

HIGHLIGHTS OF SIGN ORDINANCE REVISIONS

Following the public meeting, on September 15, staff amended the draft sign ordinance to include several recommendations received by the public and also incorporated several recommendations made by the Planning Commission during August's meeting. The revisions include the following:

- Provided for the allowance of other types of temporary signage including: A-frame boards and corrugated signs; and developed additional design standards for each (pg. 31)
- Increased the number of temporary signs permitted for multi-tenant developments (allows attached temporary banner signs and a new option to allow a temporary sign at the street); (pg. 32)
- Improved the language that describes the time limits for the advertising display period for Temporary Signs (pg. 30)
- Added a provision for Temporary Yard Sale and Garage Sale Signs (pg 18)
- Added a provision for Temporary display of Employment Opportunities (For hire, hiring a cook for full-time position) (pg 18)
- Increased the number of outdoor menu boards for restaurants to two (2) menu boards (pg. 17)
- Modified the definition for Monument sign to make it more clear and easier to determine sign base requirements ((pg. 5)

Following the September 24, 2013, Planning Commission meeting staff added several additional provisions to the Draft Sign Ordinance based on feedback from the Commission and comments received from several businesses, including:

- Providing a provision for Temporary Seasonal Outdoor Sales (Christmas Tree and Pumpkin Sales, Produce Sales, Garden Sales) (pg.32)
- Civic and Public Awareness Events (Paint the Town Teal, Cancer Awareness) (pg. 15)
- Permits Schools, Churches and other Institutional uses C-2 Sign allowances when the property is located on a major thoroughfare (pg. 34)

On October 17, 2013, City Council directed staff to provide additional options regarding Abandoned Signs, the use of A-frame signs, and fees required for Temporary Sign permits. On November 7, 2013, the Building Codes Committee reviewed several additional revisions to the proposed Sign Ordinance including:

- The creation of a new section that allows A-frame signs as an Incidental sign (Section 6:11.12-B.,(1). (pg. 29)

- Increased the length of time that a sign can be left unused (without advertisement) before considering it abandoned, amended from 60 days to 180 days (Section 6:11.5) (pg 6 & 13)
- Amended the Temporary Advertising Sign allowance to allow for a one-time annual sign permit fee of \$15.00 (Section 6: 11.12-B.(1).) (pg. 32)

At the November 7, 2013, meeting the Committee also requested that staff include the current enforcement procedures and also provide a graduated penalty structure for sign violations in the final draft that Council will consider for second and final reading on November 18, 2013. In addition, staff was also asked to clarify non-conforming signs as grandfathered signs. Subsequently, the code was amended to include:

- Notices of Violation and Citation Procedures: Created a new section As 6:11.20, Notices of Violation and Citation Procedures, that outlines the procedures that code enforcement staff currently follow for sign violations (pg. 40):

A written warning noting the time allowed to rectify the violation, if the violation has not been corrected within the given time frame, a formal written citation will be served with a penalty fee and a date to appear in Mauldin Municipal Court.

- Staff has also included in the procedure a provision for requesting up to a 30-day extension when additional time is needed to cure the violation. (pg 40)
- A new graduated penalty fee structure was also provided for sign violations. The new structure breaks violations into two categories (Temporary Signs, and Permanent Signs) and also provides a tiered penalty fee to address repeat offenses (pg 41)
- Included the word “Grandfathered” in the Non-conforming signs section and the definition to make clear that non-conforming are considered grandfathered and can continue to be maintained and used within the parameters defined in Section 6-11.17) (pg. 39)