to exist.

Section 10-6 **Location**

10-6.1 No signs shall be erected or constructed so as to interfere with visual clearance along any street or at any intersection of two (2) or more streets or highways. No signs shall be located in a street right-of-way.

10-6.2 No signs attached to a building shall project beyond the street curb or hang lower than eight (8) feet from the sidewalk or ground level.

Section 10-7 **Traffic Safety**

10-7.1 No signs shall be allowed that would, by its location, color or nature, be confused with or obstruct the view of traffic signs or signals, or would be confused with a flashing light of an emergency vehicle.

10-7.2 No sign shall use admonitions such as "Stop", "Go", "Slow", or "Danger", which might be confused with traffic directional signals.

Section 10-8 **Illumination**

10-8.1 No sign shall have blinking, flashing, or fluttering lights or other illuminating device that has a changing light intensity, brightness, or color. Signs or portions of signs designed primarily for the display of time and temperature, electronic message centers and electronic display screens are specifically excluded from the provisions of this paragraph.

10-8.2 Except for time or temperature units, no flashing or intermittent illuminated sign shall be permitted on any sign or structure. Illumination devices such as, but not limited to, flood spotlights shall be so placed and so shielded as to prevent the rays of illumination being cast upon neighboring buildings and/or vehicles approaching from either direction.

Section 10-9 **Nonconforming Signs**

Nonconforming signs shall be allowed to remain in good repair for an indefinite period. However, under the following conditions, nonconforming signs shall comply with the regulations of this ordinance.

10-9.1 Any nonconforming sign on a lot where the principal structure is vacant for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days shall be altered to conform to the regulations of this section.

- 10-9.2** Any alteration of a nonconforming sign shall make that sign conform to the regulations of this section.
- 10-9.3** Any nonconforming sign damaged over sixty (60) percent by any means either shall be removed or repaired in a manner to conform with the regulations of this section. This does not include signs that have deteriorated over an extended period of time. Although the cost of repairing these signs original value, they may be repaired without conforming to the requirements.
- 10-9.4** Nonconforming signs, when removed for other than normal maintenance, may not be erected again, nor may such signs be replaced with another nonconforming signs.
- 10-9.5** Any sign that was made nonconforming by the sign ordinance that was adopted and made effective on November 4, 1985 shall be removed within four (4) years from the adoption of that ordinance. (All nonconforming signs shall be identified and recorded at the effective date of this ordinance.)

Section 10-10 Signs Permitted in All Districts Without a Permit

The signs listed below shall be allowed in all zoning districts without a permit from the Zoning Enforcement Officer. However, all signs using electrical wiring and connections shall require an electrical permit.

- 10-10.1** Occupant and House Number Signs not exceeding one (1) square foot in are and bearing only property numbers, box numbers, names of occupants, or other identification not having commercial connotations. Such signs shall not be illuminated.
- 10-10.2** Public Directional and Information Signs erected and maintained by public agencies which direct the public to specific sites or provide general information about a structure. Included in this category are historic markers, street and traffic control signs, and entrance and exit signs. Entrance and exit signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet in total area. They may be directly or indirectly illuminated.
- 10-10.3** Private Directional Free-standing entrance and exit signs may be allowed on any lot, regardless of lot frontage and number of existing business signs or billboards, provided they do not exceed two (2) square feet in area. Such signs shall not be illuminated.
- 10-10.4** Professional and Home Occupation One (1) professional or home occupation sign per dwelling not to exceed three (3) square feet in area, which must be mounted flat against a wall or door or hung from a mailbox or lamp post. Such signs may be directly or indirectly illuminated except in a residential district.
- 10-10.5 Church or Nonprofit Organization Bulletin Board**
- These signs shall not exceed eighteen (18) square feet in area. Such signs may be directly or indirectly illuminated.

10-10.6 Temporary Lease, Rent, or Sale

One (1) sign per two hundred (200) feet of street frontage, not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet in area, may be placed on property that is for sale, lease, rent, or barter. However, no lot shall have more than three (3) signs. Such signs shall not be illuminated.

10-10.7 Construction

During the construction, repair, or alteration of a structure, temporary signs which denote builder, or other participants in the project, or its occupant to be, may be placed within the required yard setbacks as ground, wall, or roof signs. The total area of such signs shall not exceed fifty (50) square feet. Such signs shall not be illuminated.

10-10.8 Yard Sale

An on-premises sign advertising a yard or garage sale shall not exceed four (4) square feet in size and shall be limited to one (1) sign per lot. Such signs may be erected seven (7) days prior to the event and shall be removed within two (2) days after the event. Lead-in (directional) off-premises yard sale signs are permitted from Friday noon to Monday noon. All such signs shall be placed on private property, not within any public right-of-way and shall not be placed on utility poles.

Section 10-11 Signs Requiring a Zoning Permit

10-11.1 Identification Signs

- (a) Zoning Districts Where Permitted: All residential districts.
- (b) Number of Signs: One per entrance or two small matching pillars per entrance.
- (c) Location: Such signs shall not be located in a public right-of-way.
- (d) Maximum Size: Any one (1) sign shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet in area. If matching entrance pillars are constructed at the entrance of a subdivision, neighborhood, school, or similar use, the total sign are shall not exceed twenty-four (24) square feet.
- (e) Lighting: Such signs may be directly, or indirectly illuminated.
- (f) Height: Such signs shall not exceed twelve (12) feet in height.

10-11.2 Business Signs - Wall (Attached)

- (a) Zoning Districts Where Permitted: B-1, B-2, B-3 and M-1.

- (b) Number of Signs: None specified.
- (c) Location: Wall signs shall be located on the front of the building. However, they may be located on a side or rear of a building that is adjacent to an off-street parking area. Such signs shall be mounted parallel to the building and project no more than eighteen (18) inches from the building.
- (d) Sign Area: The total area of all attached signs shall not exceed twenty (20) percent of the total wall area. However, the total sign area shall not exceed two hundred (200) square feet.
- (e) Lighting: Such signs may be directly or indirectly illuminated.
- (f) Height: No signs shall extend beyond the roof line of the building to which it is attached.

The following provisions shall apply for wall (attached) electronic message centers:

- (g) Each commercial or industrial establishment shall be allowed one (1) electronic message center or one (1) changeable copy sign (reader board) as a wall sign provided that such electronic message center or changeable copy sign (reader board) does not exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the area of the face of the wall upon which the sign is erected, or portion of the wall occupied by the commercial or industrial establishment, whichever is less.
- (h) Each message displayed on an electronic message center must be static or depicted for a minimum of six (6) seconds. The continuous scrolling of messages is prohibited.

10-11.3 Business Signs - Freestanding

- (a) Zoning Districts Where Permitted: B-1, B-2, B-3 and M-1.
- (b) Number of Signs: Any business may erect one (1) freestanding sign for each frontage on a public street.
- (c) Location: Any freestanding sign shall be set back at least five (5) feet from the property line.
- (d) Area: Maximum sign area shall be one and one-half (1½) square feet per linear foot of business frontage. However, the maximum size per sign shall not exceed four hundred and twenty square feet (420 sq.ft.) in the B-2 District, one hundred and twenty square feet (120 sq.ft.) in the B-1 and M-1 Districts and seventy square feet (70 sq.ft.) in the B-3 District. Signs covered by the Outdoor Advertising Act shall be exempt from these restrictions.

- (e) Lighting: Such signs may be directly or indirectly illuminated.
- (f) Height: Any sign shall not exceed one hundred and fifty (150) feet in height in the B-2 District and thirty-five (35) feet in height in all other Districts.

The following provisions shall apply for on-premise freestanding electronic message centers:

- (g) For commercial and industrial premises located in the B-1, B-2, B-3 and M-1 Districts one (1) electronic message center attached to a permitted on-premise freestanding sign shall be allowed per premise.
- (h) Each message displayed on an electronic message center must be static or depicted for a minimum of six (6) seconds. The continuous scrolling of messages is prohibited.
- (i) No freestanding electronic message center shall exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the total allowable sign face area for any on-premise freestanding sign; provided, however, when an electronic message center does not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in sign face area and is attached to an otherwise permitted on-premise freestanding sign, it shall not comprise a portion of the total allowable sign face area for any on-premise freestanding sign.
- (j) The addition of any electronic message center to any nonconforming freestanding sign is prohibited.

The following provisions shall apply for on-premise freestanding electronic display screens:

- (k) Electronic display screens are permitted within the B-2 and M-1 Districts as on-premise freestanding signs subject to the following conditions:
 - i. Each image displayed on an electronic display screen must be static or depicted for a minimum of ten (10) seconds.
 - ii. Animated images and images which move or give the appearance of movement are prohibited. This restriction shall not prohibit the dissolving or replacing of one image with another image.
 - iii. No freestanding electronic message center shall exceed twenty-five (25) percent of the total allowable sign face area for any on-premise freestanding sign; provided, however, when an electronic message center does not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in sign face area and is attached to an otherwise permitted on-premise freestanding sign, it shall not comprise a portion of the total allowable sign face area for any on-premise freestanding sign.

10-11.4 Business Signs - Projecting

- (a) Zoning Districts Where Permitted: B-1, B-2, B-3 and M-1.
- (b) Number of Signs Permitted: One projecting sign per principal building.
- (c) Location: Such signs may project horizontally a maximum of six (6) feet, but shall be set back at least two (2) feet from the back face of the curb or outer edge of the pavement where there is no curb. Setback distances for projecting signs which front on state roads must be approved by the North Carolina Department of Transportation. They shall be erected at a height of not less than nine (9) feet above the sidewalk or other pedestrian passageway. Also a projecting sign shall not extend above the roof line of the building.
- (d) Area: Projecting signs shall not exceed sixteen (16) square feet.

10-11.5 Multi-Unit Signs (Shopping Center, Industrial Park, etc.)

- (a) Zoning District Where Permitted: B-1, B-2, and M-1.
- (b) Number of Signs: One (1) per each main street frontage.
- (c) Location: Such signs shall not be located in any street right-of-way.
- (d) Area: Each sign shall not exceed seventy-five (75) square feet in the B-2 District and one hundred and fifty (150) square feet in the M-1 District.
- (e) Lighting: Such signs may be directly or indirectly illuminated.
- (f) Height: Any sign shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet above the pavement or ground surface.
- (g) Design Criteria: Each individual identification sign shall be designed to reflect a unified graphic appearance (e.g. color, script, type) and other design matters as determined by the Zoning Enforcement Officer. Individual commercial logos are permitted on multi-unit signs so long as they do not constitute more than twenty-five (25) percent of the area of the applicable individual occupancy identification sign.

10-11.6 Billboards (Off-Site Business Signs)

- (a) Zoning District Where Permitted: B-2 and M-1 Districts.
- (b) Maximum Size of a Single Sign: 300 square feet.

- (c) Spacing Between Signs: Each billboard shall be at least 1000 foot radius from another one. The starting point to determine the 1,000 foot spacing shall be from the intersection 1-77 and N.C. 67.
- (d) State Regulations Along I-77: All billboards along 1-77 within the Jonesville Planning Jurisdiction shall comply with the North Carolina Outdoor Advertising Act as administered by N.C. Department of Transportation, Division of Highways.
- (e) Electronic message centers are permitted within the B-2 and M-1 Districts as a portion of a billboard or similar off-premise sign subject to the following conditions:
 - i. No electronic message center located on an off-premise sign shall exceed seventy-five (75) square feet in total sign face area. The total sign face area on any electronic message center shall comprise a portion of the total sign face area of the off-premise sign to which it is attached.
 - ii. Each message displayed on an electronic message center must be static or depicted for a minimum of six (6) seconds. The continuous scrolling of messages is prohibited.
 - iii. The addition of an electronic message center to any existing billboard or similar off-premise sign located in a district other than B-2 and M-1 is prohibited.
- (f) Electronic display screens are permitted within the B-2 and M-1 Districts as off-premise signs subject to the following conditions:
 - i. Each image displayed on an electronic display screen must be static or depicted for a minimum of ten (10) seconds.
 - ii. Animated images and images which move or give the appearance of movement are prohibited. This restriction shall not prohibit the dissolving or replacing of one image with another image.
 - iii. The conversion or addition of an electronic display screen to any existing billboard or similar off-premise sign located in a district other than B-2 and M-1 is prohibited.
- (g) Multi-prism billboards and similar off-premise signs are permitted within the B-2 and M-1 Districts. The conversion of any existing billboard or similar off-premise sign located in a district other than B-2 and M-1 is prohibited.

10-11.7 Portable Signs

- (a) Zoning District Where Permitted: B-1, B-2, B-3 and M-1 Districts.

- (b) Setbacks: At least five (5) feet from the curb.
- (c) Limits on Advertisement: Advertise only goods or services provided on the site of the sign.

10-11.8 Political Campaign Signs

- (a) No political campaign sign shall be placed in a public right-of-way or within ten (10) feet of the street pavement, whichever is greater.
- (b) No signs shall be placed on public utility poles, telephone poles, or any other sign or sign support structure erected by a duly constituted governmental body.
- (c) No signs shall be placed on roofs nor painted on roofs.
- (d) Portable signs, as listed in Section 10-11.7, shall not be used for political purposes.
- (e) Political campaign signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet in size. They cannot be erected more than sixty (60) days before election day and must be removed seven (7) days following the election by persons responsible for erecting them.
- (f) Any political campaign sign that is in violation of this ordinance shall be removed by the Town of Jonesville at the expense of persons responsible.

Civil penalties for violation of this subsection.

- (a) No warning citation shall be required for a violation of this article. Upon a violation of this article, the zoning enforcement officer shall issue a civil citation to the offender. The zoning enforcement officer or his designee is further authorized to remove signs placed within the public right-of-way without prior notification.
- (b) All violations of this section shall subject the offender to a civil penalty of \$50.00.
- (c) Each day's continuing violation shall be a separate and distinct offense.