

ARTICLE IX SIGN REGULATIONS

The regulations herein set forth shall apply and govern in all zoning districts. No sign shall be erected or maintained unless it is in compliance with the regulations of this Article, except a nonconforming sign, which shall comply with the provisions set forth in Article V.

900. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The following regulations shall apply to all permitted signs in the Town of Summerton.

900.1 PERMITTING

A zoning permit shall be required for the erection, alteration, or construction of any sign unless otherwise noted, and shall be issued by the Zoning Administrator in accordance with Article X of this Ordinance.

A. All applications for permit shall be accompanied by plans in duplicate drawn to scale showing all dimensions, shape, location, and lighting of the proposed sign.

B. Signs must be constructed of durable materials, maintained in good condition, and not permitted to become dilapidated.

C. Once issued a permit shall not be transferred or assigned to another individual or entity without complying with all provisions of the Ordinance.

900.2 SIGNS NOT REQUIRING PERMIT

A permit is not required for the following types of signs.

A. Traffic, directional, warning or informational signs authorized by any public agency.

B. Official notices issued by any court, public agency or officer.

C. One (1) non-illuminated "for sale," "for rent," or "for lease" sign not exceeding six (6) square feet in area in residential areas or twenty (20) square feet in other areas. The setbacks from the edge of the right-of-way will be six (6) and ten (10) feet respectively.

D. Sandwich boards advertising Town or civic events at the intersection of US Highway 301 and 15, the intersection of Dukes Street and Main Street and the intersection of Church Street and Buff Boulevard.

E. One (1) sign for a home occupation, provided it is not illuminated, not larger than one (1) square foot, and mounted against a wall of the principal building.

F. Church or public building bulletin boards and identification signs. There shall be a limit of one (1) such sign, which shall not exceed twenty-five (25) square feet in area and shall be setback at least six

(6) feet from the edge of the right-of-way. Existing church and public building signs shall not be affected by these requirements.

G. Directional signs not exceeding six (6) square feet in area referring to organizations or facilities which are non-profit in character and not erected for a period longer than ten (10) days.

H. Signs identifying by name only residential subdivisions, unified housing developments, or mobile home parks not exceeding forty (40) square feet in area.

I. One (1) non-illuminated sign, not exceeding forty (40) square feet in area, displaying the name of the building, contractors, architects, engineers, owners financial, and/or selling or developmental agencies upon the premises of any work under construction, alteration, or removal. Such a temporary sign shall be removed prior to issuance of the final Certificate of Occupancy and shall not be erected prior to the issuance of a building permit.

900.3

SIGN MAINTENANCE

The following regulations shall be met for the life of the sign in the Town of Summerton. Failure to adhere to these standards shall result in the assessment of a fine to the owner of such sign.

A. The sign shall maintain its structural integrity so as not to pose a threat to the surrounding persons, structures or property.

B. The sign shall not persist for more than thirty (30) days with cosmetic damage exceeding five percent (5%) of the sign's surface areas or one (1) square foot of surface area, whichever is less.

C. Lighting of signage in compliance with this Ordinance shall be maintained such that bulbs, valances, ballasts, etc. shall be replaced if broken.

D. Non-conforming signage on a lot with or advertising for any non-conforming use left vacant for a period of one year or more shall be removed.

900.4

No existing sign, or portion thereof, shall be moved to a different location, erected re-erected, replaced, or repaired in excess of twenty-five percent (25%) of its original size without complying with all provisions of this article.

901.

PROHIBITED SIGNS

The following signs are prohibited in the Town of Summerton.

901.1

SIGNS IMITATING TRAFFIC, EMERGENCY, OR WARNING SIGNALS

No sign shall display intermittent lights resembling the flashing lights customarily used in traffic signals or in police, fire, ambulance, or rescue vehicles, nor shall any sign use the words "stop", "danger", or any other word, phrase, symbol, or character in a manner that might mislead or confuse an automobile or other vehicle driver.

901.2 **SIGNS EMPLOYING CONFUSING, DISTRACTING, OR INTENSE ILLUMINATION**

No sign shall be permitted which utilizes intense flashing (strobe type) lights, flashing or blinking lights, any type of pulsating or moving light which may impair the vision, distract or unduly divert the attention of drivers of vehicles. The use of chaser lights utilizing individual light bulb rates of 15 watts or less, or the use of neon tubing having pulsating or flashing characteristics is permitted, provided that the lighted portion of the sign is not less than ten (10) feet above the finished ground level and not less than twenty-five (25) feet from any property lines, measured at ground level nearest the lighted portion of a sign.

901.3 **CERTAIN ATTACHED AND PAINTED SIGNS**

Signs painted on or attached to trees, fence posts, and telephone or other utility poles, or signs painted on or attached to rocks or other natural features or painted on the roofs or fences of buildings are prohibited.

901.4 **FLUTTERING DEVICES**

Fluttering devices such as ribbons, banners, balloons, and similar devices are prohibited except once a year for a period not to exceed seven (7) days. Exempt are up to three (3) flags- government, school, college, religious, cultural, heritage, and corporate flags- no larger than four (4) feet by six (6) feet in size.

901.5 **OTHER PROHIBITED SIGNS**

All inflatable and portable signs are prohibited, except in the case of portable sandwich boards that are not lighted.

902. **REGULATIONS APPLYING TO SPECIFIC TYPES OF SIGNS**

The following regulations apply to the following specified types of signs:

902.1 **ROOF SIGNS**

Not more than one (1) roof sign structure may be erected on the roof of any one (1) building. No roof sign shall extend more than ten (10) feet from the elevation of the roof.

902.2 **WALL SIGNS**

Signs on the walls of a building (including signs attached flat against the wall, painted wall signs and projecting signs) shall meet the following requirements.

- A. **Signs on the Front Surface of a Building.** The total area of signs on the exterior front surface of a building shall not exceed twenty (20) percent of the front surface of the building, so long as the

figure does not exceed the total amount of sign area permitted within the zoning district where the sign(s) are to be located.

- B. **Signs on the Side and Rear Surface of a Building.** The total area of signs on a side or rear surface of a building shall not exceed ten (10) percent of the exterior side or rear surface of the building respectively, so long as this figure does not exceed the total amount of sign area permitted within the zoning district where the sign or signs are to be located.
- C. **Projecting Signs.** Wall signs attached flat against a wall may extend not more than twenty-four (24) inches from the wall. . A projecting sign shall not extend above the roofline a distance greater than the height of the roof above the ground level. In no case shall signs project beyond property lines except that signs may project over public sidewalks in CC Districts, provided that the minimum height above grade or sidewalk level of such signs shall be no less than ten (10) feet.

902.3 SIGNS ON WORK UNDER CONSTRUCTION

One (1) nonilluminated sign, not exceeding one hundred (100) square feet in area displaying the name of the building, the contractors, the architects, the engineers, the owners, the financial, selling and development agencies is permitted upon the premises of any work under construction, alteration, or removal. Such sign shall be removed from the site within thirty (30) days after the completion of the project.

902.4 TEMPORARY SUBDIVISION SIGNS

Temporary signs, not exceeding fifty (50) square feet in area announcing a land subdivision development, are permitted on the premises of the land subdivision. They shall be set back not less than ten (10) feet from the right-of-way of any street or from any boundary line of the land subdivision. Such signs shall be spaced not less than three hundred (300) feet apart. They shall be removed when seventy-five (75) percent of the lots are conveyed.

902.5 PRIVATE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Signs indicating the location and direction of premises available for or in the process of development, but not erected upon such premises, and having inscribed thereon the names of the owner, developer, builder, or agent may be erected and maintained, provided:

- A. The size of any such sign is not in excess of six (6) square feet, and not in excess of four (4) feet in length, and
- B. Not more than one (1) such sign is erected in each of five hundred (500) feet of street frontage.

- C. Private directional signs can only be placed on private property with the permission of the property owner.

902.6 **SHOPPING CENTER SIGNS**

A. For individual stores or business establishments within a shopping center or unified business development, the total sign area on the exterior front surface shall not exceed twenty (20) percent of the front surface of the store or business. Signs on the side or rear of the store or business shall not exceed ten (10) percent of the surface of the wall.

B. In addition to signs permitted for individual stores or business establishments within a shopping center or unified business development, one (1) entrance sign bearing the name of the unified business development or shopping center shall be permitted. The sign shall contain only the name of the shopping center or unified business development, except that signs not exceeding fifteen (15) square feet each are permitted for individual businesses as part of the mains sign. The total area of this entrance/directory sign shall not exceed two hundred (200) square feet. No individual businesses shall have a free-standing sign.

902.7 **FREE-STANDING SIGNS**

Two (2) square feet of sign area for each linear foot of building front, side, or rear abutting a publicly maintained street or highway and occupied by a commercial or industrial use shall be permitted on the premises on which such use is conducted, subject to a maximum of one hundred fifty (150) square feet of sign area on any such premises. The permitted sign area shall be divided among no more than three (3) signs, and no single sign area shall contain more than one hundred (100) square feet. The sign shall be set back six (6) feet from the right-of way. The sign area of all signs on the premises shall be charged against the maximum free-standing area allowed on the premises, except for the following types of signs:

- A. Wall signs;
- B. Menu reader boards for drive-in or drive through restaurant services provided they are or oriented toward the street;
- C. Signs attached directly to petroleum product pumps at service stations provided each such sign is no larger than one (1) square feet and contains nor letter, number, or logo larger than three (3) inches; and
- D. Private on-site directional signs such as “entrance,” “exit” or “drive-through” provided they contain no business name or logo.

902.8 **POLITICAL AND CAMPAIGN SIGNS**

Political and Campaign signs are permitted to be placed within the Town of Summerton no more than sixty (60) days before an election. These signs may not be placed in the public right- of-way or on public property

and may only be placed on property after permission is granted from the property owner. Political signs placed on a lot zoned commercial or industrial may not exceed sixteen (16) square feet. Political signs placed on a lot zoned residential or development district may not exceed six (6) square feet.

903. SIGN ILLUMINATION

Illumination devices shall be so placed and so shielded that rays therefrom, or from the sign itself, will not be directly cast into any residential district, sleeping room in any district, or in the eyes of an automobile or other vehicle driver.

904. HEIGHT LIMITATIONS

No signs, unless otherwise provided, shall exceed the height limit of the district in which they are located.

905. SIGNS PERMITTED IN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS (R-5, R-10, R-15, GR, RMF, AND DD)

905.1 PERMITTED SIGNS AND CONDITIONS

The following types of signs are permitted in Residential Districts:

- A. Signs for which permits are not required.
- B. For multiple-family dwellings, hotels, group dwellings, and for buildings other than dwellings, a single nonilluminated business identification sign or bulletin board not exceeding twenty-five (25) square feet in area. Such sign or bulletin board shall be set back not less than ten (10) feet from any street right-of-way line.
- C. Temporary subdivision signs and private directional signs under the provisions of Subsections 802.4 and 802.5
- D. Illuminated and nonilluminated signs, not to exceed a combined total sign area of one hundred fifty (150) square feet, provided that the signs are located within the clearly defined boundaries of a mobile home park within any GR District.

906. SIGNS PERMITTED IN COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DISTRICTS

906.1 PERMITTED SIGNS AND CONDITIONS

The following types of signs are permitted in NC, GC, OC, IC and LI Districts:

- A. All signs permitted in residential districts are permitted in commercial and industrial districts.
- B. On any occupied zoning lot in a commercial or industrial district, not more than four (4) signs of any type having a total area of not more than six hundred (600) square feet of sign area shall be permitted

except that the Board of Adjustment may permit additional sign area not to exceed seven hundred fifty (750) square feet per commercial or industrial enterprise.

- C. Commercial or industrial uses located on major streets in commercial or industrial districts may include as part of their total permitted sign area one (1) business identification pylon sign which shall be erected so that no portion of the sign shall be less than ten (10) feet back from the street right-of-way line.
- D. Roof signs or wall signs shall, in no case, exceed the requirements of Section 902.1
- E. On any zoning lot in a commercial or industrial district on which no business enterprise is located, one (1) free-standing sign structure having a combined total sign area not exceeding six hundred (600) square feet is permitted. Additional sign structures, each of which does not exceed six hundred (600) square feet in combined total sign area, are permitted, providing they are spaced not closer than three hundred fifty (350) linear feet from any other sign structure on the same side of the street.
- F. Signs in any commercial or industrial district may be illuminated.

907 **Interstate Highway Attraction Signs**

907.1 **Definition:** The following regulations apply to “interstate highway attraction signs, which are free-standing, off-premise signs permitted only in the Interstate Commercial Zoning District. Any existing free-standing sign in the IC zoning district that does not conform to the regulations set forth in Section 902 of this ordinance shall be classified as an interstate highway attraction sign.

907.2 **Standards:** The following standards apply to all interstate highway attraction signs.

- A. Limit: One (1) sign per commercial establishment.
- B. Interstate highway attraction signs shall not be exempt from the calculation of total sign area allowed on a lot, except in the case of a two-sided sign, in which case only one side of the sign will count towards that total sign area calculation.
- C. Interstate highway attraction signs shall achieve the required setbacks of the IC zoning district.
- D. No illuminated interstate highway attraction sign shall be erected within four hundred feet (400) of a residence outside of the IC zone or within two hundred (200) feet of a residential zone.
- E. Interstate highway attraction signs shall be separated by two hundred (200) feet on center, minimum, measured from the base or support of the sign. (In the event that the sign has two or more

supports, the center shall be defined as the mid-point between the supports).

- G. Interstate highway attraction signs shall not rise more than seventy-five (75) feet above existing grade.
- H. The applicant applying for a permit for an interstate highway attraction sign shall show evidence of certification by a professional structural engineer that the sign will be structurally sound, will withstand winds of the Summerton wind zone, and will meet all other applicable building code requirements.