

CHAPTER 17.5

SIGNS

ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL

17.5-1 Statement of purpose.

The purpose of this guideline shall be to delineate the type, placement, and physical dimensions of signs allowed within the city; to enhance the economy of the city; to promote the aesthetic values of the City of Greenwood by elimination of visual blight; to preserve the quality of life in the community; to promote both renovation and proper maintenance of signs; and to guarantee equal treatment through accurate record keeping and consistent enforcement.

17.5-2 Definitions.

1. *Abandoned sign.*
 - a. Any sign that advertises for business that is no longer conducted on the premises; or
 - b. Any sign that does not display a well maintained message for a consecutive 90-day period; or
 - c. Any sign the owner of which cannot be located at Owner's last address as reflected on the records of the County Tax Assessor; or
 - d. Any sign no longer fully supported by the structure designed to support the sign for a consecutive 90-day period.
2. *Development sign.* Any sign advertising future use or development of property.
3. *Political sign.* Any temporary sign announcing or supporting political candidates or issues in conjunction with any national, state or local election.
4. *Portable sign.* Any sign or advertising display constructed on a frame or trailer with wheels which may or may not be detached, including but not limited to portable reader boards.
5. *Real estate sign.* Any sign pertaining to the sale or lease of the premises, or a portion of the premises, on which the sign is located.
6. *Sign.* Any device, structure, fixture, or placard using graphics, symbols, and/or written copy designed specifically for the purpose of advertising or identifying any establishment, product, good or service, activity, place, person, institution, or business.

7. *Sign area.* The total area of the space to be used for advertising purposes, including the spaces between open-type letters and figures, including the background structure, or other decoration or addition which is an integral part of the sign. Sign supports shall be excluded in determining the area of a sign. A double faced sign shall be allowed the total area of a single faced sign on each face.
8. *Temporary business sign.* Any sign or advertising display larger than one (1) square foot in sign area, constructed of cardboard, cloth, canvas, fabric, plastic, plywood or other light material, used for the temporary promotion of a business, service, product, or special business event, and designed or intended to be visible outdoors and displayed for a short period of time, not including window signs.
9. *Window sign.* Any sign that is applied or attached to the exterior or interior of a window or located in such a manner within a building that it can be seen from the exterior of the structure through a window.

17.5-3 Prohibited signs.

The following types of signs are prohibited under this article:

1. Portable signs.

17.5-4 Special provisions.

1. Development signs shall be limited to no more than one per street frontage and each sign shall be no larger than thirty-two (32) square feet in sign area. All information about contractors, financial institutions, architects, developers, etc. shall be displayed on the sign. No other signs shall be allowed during construction except real estate signs. Development signs shall be allowed to be erected without a permit.
2. Real estate signs shall be limited to no more than one per street frontage. In agricultural, commercial, and industrial districts, the sign area of one face shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet. In no case shall the total sign area of all signs on the property exceed forty (40) square feet. In residential districts, the sign area of one face shall not exceed eight (8) square feet. In no case shall the total sign area of all signs on the residential property exceed sixteen (16) square feet. Signs shall be located at least one (1) foot from the right-of-way. Real estate signs shall be allowed to be erected without a permit.
3. Temporary business signs shall be limited to no more than two per business and each sign shall be no larger than twenty-five (25) square feet in sign area. They shall be properly secured to the wall of the business and shall be maintained in a

neat and orderly manner. Temporary business signs shall be allowed to be erected without a permit.

4. Window signs shall be maintained in a neat and orderly manner and shall be allowed to be erected without a permit.
5. Upon receipt of a sign permit for the construction or alteration of a new or existing business sign, a property owner may place one (1) portable sign on his or her property for up to fourteen (14) days from the date of the sign permit issuance.
6. No political sign may be placed on any public right-of-way or on public property. Political signs shall be allowed to be erected without a permit.
7. Public signs and flags, including all city, state, and federal signs, the official flag of the United States of America, the official flag of the State of Mississippi, and flags representing other governmental or civic entities, events and/or causes are not considered a sign under these regulations.
8. Signs erected by an authorized public agency for the purposes of directing traffic or providing information are not affected by these regulations.

17.5-5 Abandoned signs.

1. A sign shall be removed by the owner or lessee of the premises upon which the sign is located when the business which it advertises is no longer conducted on the premises; or the sign does not display a well maintained message for a consecutive 90-day period; or the owner of the sign cannot be located at the Owner's last address as reflected on the records of the Leflore County Tax Assessor; or the sign is no longer fully supported by the structure designed to support the sign, for a consecutive 90-day period.
2. If the owner or lessee fails to remove it, the code enforcement officer shall give the owner thirty (30) days written notice to remove it. Upon failure to comply with this notice, the code enforcement officer or their duly authorized representative may remove the sign at cost to the owner.
3. Where a successor to a defunct business agrees to maintain the sign or signs as provided in this Article, this removal requirement shall not apply.

17.5-6 Permits.

- A. *Sign permit.*

1. Before commencing the construction, alteration, erection, addition to, or moving of any sign or part thereof located within a non-residential zone, except the signs exempted by this guideline, a sign permit shall be obtained from the city inspection division, as outlined in Section 5-13 of this Code.
2. Whenever applicable, sign permit applications for any sign encroaching the air space of city property, public right(s)-of-way or easement(s) shall be accompanied by a properly executed encroachment agreement that has been executed by the owner and the city.

B. Sign permit applications.

1. The city inspection division officer shall not issue a sign permit unless the plans, specifications, and intended use of such sign conforms in all respects to the applicable provisions of this guideline.
2. When requested by the city inspection division officer, applications for sign permits shall include a drawing to scale of the proposed sign and all existing signs maintained on the premises and visible from the right-of-way, a drawing of the lot plan or building facade indicating the proposed location of the sign, and specifications for its construction, lighting, motion and wiring, if any. The application for a sign permit shall be accompanied by other such information as the city inspection division may require to enable the office to act upon such application.
3. The city inspection division shall issue a permit for the erection, alteration, or relocation of a sign within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of a valid application, provided that the sign complies with all applicable laws and regulations of the city. In all applications, where a matter of interpretation arises, the more specific definition or higher standard shall prevail.
4. When a permit is denied by the city inspection division, a written notice shall be given to the applicant along with a statement of the reason(s) for denial. The officer may suspend or revoke an issued permit for any false statement or misrepresentation of fact in the application.

17.5-7 Administration and penalties.

1. The city code enforcement officer is directed to administer and enforce all of the provisions of this Article.
2. Any person aggrieved by any interpretation or order of the code enforcement officer may appeal to the planning commission. The code enforcement officer shall take no further action on the matter pending the planning commission's

decision, except for unsafe signs which present an immediate and serious danger to the public as provided in this Article.

3. Where work for which a sign permit is required is started or proceeded with prior to obtaining said permit, the fees set out in Section 5-13 of this Code shall be doubled, but the payment of such double fee shall not relieve any persons from fully complying with the requirements of this Code in the execution of the work nor from any other penalties prescribed herein.
4. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500.00), or imprisonment for a term not exceeding ninety (90) days, and the cost of prosecution, or by both fine and imprisonment by the municipal judge. Each day's continuance of a violation shall be considered a separate offense and punishable as such.

17.5-8 Inspection, removal, and safety.

1. All signs may be inspected periodically by the code enforcement officer for compliance with this Article.
2. All signs and components thereof shall be kept in good repair and in safe, neat, clean, and attractive condition.
3. The code enforcement officer shall give written notice for the removal of any sign erected or maintained in violation of this Article. Upon failure to comply with this notice, the code enforcement officer shall take legal action to enforce compliance with this ordinance. The code enforcement officer may remove a sign immediately and without notice if the sign presents an immediate threat to the safety of the public. Any sign removal shall be at the expense of the property owner.

17.5-9—20 Reserved