

ORDINANCE 06-32
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE USES, CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE
AND REMOVAL OF SIGNS, INCLUDING BILL BOARDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL, THE CITY OF PARAGOULD, ARKANSAS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION I

This Ordinance shall be known as the Paragould Sign and Billboard Ordinance.

SECTION II

- (1) "Abandoned sign" means a sign no longer identifies or advertises a bona fide business, lessor, service, owner, product, or activity, or for which no legal owner can be found.
- (2) "Awning sign" means the use of an awning attached to a building for advertisement, identification, or promotional purposes, provided that only that portion of the awning which bears graphics, symbols and/or written copy shall be construed as being a sign.
- (3) "Billboard" means an outdoor advertising sign or poster panel which advertises products, businesses, and/or services not connected with the site on which the sign is located, and which sign is a substantial permanent structure with display services of a type which are customarily leased for commercial purposes.
- (4) "Building official" as defined by the Uniform Building Code or his designated representative and/or the Code Enforcement Officer.
- (5) "Changeable copy sign" means a sign whose information can be changed or altered (without changes of altering the sign frame, sign supports or electrical parts) by manual or electric. A sign on which the message changes more than 8 times within a day is considered an electronic message sign.
- (6) "Directional sign" means a single-faced or double-faced sign not exceeding two feet x three feet (six square feet) in surface area per side designed to guide or direct pedestrian or vehicular traffic to an area, place, or convenience on the premises upon which the sign is located, i.e., entrance and exit signs and/or other similarly worded signs when used for the sole purpose of controlling mobile and pedestrian traffic.

SECTION III – REGULATION OF SIGNS

All signs hereafter erected on any lot in any District, except official, traffic and street signs, shall conform to the provisions of this Ordinance, unless otherwise provided.

- A. General Restrictions. Unless provided in this code, the following regulations shall apply to signs in all Districts.
1. Portable non-flashing signs whether lighted or unlighted, may be placed on a ninety (90) day nonrenewable permit in any commercial or industrial zone subject to the following:
 - a. A permit shall be obtained from the Code Enforcement Officer subject to payment of a permit fee of \$25.00.
 - b. The sign shall observe a minimum ten (10) foot setback from any curb or edge or pavement but in no case shall the sign be placed beyond the property line.
 - c. Any sign remaining after ninety (90) days shall comply with Zoning Ordinance No. 92-9, as amended, of the City of Paragould. Any signs nonconforming after said date shall be subject to removal by the City.
 1. No sign shall be erected as to prevent free ingress and egress from any door, window, or fire escape, and no sign of any kind shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.
 2. No sign shall be erected at the intersection of any streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision; or at any location where, by reason of position it may interfere with or obstruct the view of traffic sign lines or traffic control devices. If located within direct line of vision of a traffic control device, no flashing or intermittent red, green or amber illumination shall be used.
 3. Any sign affixed flat against the wall of a building and not more than fifteen (15) inches in thickness shall not be deemed a projecting sign. Projecting signs may extend not more than forty-eight (48) inches beyond the building line, or over public property, in no event closer than two (2) feet to the curb line, and shall be at least ten (10) feet above the finished grade of the sidewalk. Wall signs shall not extend more than fifteen (15) inches over public property; however, lighting devices may extend not more than six (6) feet over public property provided the lowest part of such device is at least fifteen (15) feet above the finished grade.
 4. Business and advertising signs are required to observe the same setback (25 feet), side-yard and height limitations as provided for other buildings or structures in the zoned district, provided that where drive-in service or parking facilities are provided, one (1) business sign not exceeding forty-five (45) square feet in area may be erected in any required setback area if it is not located nearer to the street or highway right-of-way line more than one half (1/2) the required setback, not to exceed fifty (50) feet.

5. The illumination of any sign within fifty (50) feet of and facing a residential zone lot line shall be diffused or indirect and designed to prevent direct rays of light from shining into adjoining residential districts; and in no event shall flashing or intermittent illumination be permitted where the sign faces directly into and is nearer than three hundred (300) feet to dwellings in a residential district.
6. Directional or information signs or a public or quasi-public nature not exceeding six (6) square feet in area may be permitted in any district on approval of the Code Enforcement Officer. Any illumination shall be non-flashing, uncolored and confined to the face of the sign. No advertising matter whatsoever shall be permitted on signs of this type.
7. Temporary signs indicating an event of public interest such as a state or local fair, cattle or horse show, etc., may be erected on a 30-day nonrenewable permit in any zone on approval of the Code Enforcement Officer.
8. Whenever a sign becomes structurally unsafe or endangers the safety of a building or premises, or endangers the public safety, the Code Enforcement Officer shall give written notice to the owner of the sign or the owner of the premises on which the sign is located that such sign be made safe or removed within ten (10) days.
9. Any business or outdoor advertising sign legally existing prior to the adoption of this code and which does not conform to these provisions shall not be altered, or changed in over all dimensions, except to conform to the provisions of this code. If damaged to an extent in excess of one half (1/2) of its current replacement value, it shall not be rebuilt, provided that nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent normal maintenance and repairs repainting or posting of such signs or structures. Nothing in this section shall require the taking, elimination, alteration or diminishment of a legally erected outdoor advertising sign without first making the payment of just monetary compensation thereof.
10. Unless otherwise provided in these regulations, all signs shall be constructed and erected in accordance with the building code for the City of Paragould, Arkansas.
11. Billboards are prohibited in all zoning districts.

SECTION IV

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION V

In order to propose property zoning laws regarding said construction and to provide for the safety and welfare in order of the citizens of Paragould and emergency is hereby declared and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2006

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk