

ARTICLE VIII - SIGNS

SECTION 801 - SCOPE OF REGULATIONS

The regulations herein set forth shall apply and govern in all districts. No sign shall be erected or maintained unless it is in compliance with the regulations of this Ordinance and Article and those of relevant State and Federal authorities.

SECTION 802 - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

802.1 - BUILDING PERMIT - A building permit shall be required for the placement erection, alteration or reconstruction of any sign as defined and required in this Ordinance.

802.2 - MATERIALS - Signs must be constructed of durable materials maintained in good condition and either moved or replaced when their condition deteriorates to the point that they have a blighting effect on the surrounding area or they constitute a hazard to the safety, health or welfare of the general public.

802.3 - ILLUMINATION - Illumination devices shall be so placed and shielded that the direct light rays therefrom (or from the sign itself) shall not be cast into the eyes of any passing motorist.

802.4 - ROOF SIGNS - Where signs are permitted on roofs, no such sign shall extend more than twenty-five (25) feet above the roof.

802.5 - PROJECTING SIGNS - Projecting signs shall not be located closer than two (2) feet to a vertical plane parallel to the outer edge of the street curb line and not extending into any state or federal highway right-of-way.

802.6 - All signs subject to conformance with the Georgia Outdoor Advertising Control Act, shall meet federal and state requirements and shall meet any additional requirements necessary to obtain a permit.

802.7 - SIGNS FOR WHICH A PERMIT IS NOT REQUIRED.

(a) Political Signs and posters provided that:

- (1) No such sign exceeds thirty-two (32) square feet in area;
- (2) They are non-animated or non-flashing; and,
- (3) No banner or paper or cloth is used; and,
- (4) No sign or poster is erected more than one hundred twenty (120) days preceding the election to which it relates and all such signs and posters erected are removed within fifteen (15) days following the election to which the sign relates.

(b) Signs advertising the sale or rental of the premises on which they are located, provided they do not exceed six (6) square feet in area.

(c) Traffic, directional, warning or information signs authorized or erected by any public agency.

(d) Official notices issued by any court, public agency or officer.

SECTION 803 - YARD (SETBACK) REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SIGNS

803.1 - All signs shall meet setback requirements for the zoning district in which the signs are located, except that business signs may be set back at least three (3) feet from the front and side property lines. This section shall not apply where additional setback is required.

803.2 - Class 4 and Class 6 signs located on lots/property that adjoins a residential district and/or historic preservation district shall be set back at least 75 feet from a residential property line.

SECTION 804 - PROHIBITED SIGNS

804.1 - FLASHING LIGHTS - No signs shall display intermittent or flashing lights similar to or resembling the color, size, shape or order of any lights used in traffic signals or on emergency vehicles.

804.2 - No sign shall use the words stop, danger, caution, yield or any other similar phrase that might mislead or confuse a passing motorist.

804.3 - No sign shall be placed where it might interfere with the ability of passing motorists to read traffic control signals or devices.

804.4 - Class 8 mobile signs are prohibited in all districts except C-2 where they are allowed for display for a maximum of ninety (90) days and non-display for a minimum of ninety (90) days.

804.5 - No illuminated business or advertising sign where the direct rays from the light source shine directly into a residential, office or medical district shall be erected within three hundred (300) feet of any such district.

804.6 - No sign of any kind shall be erected or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape, window, drive or opening used as a means of ingress and/or egress for fire escape purposes or be so placed as to interfere with any required openings for ventilation.

804.7 - No signs, except traffic signs and signals and informational signs erected by a public agency, are permitted within any street or highway right-of-way.

804.8 - Signs painted or attached to natural features (such as trees or rocks), telephone poles, or fence posts are prohibited.

804.9 - Fluttering ribbons and banners are prohibited.

804.10 - Signs within 300 feet of any officially designated historical site or monument, except signs pertaining to that particular site or monument, are prohibited.

SECTION 805 - SIGN CLASSIFICATION

805.1 - CLASS 1 - Wall signs, single-faced, on the principal building indicating the name and/or address of the occupant, a permitted home occupation or profession, provided they are no larger than one (1) square foot in area. Only one (1) such sign per dwelling unit shall be permitted except on corner lots where one (1) sign shall be permitted for each side of the structure facing a street.

805.2 - CLASS 2 - Free standing and wall signs, single-faced, identifying apartment buildings, hotels, boarding and rooming houses, churches, clubs, lodges, office buildings, nurseries, kindergartens, schools, hospitals, sanitariums, cemeteries or other similar institutional uses, whether of a public, semi-public or private nature, may be erected provided:

- (a) The size of any such sign does not exceed twenty (20) square feet;
- (b) Only one (1) such sign is placed on the premises on any side of the structure fronting on a street;
- (c) Any such sign erected shall be set back at least ten (10) feet from the street right-of-way; and,
- (d) Any illumination comes from an indirect light source.

805.3 - CLASS 3 - Typical “Free-Standing Double Faced” monument signs used for identifying shopping centers and commercial strips provided:

- (a) The primary sign area shall contain no more than 100 square feet of sign area; and,
- (b) Each Occupant Business located within the area shall have no more than 15 square feet index sign affixed to the primary sign described above.

805.4 - CLASS 4 - Wall, Projecting, Roof or free-standing business signs single-faced or double-faced and individual letter business signs. Such business signs shall meet the following standards:

Wall, Projecting, Roof, Free-Standing:

- (1) The maximum sign area required for wall, projecting, roof or free-standing business signs shall equal the larger sign area allowed for any one sign;
- (2) All such business signs are limited to the following:
 - (a) Buildings having a street frontage of 50 feet or less in width shall have no more than 100 square feet in sign area;
 - (b) Buildings having a street frontage of more than 50 feet in width shall have no more than 100 square feet of sign area plus one square foot of sign area for each foot of building width in excess of 50 feet;
 - (c) There is only one such sign for each street front of the zoning lot on which the use is located; and
 - (d) Any gasoline service station may have, in addition to the above, one pylon type sign not exceeding 40 feet in height or 80 square feet in area. In no case shall the sign exceed the height limitations of the district in which it is located.

Individual Letter Signs

- (3) Individual Letter Signs are limited to the following:

- (a) A maximum letter or insignia height of 36 inches; and
- (b) Any illumination comes from a concealed light source.

805.5 - CLASS 5 - Single-faced wall advertising sign, provided:

- (a) A side wall of a building having unobstructed visual access to a street for a distance of less than fifty (50) feet along that street, shall have no more than three hundred (300) square feet of sign area;
- (b) The side wall of a building having unobstructed visual access to a street for a distance of more than fifty (50) feet along that street shall have no more than three hundred (300) square feet of sign area, plus one (1) square foot of sign area for each foot of building width in excess of fifty (50) feet .

805.6 - CLASS 6 - Outdoor Advertising Signs (sometimes referred to as “Billboards”) single, back-to-back, or double-faced (laterally adjoining or two stacked vertically adjoining ground or roof advertising signs, provided:

- (a) An advertising structure designed for placing of one panel per side shall contain not more than three hundred (300) square feet of sign area per side; an advertising structure designed for placing of two panels or one painted bulletin per side shall contain not more than 600 square feet of sign area per side;
- (b) There is no other Class 6 sign within five hundred (500) feet; or if the sign has two laterally adjoining or two stacked (vertically adjoining) panels, there is no other Class 6 sign within one thousand (1,000) feet on the same side of the road. Provided, however that the stacked or vertically adjoining panels shall not exceed two in number.
- (c) All Class 6 signs shall comply with the Georgia Outdoor Advertising Act (O.C.G.A. §32-6-70 et seq.) and all class 6 signs shall comply with regulations pursuant thereto.
- (d) No more than two (2) lateral sign panels (maximum of 300 square feet each) are allowed at one site/sign location facing one direction. However, each sign panel can be backed by another panel facing the other direction.
- (e) Notwithstanding any of the other terms and conditions set forth in the Waycross Zoning Ordinance, Outdoor Advertising Signs as defined herein and as otherwise regulated in the Waycross Zoning Ordinance, as amended, are prohibited within 500 feet of the right of way of Georgia State Route 520 (South Georgia Parkway). Such signs are allowed in C-2 zones along other highway routes.”

805.7 - CLASS 7 - Class 7 wall, projecting or free standing business signs single-faced or double-faced and individual letter business signs, provided:

- (a) A maximum size of one square foot per each front foot of the principal building width shall apply to wall or projecting signs. In addition, the same maximum footage shall apply to free-standing signs separately from the other signs listed below.
- (b) Individual letter signs shall conform to provisions of Section 805.4.3; and
- (c) Only one free-standing sign and only one wall, projecting, or individual letter business sign is used for each street front of the zoning lot on which the use is located.

805.8 - CLASS 8 - Mobile Business Signs, single or double-faced provided that requirements as follow and of Section 804.4 are met:

- (a) Shall have a maximum size of fifteen (15) square feet for each side;
- (b) There is only one (1) sign for each zoning lot on which the sign is located;
- (c) Has no flashing lights and any illumination comes from a concealed light source;
- (d) Shall be set back at least five (5) feet from street right-of-way line;
- (e) All electrical hook-ups shall be approved by City Building Inspector.

805.9 – CLASS 9 – Class 9 Wall, projecting, roof or free-standing business sign single-faced or double-faced, and individual letter business signs shall meet the following standards;

Wall, Projecting, Roof, Free-Standing:

- 1) The maximum sign area required for wall, projecting, roof or free-standing business signs shall equal the larger sign area allowed for any one sign;
- 2) All such business signs are limited to the following:
 - a) Buildings having a street frontage of 50 feet or less in width shall have no more than 100 square feet in sign area;

Individual Letter Signs:

- 3) Individual Letter Signs are limited to the following:
 - a) A maximum letter or insignia height of 36 inches; and
 - b) Any illumination comes from a concealed light source.