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## Sec. 58-6. General provisions.

- (a) *Permit required.* A permit shall be required for the erection, alteration or reconstruction of any sign unless otherwise noted and shall be issued by the department after approval by the director in accordance with the regulations contained in this chapter. This requirement includes, but is not limited to, conversion of a sign to tri-vision, LED, or similar technology, among other work.
- (b) *Design and materials.*
  - (1) All signs shall be designed and constructed in accordance with applicable provisions of the rules and regulations of the department.
  - (2) Unless provided otherwise, all freestanding signs in nonresidential zoning districts shall be monument signs.
  - (3) a. The base and structure of monument permitted signs located in the quality development corridor (QDC) overlay zoning district shall be composed of brick, stone, masonry-backed stucco, wood or other category A materials as detailed in subsection 246.1.5(1)(a) of the zoning and development ordinance. A combination of two or more materials is allowed.
    - b. The base and structure for permitted signs located outside the quality development corridor (QDC) overlay zoning district shall be composed of brick, stone, masonry-backed stucco, wood or other category A materials as detailed as acceptable in subsection 246.1.5(1)(a) of the zoning and development ordinance. A combination of two or more materials is allowed. In addition, aluminum sheeting shall be a permitted material meeting the following specifications;
      - (i) The thickness of aluminum shall be a minimum of 0.040 gauge thickness.
      - (ii) The base shall be a minimum of a four-sided construction (front, rear, right and left sides). A top shall be required only if needed to screen any mechanical or structural components on the interior of the sign.
      - (iii) The base shall be neither weight bearing nor support structure, but only serving as a mechanism to conceal the erection poles, thus completing the monolithic monument requirement.
      - (iv) The base shall be finished to give the appearance of masonry, textured finish or may be painted in a similar fashion.
- (c) *Maintenance.*
  - (1) The area on private property around the sign on which it is erected shall be properly maintained clear of brush, trees, and other obstacles so as to make signs readily visible;
  - (2) All burned out bulbs or damaged panels must be replaced;
  - (3) All sign copy shall be maintained securely to the face and all missing copy must be replaced;
  - (4) All signs shall be maintained in good structural condition at all times so that the public and traffic safety are not compromised; and
  - (5) All signs shall present a neat and orderly appearance, without rust or holes on or in the sign or sign structure, or broken, missing, loose or bent parts, faded, or flaking paint, nonoperative or particularly nonoperative illuminating or mechanical devices or missing letters in sign copy.
  - (6) It shall be the responsibility of the sign owner to maintain and ensure compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

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- (d) *Measurement of maximum height of signs.* The height of all signs shall be measured from the grade at the right-of-way boundary line or the grade of the sign site if such grade is higher than the grade at the boundary line of the street right-of-way to the uppermost part of the sign face, base or structure. If the sign is located below the grade at the boundary line of the street right-of-way, sign height shall be measured from the edge of the right-of-way to the uppermost part of the sign face, base or structure.
- (e) *Computation of sign area.*
- (1) The area of the sign shall be computed from the algebraic sum of the actual sign configuration, be it square, rectangle, circle, oval or other polygon shape. The area shall be measured from the outer dimensions of the frame, trim or molding by which the sign is enclosed, where they exist, or from the outer edge of the signboard where they do not exist.
  - (2) When a sign consists of individual letters, symbols or characters, its area shall be computed as the area of the smallest rectangle which encloses all the letters, symbols and characters.
- (f) *Minimum sign setbacks.* Except as otherwise specifically provided, for any freestanding signs, the minimum front setback shall be 15 feet from the edge of the pavement or outside of the right-of-way, whichever is greater, and ten feet from the side and rear lot lines. However, in no case will a sign be allowed to obscure vision at a street or driveway intersection, or railway crossing.
- (g) *Illumination.*
- (1) *Nonresidential districts.* No sign shall be illuminated by lights that flash, move, change in intensity, or turn on intermittently more than once per day, except as provided herein. To prevent glare visible from a public street or adjoining property, the beam of any light shall be directed so as not to be visible beyond the sign at which it is directed, and the light source shall not be visible from any point on an adjacent property or the public right-of-way. Light from any illuminated sign shall not be of an intensity or brightness which will interfere with the peace, comfort, convenience, and general welfare of residents or occupants of adjacent properties or vehicular traffic on adjacent roadways.
  - (2) *Residential districts.* Signs located in residential districts shall not be illuminated other than signs at the entrance of the subdivision.
- (i) *Sign message.* In any zoning district, any sign, display, or devise allowed under this chapter may contain any lawful noncommercial or commercial message except as expressly provided herein. No provision of this chapter shall be construed to allow regulation of signs based on the content of the sign message.

(Ord. No. 038-07, 11-15-07; Ord. No. 004-13, § 2, 2-19-13; Ord. No. 020-19, 4-23-19)