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CHAPTER 3. - SIGNS^[2]

Footnotes:

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Editor's note— Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, adopted Aug. 7, 2000, deleted former Ch. 8-3, §§ 8-3-1—8-3-3, 8-3-5—8-3-18, 8-3-20—8-3-24, and enacted a new Ch. 8-3 as set out herein. The provisions of former §§ 8-3-1—8-3-25 derived from §§ 3-21—3-45 of the 1959 Code. For prior history, see Ordinance Disposition Table.

Sec. 8-3-1. - Short title.

This chapter shall hereafter be known and cited as "Signs."

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-2. - Purpose and intent.

The purpose and intent of this chapter is to protect and promote the health, safety, welfare, and aesthetic appeal of the City of Forest Park, Georgia through reasonable regulation of signs, as defined herein, in support of the city's substantial governmental interest in preserving and improving the traffic safety of the city, and lessening the aesthetic degradation of the city. Further, it is not the intent of this chapter to regulate noncommercial signs.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-3. - Definitions.

Where not otherwise defined below, words shall have their common meaning as found in any standard English dictionary.

- (1) *Advertising sign.* Advertising sign means any letter, figure, character, mark, plane, point, design, poster, pictorial, picture, stroke, stripe, line, trademark, reading matter, or illuminated service which shall be so constructed, placed, attached, painted, erected, fastened, or manufactured in any manner whatsoever so that the same shall be used for the attraction of the public to any place, subject, person, firm, corporation, public performance, article, machine, or merchandise whatsoever which is displayed in any manner whatsoever whether outdoors or indoors so as to draw the attention of a passerby and is further designated as the area within a continuous perimeter enclosing the limits of writing, representation, emblem or any figure or similar character, together with any frame or other material or color forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate such sign from the background against which it is placed, excluding the necessary supports or uprights on which such sign is placed; provided, however, that any open space contained within the outer limits of the display face of a sign, or between any component, panel, strip, or figure of any land composing the display face shall be included in the computation of the area of the sign whether such open space be enclosed or not, be it a frame or border. For projecting or double-faced signs, only one (1) display face shall be measured in computing sign area. If the two (2) faces of a double-faced sign are of unequal area, the area of the sign shall be taken as the area of the larger face.
- (2) *Arterial street.* For the purposes of this chapter only, a transportation system that carries most of the trips entering and leaving the urban area, as well as most of the through movements of traffic by-passing the central city and including intra-area travel such as between central business districts and outlying residential areas, between major inner-city communities, and between major suburban areas.
- (3) *Awning.* A roof like cover extending over or before a place as a shelter and which may be used in lieu of a wall or fascia sign bearing advertising or to draw attention for commerce. Such signs must be entirely supported from the building and must not exceed four (4) feet in height.

- (4) *Banner*. A banner is a temporary sign which is made of a piece or strip of cloth, paper, canvas, plastic, or similar material, on which a message, slogan, or emblem is painted, drawn, or otherwise projected, colored or shaped for the purpose of advertising or drawing attention to a product, object, or facility, to include, but not be limited to, such things as trash receptacle covers, tire covers, rack covers, changeable and/or removable paper, cardboard, cloth, canvas, or plastic displays advertising products, services or facilities obtainable or available on the premises.
- (5) *Billboard*. Advertising sign or a sign which advertises a commodity, product, service, activity, or any other person, place, or thing which is not located, found, or sold on the premises upon which such sign is located; usually found along or near major roadways and of such size as to catch the attention of the motoring public and may sometimes be illuminated or animated.
- (6) *Collector street*. For the purposes of this chapter only, a transportation system that provides both land access sendee and traffic circulation within residential neighborhoods and commercial and industrial areas. Such a system differs from an arterial system in that it may penetrate residential neighborhoods, distributing trips from the arterials through an area to the traffic's ultimate destination. These streets also collect traffic in residential neighborhoods and channel the traffic into arterial streets.
- (7) *Construction (project) signs*. A sign located on the property where construction or development is taking place and which usually identifies the contractors, engineers, architects, and financial institutions that are involved in the project.
- (7a) *Director*. For purposes of this chapter only, this term shall refer to the director of planning, building and zoning, or his or her appointed designee.
- (8) *Freestanding sign*. A sign securely affixed to a substantial support structure which is permanently attached to the ground and wholly independent of any building for support, examples include monument or stanchion signs bearing advertising or drawing attention for commerce.
- (9) *Group development area*. An area or parcel of property of sufficient size to allow for the construction or location of more than one (1) business type building or a cluster of businesses to be constructed or located thereon, whether under one (1) roof or several.
- (10) *Reserved*.
- (11) *Reserved*.
- (12) *Illuminated sign*. A sign bearing advertising or drawing attention for commerce designed to give forth artificial light directly or through translucent material from a source of light which such sign or a sign illuminated by an external light directed primarily toward such sign and so shielded that no direct rays from the light are visible elsewhere than on the lot where said illumination occurs.
- (13) *Instructional sign*. A sign used to give direction or specific instruction to the public, such as, but not limited to, "Center," "Exit," "No Parking," "Drive Through," "Rest Room," and so forth. Such signs shall contain only instructional information and shall not be used for the purpose of promoting a business name and/or advertisement. These signs include traffic control devices as defined in O.C.G.A. Title 40.
- (14) *Interstate sign*. A permanent freestanding sign not to exceed one hundred (100) feet in height which advertises a produce or sendee of specific interest to the motoring public and which is not otherwise prohibited by this chapter. Such signs may be erected by any business located on land which it owns or leases, which property contained not less than a fifty-foot frontage contiguous to an interstate highway right-of-way. No interstate sign shall be erected, owned, operated, or leased by any business, whether or not its land lies contiguous to an interstate, that does not own at least one (1) acre of land, one side of which is lying immediately contiguous by no less than fifty (50) feet to the right-of-way of said interstate. Further, no sign shall be permitted to a land owner or lessee where there is insufficient footage between the proposed interstate sign location and that of property owners to either of its sides [See section 8-3-7(b) governing distances between signs].

- (15) *Major shopping center.* A group of five (5) or more contiguous stores which contain a minimum of thirty-five thousand (35,000) square feet of covered floor space and has a minimum of three hundred-linear foot frontage on a major thoroughfare.
- (16) *Minor shopping center.* Five (5) or more continuous stores containing a total square footage less than thirty-five thousand (35,000) square feet of covered floor space, or which has less than three hundred-linear foot frontage on a major thoroughfare.
- (17) *Marketing sign.* A sign which has, as its purpose, to promote, advertise or sell a product or service obtainable on the premises where the sign is located, and not to identify the premises.
- (18) *Mobile signs.* A sign which is attached to, mounted on, pasted on, painted or drawn on any vehicle, whether motorized or drawn, which is placed, parked, or maintained at one particular location for the express purpose and intent of promotion, or conveying an advertising message.
- (19) *Monument sign.* A freestanding sign conveying a commercial message and/or advertising mounted directly upon the ground. Such sign may not be attached to or be a part of or supported by the building in or to which the sign applies. Such ground mounted monument signs must be in conformance with size and height restrictions imposed elsewhere in this chapter.
- (20) *Off premise real estate directional signs a/k/a real estate corner marker signs.* A temporary communication device advertising the sale, rent, or lease of property not located where the device is located that directs traffic or person(s) toward the advertised property.
- (21) *Portable display sign.* A temporary mobile electrical or non-electrical sign that is mounted on a trailer type frame with wheels, skids, or a portable wood base or metal frame and not permanently attached to the ground.
- (22) *Projecting sign.* An advertising display device which is attached to a building which extends away from the immediate building surface by more than four (4) inches.
- (23) *Real estate sign.* A temporary sign advertising the sale, rent, or lease of the property on which it is located.
- (24) *Roof sign.* A sign conveying a commercial message and/or advertising erected upon and above a roof structure and wholly supported by the roof structure or a structure placed upon the roof. Roof signs shall also constitute any signage placed upon sloped building fascia intended to appear as or actually be roof elements of the building.
- (25) *Rotating sign.* A sign conveying a commercial message and/or advertising set in a permanent location which utilizes electronic, mechanical and/or other motorized means to move any part of the sign.
- (26) *Sign.* For the purposes of this chapter a device used for communication of commercial messages.
- (27) *Signature or logo identifier (SLI).* A freestanding sign mounted directly upon the ground which presents to the general public a special type of identifier of an area of ten (10) acres or more that is a multi-business location for hotel(s), office(s), and/or rental shops generally found in such a complex. Such identifiers may not exceed height limitations of twenty-two (22) feet imposed upon other freestanding signs. Size limitations are specifications, and other regulations are further described in this chapter.
- (28) *Special sign.* An advertising display device used for temporary communications for events of a limited duration such as grand openings and uncommon promotions.
- (29) *Spectacular sign.* An advertised display sign advertising copy that is usually animated, constructed or metal or other materials, wired for lights or luminous tubing, or both, with copy action controlled by flashed circuit breakers, matographs, computers or other electrical, electronic, or mechanical means, and attached to or a part of a structure built especially for the purpose.

- (30) *Stanchion sign.* A freestanding sign mounted on one (1) or more poles set in the ground and of sufficient strength and size to support the advertisement portion of such structure which rests upon or is supported by such poles. Such freestanding signs must be in conformance with size and height restrictions imposed elsewhere in this chapter.
- (31) *Wall or fascia sign.* A sign conveying a commercial message and/or advertising fastened, placed, or painted upon or parallel to the exterior wall of the structure itself, whether front, rear, or side of the structure and which shall not exceed dimension and lighting restrictions imposed elsewhere in this chapter.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, § 1, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-4. - Reserved.

Sec. 8-3-5. - Prohibited signs.

Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, the following types of signs are prohibited:

- (1) Roof signs are prohibited, except where no other space is available for mounting of wall or fascia signs on a property. Roof signs may be permitted on the mansard facing of mansard style roofs.
- (2) Portable display signs, including corner notices and corner real estate signs except as otherwise provided herein.
- (3) Billboard signs.
- (4) Banner signs.
- (5) Spectacular signs.
- (6) Rotating or moving signs.
- (7) Mobile signs.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-6. - General requirements for all signs.

All signs shall comply with the following provisions:

- (1) *Roof signs.* Roof signs are prohibited except as hereinafter qualified:
 - a. A roof sign consists of any sign (other than a fascia sign as defined in subsection (6) hereof) which extends higher than the highest interior flat ceiling of the building upon which said sign is attached.
 - b. No roof sign shall be permitted to extend higher than the roof line of the building to which it is attached.
 - c. No roof sign shall be permitted to extend laterally beyond the limit of the roof to which it is attached.
 - d. Any roof sign must be firmly attached to the roof's surface, and cannot be constructed in such a way as to require braces or other visible supporting material. A roof sign may be boxed so long as all boxing is firmly attached to the roof.
 - e. No roof sign shall exceed ninety (90) square feet in overall area. Maximum sign letter height is three (3) feet.

Upon application for a permit for a roof sign meeting all of the qualifications hereinabove set forth, the director is authorized to issue a permit for a roof sign as hereinabove defined.

- f. A roof sign that qualifies as a special sign and for which a permit has been obtained pursuant to section 8-3-7(d)(2) is permissible.

- (2) *Wall or fascia signs.* Wall or fascia signs shall be securely fastened to the building surface. Such signs may not project above the parapet wall. Such signs shall not exceed ninety (90) square feet in overall area on buildings up to ten thousand (10,000) square feet. Buildings ten thousand (10,000) square feet and over may have one hundred sixty (160) square feet in over all area, and shall not project beyond the building face by more than two (2) feet. Maximum sign letter height is three (3) feet. Projecting signs shall be mounted a minimum of eight (8) feet from grade level above pedestrian areas, and fifteen (15) feet above vehicular areas. A permit for the direct painting of murals, or any other hand-painting, etching, or drawing, must be obtained by application to, and approval by, the architectural design review board (section 8-8-88, et seq.). No mural sign may display any lettering or graphics. To the extent that the City Code section 8-8-88 requires any amendment to provide for the review of mural signs by the architectural design review board, such ordinance is hereby expressly amended.
- (3) *Freestanding signs.* Freestanding signs can be either monument type (ground level signs not exceeding six (6) feet in height) or stanchion signs (mounted on steel structural supports). Such signs shall be securely affixed to a substantial support structure which is permanently attached to the ground, and wholly independent of building structure support. In the case of monument signs, the primary structural material shall complement the primary building material so as to achieve similarities and consistency of building materials on the site.
- (4) *Height requirements.*
 - a. Stanchion signs erected along major thoroughfares, except those signs classified as interstate signs, shall be erected to a maximum of twenty-two (22) feet.
 - b. Stanchion signs erected along all other interior roads or shopping center districts shall be erected to a maximum of eighteen (18) feet.
 - c. Interstate signs shall not exceed one hundred (100) feet in height.
 - d. Ground mount signs shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.
 - e. All sign heights shall be measured from the grade level of the adjacent street to which the business has access. The level of the ground shall not be altered in such a way to provide additional sign height.
- (5) *Lighting requirements.* No sign shall give off light which glares, blinds, or has any other such adverse effect on traffic. The light from all illuminated signs shall be established in such a way that adjacent properties and roadways are not adversely affected and that no direct light is cast upon adjacent properties and roadways. No illuminated signs shall be constructed or maintained within seventy-five (75) feet of any single-family dwelling. Signs with flashing or animated illumination or effect are prohibited. Transitioning illuminated displays shall maintain a static image for a minimum period of six (6) seconds before changing to another image. No sign shall be erected which simulates an official traffic control or warning sign or hides from view any traffic or street sign, signal, or public service sign. Neon lights are prohibited, except where expressly permitted under the terms of this or any other ordinance enacted by the governing body. Illumination sources shall not be exposed to view.
- (6) *Special requirements.*
 - a. No primary or secondary identification signs may be located within ten feet of the intersection of street right-of-way lines extended or at a location that would cause an obstruction to vision of vehicular traffic, the determination of which would be made by the director of public services.
 - b. Freestanding signs shall be mounted perpendicular to the front street, except that one (1) sign, upon submission and approval of installation, may be used in place of two (2) separate signs on corner lots. No sign shall interfere with road or highway visibility or obstruct or otherwise interfere with the safe and orderly movement of traffic.
 - c. No sign shall be located on any building, fence, or other property belonging to another person without written consent of the owner, and as permitted under the provisions of this section.

- d. No sign shall contain statements, words, or pictures of an obscene, indecent or immoral character such as those that offend public morals.
- e. No sign shall advertise an activity, service, or product prohibited by the laws or regulations of the United States or the State of Georgia or by the ordinances or resolutions of the city.
- f. No sign shall be erected or maintained unless it is structurally safe, clean, and in good repair.
- g. No sign shall emit or utilize in any manner any sound capable of being detected on any road or highway by a person with normal hearing.
- h. No sign, sign structure or advertising device shall be located on utility poles or within the right-of-way of any street, public property, or public roadway.
- i. Marketing signs shall be limited to being part of the secondary identification sign, or as window displays, not to exceed fifty (50) percent of the window area. Window displays must be maintained in good taste with other surroundings and in compliance with the provisions of this code, and be included in the ninety (90) square feet limitations.
- j. All illuminated signs shall have their electrical functions inspected, either at the sign manufacturer's place of business or at the site on which the sign is to be erected, prior to said sign being erected. In the event that the sign is to be inspected on the job site, it must be disassembled to a point in order that the electrical inspection can be performed in order to insure that the work is in accordance with the National Electrical Code. The person desiring to erect such a sign must provide three (3) days' advance notice to the city prior to the date on which they desire said electrical inspection.
- k. Except as otherwise provided herein, no pennants, flags, signs, or other attention getting devices are permitted.
- l. Identification of signs. Every advertising display sign hereafter erected, constructed, or maintained, for which a permit is required shall be plainly marked with the name of the person, firm, or corporation erecting and maintaining such sign and shall have affixed on the front thereof the permit number issued for said sign by the city.
- m. Signs utilizing a neon lighting system shall be permitted, provided they are in compliance with the following rules and regulations:
 - 1. Neon shall be permitted in the construction of signs to include lettering, borders, and framework.
 - 2. No neon signs shall be permitted to flash, blink, or exhibit any type of intermittent or animated illumination or effect except the letters thereon.
 - 3. When used outside of a shopping center, the height of the neon letters shall be no larger than three (3) feet, and in the shopping center area the height of the neon letters shall not exceed four (4) feet.
 - 4. The size regulations which apply to stanchion signs as set forth in section 8-3-4(12)(b) shall apply to neon signs with the exception of a neon sign placed in a major shopping center. In a major shopping center, a maximum advertising space of five hundred (500) square feet may be used in one (1) freestanding sign.
 - 5. All wall and fascia signs shall be limited to an area of ninety (90) square feet, except when used in a major shopping center district, and, in that event, the maximum advertising space shall be four hundred (400) square feet.
 - 6. Neon or other types of illuminated signs are permitted in store fronts as window display-type-marketing signs, provided that the same are in compliance with all other provisions of this Code.
 - 7. Neon or other types of illuminated signs may be used for instructional purposes such as to designate "open," "closed," or other similar information, provided that these signs

shall conform to all other provisions of this Code and shall be included in the calculations concerning total advertising and signs permitted under this Code.

8. All signs using neon shall be constructed and maintained in conformance with the city building and electrical codes.

(7) *Size regulations.*

- a. Interstate signs. Highway signs shall not exceed seven hundred (700) square feet of sign area on each face.
- b. Stanchion signs.
 1. Stanchion signs for parcels exceeding three (3) acres shall not exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet.
 2. Stanchion signs for parcels exceeding thirty thousand square feet but less than three (3) acres, shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet of sign area.
 3. Stanchion signs for parcels less than thirty thousand (30,000) square feet in size shall not exceed seventy-five (75) square feet.
 4. The size of a parcel shall be determined by the extent of the leaseholder's interest in the property on which the sign is to be constructed. Evidence of said lease or other interest in said property must be presented to the city for purposes of determining the size of the parcel on which the sign is to be erected.

(8) *Three-sided stanchion signs.* Three-side stanchion signs are prohibited.

(9) *"New car" dealerships; variances.* Businesses having as their principle operation the sale of non-previously owned motor vehicles shall be governed by all regulations and restrictions of this chapter.

However, if such businesses are able to demonstrate contractual obligations concerning height, square footage, logo, and other matters which they must meet in order to maintain dealership privileges, the mayor and council may, upon appropriate application for variance, allow variance from these requirements. In making this determination, the mayor and council shall consider the health, safety, and welfare of the general public, the intent of these regulations, and also those criteria outlined in the zoning ordinance for consideration of zoning amendments which may be relevant.

(10) *Variance.* The board of zoning appeals shall have the power to consider any application for a variance from the requirements of this title, in addition to the powers and duties set forth in section 8-8-123 where the following conditions are met:

- a. Application. Application shall be submitted to the department of planning and zoning setting forth the reasons for a variance.
- b. Fee. The applicant shall submit at the time of application the same fee as required by section 8-8-125 of this Code.
- c. Authority. To authorize upon application, in specific cases, such variances from the terms of this chapter as will not be contrary to the public interest where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of the provisions of this chapter will, in an individual case, result in practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship, so that the spirit of this chapter shall be observed, public safety and welfare secured, and substantial justice done, the board of zoning appeal may consider an application for variance. The existence of a nonconforming use of neighboring land, buildings, or structures in the same or in other districts shall not constitute a reason for a variance. A variance may be granted in an individual case of unnecessary hardship upon a finding by the board of zoning appeals that all of the following conditions exist:

1. There are extraordinary and exceptional conditions pertaining to the particular piece of property in question because of its size, shape, or topography that are not applicable to other lands or structures in the same district.
 2. A literal interpretation of the provisions of this chapter would deprive the applicant of rights commonly enjoyed by other properties of the district in which the property is located.
 3. Granting the variance requested will not confer upon the property of the applicant any special privileges that are denied to other properties of the district in which the applicant's property is located.
 4. The requested variance will be in harmony with the purpose and intent of this chapter and will not be injurious to the neighborhood or to the general welfare.
 5. The special circumstances are not the result of the actions of the applicant.
 6. The variance requested is the minimum variance that will make possible the legal use of the property.
 7. The variance is not a request to permit a use of property which is not permitted by right in the district involved.
- d. Appeals from the board of zoning appeals. Any person or persons jointly or severally aggrieved by any decision of the board of appeals may seek review of such decision in the Superior Court of Clayton County, Georgia.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, §§ 2, 4, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-7. - Regulations and restrictions applicable to primary and secondary identification signs.

In addition to general regulations and restrictions applying to all sign classifications, primary and secondary identification signs shall comply as follows:

(1) *Shopping center identification.*

- a. Areas designated as major shopping centers shall be permitted one (1) freestanding sign, being a maximum of forty (40) feet in height and containing a maximum of five hundred (500) square feet of sign area.
 1. This structure shall be a type of sign that will provide space for all businesses in the shopping center.
 2. Individual signs qualifying as wall or fascia signs will have their square footage determined by the following formula: five (5) square feet multiplied by the number of feet of frontage the store occupies within the shopping center. This may be used for a maximum of nine hundred (900) square feet.
 3. On primary and secondary advertisement within a major shopping center, sign letter height may not exceed five (5) feet.
- b. Areas designated as minor shopping center shall be permitted one (1) freestanding sign.
 1. This structure shall be a type of sign that will provide space for all businesses in the center.
 2. Individual signs qualifying as wall or fascia signs may be permitted for individual businesses within the center.

(2) *Commercial lot identification.*

- a. Each business located within one (1) parcel of property shall be allowed one (1) freestanding sign, one (1) building mounted sign, and instructional signs as necessary for proper traffic orientation.

- b. On parcels located at the intersection of two (2) roadways, a business will be allowed a primary identification sign and a secondary identification sign on each frontage plus instructional signs are required. However, at no time shall any business parcel contain more than a total of four (4) signs.
- c. On parcels located in such a manner as to have frontage on two (2) non-intersecting roads, such businesses will be permitted one (1) primary sign and one (1) secondary identification sign on each road plus instructional signs as required.
- d. Those parcels qualifying as "Interstate" parcels will be allowed one (1) interstate sign, in addition to the signs allowable under this section. However, no interstate parcel is allowed more than four (4) identification signs.
- e. No lot or parcel shall be allowed more than two (2) primary identification signs.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-8. - Regulations and restrictions applicable to instructional signs.

- (a) Such signs shall contain only instructional information and may include business name, logo, or trademark for the premises upon which said signs are located.
- (b) Signs are limited to traffic direction and services are permitted at each major access drive to the property. The signs shall be limited to a minimum number to provide adequate traffic information.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-9. - Regulations and restrictions applicable to temporary signs.

- (a) *Construction project signs.* For construction on or development of a commercial or residential lot, one (1) construction sign shall be allowed which identifies the project, the contractors, architects, engineers, and financial institution. Project signs shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet in area or twelve (12) feet in height from ground level. Project signs shall be promptly removed upon occupancy of the building or project or completion of the job. A maximum of one (1) sign for each major street is authorized.
- (b) *Promotional signs.* Paper, painted signs, or similar advertising will be permitted only on a temporary basis for special activities, such as grand openings of new businesses. A maximum of twenty-one (21) days will be permitted under this provision. For this purpose the area utilized may be greater than fifty (50) percent of the window area.
- (c) *Special signs.*
 - (1) The mayor and council may designate certain holiday and special events as banner days, on which banners celebrating such day may be temporarily erected, including those extending entirely across a public roadway, all of which must receive prior approval of the city manager.
 - (2) Permit required.
 - a. Special permits may be issued to any applicant who meets the requirements of a special event. A special event shall be defined as follows:
 - 1. The grand opening of a business or sendee or line of products;
 - 2. Any special promotion or event;
 - 3. The introduction of a new product or line of products;
 - 4. An annual or semi-annual inventory reduction sale;
 - 5. Miscellaneous promotions of like kind and character.
 - b. Application shall be made to the city manager on a form provided by him pursuant to the following terms and conditions:

1. In the event the city manager refuses to issue said permit, and the applicant wishes to appeal that denial, he shall be entitled to come before the next regular session of the mayor and council in order to appeal from that adverse decision.
 2. The mayor and council shall review the application and shall vote on whether or not the permit shall be issued. It shall take a majority of the votes in order to direct the city manager to issue said permit.
 3. Each application shall be accompanied by a fee which may be determined and set from time to time by the mayor and council, notwithstanding the provisions of section 8-3-16 of this chapter.
- c. Special types of advertising devices permitted: the following types of special advertising devices may be permitted for use under this Code section:
1. Banners;
 2. Balloons or related inflatable devices;
 3. Pennants;
 4. Pinwheels;
 5. Streamers;
 6. Flags.
- The above list devices shall be within the bounds of the aesthetic intent of this chapter.
- d. Duration of the permit period.
1. Any permit issued under this section shall be valid for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.
 2. No applicant shall be issued more than one (1) permit within any Three-month period; in addition, no applicant shall be issued more than four (4) permits during any calendar year.

(d) *Special signs; encroachment of public property.*

- (1) Notwithstanding section 11-1-5 and section 11-1-6, certain signs may be erected on public property (or city-owned) right-of-way with the express permission of the governing body or their delegate.
 - a. Such encroachment request shall be in writing and submitted to the director of public service for review.
 - b. Application shall include type, size, desired location, and length of time said sign is to be erected.
 - c. No sign or advertising device may be erected at a location that would cause an obstruction to vision of vehicular traffic, the determination of which would be made by the director of public service.
- (2) Only those applications submitted by the following may be granted:
 - a. City of Forest Park; all departments;
 - b. County, state, or other government agencies;
 - c. Churches, temples, and religious organization; and
 - d. Nonprofit organizations local to the city.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-10. - Regulations apply to nonconforming signs.

Any permanent sign or advertising device which does not conform to the requirements of this chapter shall either be removed or made to conform.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-11. - Prohibited methods of erection.

No advertisement, advertising sign, or advertising structure shall be constructed, erected, used, operated, or maintained:

- (1) Within five (5) feet of the outside boundaries of a federal or state highway or municipal streets or structures;
- (2) Which is attached to or placed against a building in such a manner as to prevent ingress or egress through any door or window of any building, nor shall any sign obstruct or be attached to a fire escape; or
- (3) Which is painted on, mounted on, or otherwise attached to a vehicle, board, or object when, if left stationary, tends to circumvent the intent of this Code and the limitations of the sign regulations prescribed herein.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-12. - Permits required.

It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, repair, alter, relocate, or maintain within lie city any sign or other advertising structure as defined in this chapter without first obtaining an erection permit from the director and making payment of the fee as required by section 8-3-16 hereof.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, § 2, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-13. - Application for erection permit.

No person, firm, or corporation shall erect, construct, enlarge, alter, repair, move, improve, or convert any sign in the city, or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a separate permit for such a sign or structure from the director. Application for erection permits shall be made upon blanks provided by the director of the department of planning, building and zoning and shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:

- (1) A fee as established from time to time by resolution of the mayor and council as provided for in section 8-3-16 below;
- (2) Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant;
- (3) Location of building, structure, or lot to which or upon which the sign or other advertising structure is to be attached or erected;
- (4) A sketch or drawing of the proposed location of the building, structure, or lot to which or upon which the sign or other advertising structure is to be attached or erected which also shows the proposed height or installation and the distance and position of said sign or advertising structure in relation to nearby buildings and structures;
- (5) A sketch or drawing of the proposed sign showing size, dimensions, character height, and other information as required by the city to establish compliance with this chapter;
- (6) For all general advertising and on-premises advertising larger than fifty (50) square feet, three (3) sets of scaled and/or dimensioned construction drawings of the plans and specifications that illustrate the method of construction and attachment to the building or in the ground;

- (7) For all on-premises advertising larger than fifty (50) square feet, or which stands at a height in excess of twenty-five (25) feet, a copy of working stresses and calculations showing that the structure is designed for deadload and wind pressure in any direction in the amount required by this and all other laws and ordinances of the city; stress analysis will be certified by a registered professional engineer;
- (8) Name of person, firm, corporation, or association erecting structure;
- (9) Written consent of the owner of the building, structure or land to which or on which the structure is to be erected;
- (10) Any electrical or building permit required and issued for said sign;
- (11) Insurance policy or bond as required by section 8-3-10; and
- (12) Such other information as the director of the planning, building and zoning department shall require to show full compliance with this and all other laws and ordinances of the city.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, §§ 3, 5, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-14. - Illuminated signs; approval of electrical inspector.

The application for a permit for erection of a sign or other advertising structure in which electrical wiring and connections are to be used shall be submitted to the department of planning, building and zoning. The electrical inspector shall examine the plans and specifications respecting all wiring and connections to determine if the same complies with the electrical code of the city, and he shall approve said permit if the said plans and specifications comply with said code or disapprove the application if non-compliance with said code is found. This said action of the electrical inspector shall be taken prior to submission of the application by the director for final approval or disapproval of the erection permit.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, §§ 2, 3, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-15. - Permit issued if application in order.

- (a) Sign permit applications must be delivered to the department of planning, building and zoning. All permit applications must be stamped by said department indicating the submission date. Incomplete applications shall be rejected and a new application shall be submitted with all of the required information and assigned a new submission date.
- (b) It shall be the duty of the director or his or her appointed representative, upon the filing of an application for a permit, to examine such plans and specifications and other data and the premises upon which it is proposed to erect the sign or other advertising structure. The director may also consider said application in light of the variance, conditional use, or rezoning provisions of the Code of Ordinances.
- (c) If the director determines that the application for a permit and the structure proposed therein is in compliance with all of the requirements of this chapter and all other pertinent laws and ordinances, then the director shall accordingly issue the permit within thirty (30) days of the submission date of the application. Upon making a final decision, the director must stamp each application with a decision date. The director should notify the applicant of the denial of a sign permit application within seven (7) days of the decision date. Notice shall be made in writing and sent to the applicant's address listed on the sign permit application.
 - (1) A permit issued shall be construed to be a license to proceed with the work and shall not be construed as authority to violate, cancel, alter, or set aside any of the provisions of this Code or Georgia law, nor shall such issuance of a permit prevent the director or his/her representative from thereafter requiring a correction of errors in plans or in construction or of violations of this Code.
 - (2) Every permit issued shall become invalid unless the work authorized by such permit is commenced within six (6) months after the time the permit is issued; provided, that, for cause,

one (1) or more extensions of time, for periods not exceeding ninety (90) days each, may be allowed at the discretion of the director.

- (d) If the director determines that the application for a permit and the structure proposed therein is not in compliance with all of the requirements of this chapter and all other pertinent laws and ordinances, then the director shall accordingly deny the application for a permit within thirty (30) days of the submission date of the application. Upon making a final decision, the director must stamp each application with a decision date. The director should notify the applicant of the denial of a sign permit application within seven (7) days of the decision date. Notice shall be made in writing and sent to the applicant's address listed on the sign permit application.
- (e) Should a decision on the application not be made prior to the expiration of this thirty-day period, the applicant shall be permitted to erect and maintain the sign under this statutory provision unless and until such time as the director of the department of planning, zoning and building notifies the applicant of a denial of the application and states the reason(s) for the denial. No person erecting a sign under this provision shall acquire any vested rights to continued maintenance of such signs, and should director subsequently deny the application, the sign must be brought into compliance with this article.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, §§ 2, 6, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-16. - Permit fees.

- (a) Every applicant who makes application for a sign to be used for general advertising purposes, before being granted a permit hereunder, shall pay to the director the following permit and inspection fee for such sign or other advertising structure regulated by this chapter:

	Sign Area	Fee
(1)	1 to 10 square feet	\$10.00
(2)	11 to 25 square feet	15.00
(3)	26 to 50 square feet	25.00
(4)	51 to 100 square feet	50.00
(5)	101 to 200 square feet	100.00
(6)	201 to 300 square feet	200.00
(7)	301 to 500 square feet	300.00
(8)	501 to 700 square feet	500.00

- (b) For purposes of determining permit fees on illuminated fascia signs, the total square footage area of illuminated fascia shall be used to obtain square footage and determine the permit fee, as set forth in the schedule above.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, § 2, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-17. - Campaign posters.

Signs announcing a candidacy or portraying a candidate for political office may be allowed only if placed on private property and then only with the permission of the owner. It shall be the responsibility of that person receiving permission to erect such sign to remove the same within fifteen (15) days following the election thereby advertised and the failure to do so shall constitute a violation upon the part of such person.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-18. - Control number, date, and voltage on sign.

Every sign or other advertising structure hereafter erected shall have painted in a conspicuous place thereon, in letters not less than one (1) inch in height, the date of erection, the permit number, and the voltage of any electrical apparatus installed thereon. Existing signs shall have six (6) months after notification that a specific sign does not contain the information hereinabove required in order to comply with this section.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-19. - Ground signs.

(a) *Construction.*

- (1) Materials required. All ground signs for which a permit is required under this chapter shall have a surface or facing of incombustible materials; provided, however, that combustible structural trim may be used thereon.
- (2) Letters, etc. to be secured. All letters, figures, characters, or representations in cut-out or irregular form maintained in conjunction with, attached to, or superimposed upon any sign shall be safely and securely built or attached to the sign structure and shall comply with all requirements in section 8-3-11.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-20. - Projecting signs.

(a) *Construction.*

- (1) Every projecting sign, including the frames, braces, and supports thereof, shall be designed by a structural engineer or manufacturer, and shall be approved by the director as in compliance with the building code of the city and by the electrical inspector as in compliance with the electrical code of the city, shall be constructed of incombustible materials, and shall be two-faced.
- (2) For illumination of projecting signs: limitation of glass. The lettering or advertising designs to be illuminated may be composed of glass or other transparent or semi-transparent incombustible material. Any glass forming a part of any sign shall be safety glass or plate glass at least one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) inch thick and in case any single piece or pane of glass having an area exceeding three (3) square feet, shall be wired glass. One (1) section, not exceeding three (3) square feet in area, constructed of wire glass or safety glass shall be permitted on each side of a sign.
- (3) Movable parts to be secured. Any movable part of a projecting sign such as the cover of a service opening shall be securely fastened by chains or hinges.
- (4) Area limitations. Except by special permission of planning and zoning board and the mayor and council, projecting signs shall be limited in areas as follows:
 - a. Horizontal projecting signs fifty (50) square feet each side.
 - b. Vertical projecting signs one hundred (100) square feet each side.
- (5) Thickness limitation. The distance measured between the principal faces of any projecting sign shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches.

(b) *Location.*

- (1) Projection over public property. Every projecting sign shall be placed at least eight (8) feet above the walkway on private property over which it is erected, and a distance not greater than two (2) feet from the face of the wall to which it is attached, measuring from the point of the sign nearest thereto, nor shall any sign or part thereof extend near the curb line more than one (1) foot. Every

projecting sign erected over public driveways, alleys, and thoroughfares on private property shall be placed not less than fifteen (15) feet above the level of same.

- (2) Obstructions and traffic hazards. Every projecting sign shall be erected in full compliance with section 8-3-11 of this chapter.

(c) *Erection.*

- (1) Bracing, anchorage, and supports. Projecting signs exceeding ten (10) square feet in area or fifty (50) pounds of weight shall not be attached to nor supported by frame buildings nor the wooden framework of a building.
- (2) Anchorage with wire, etc. prohibited. No projecting sign shall be secured with wire, strips of wood, or nails, nor shall any projecting sign be hung or secured to any other sign.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, § 2, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-21. - Marquees.

(a) *Construction.*

- (1) Materials required. All marquees, including the anchors, bolts, supports, rods and braces thereof shall be constructed of incombustible materials, shall be designed by a registered professional structural engineer and approved by the director as in compliance with the building code of the city and by the electrical inspector as in compliance with the electrical code of the city, and shall be illuminated.
- (2) Drainage. The roofs of all marquees shall be properly guttered and connected by down spouts to a storm drain so that the water therefrom will not drip or flow onto public property.

(b) *Location.*

- (1) Height above sidewalk. No portion of a marquee shall be less than eight (8) feet above the level of the private property for public use.
- (2) Set-back from curb line. No marquee shall be permitted to extend beyond a point one (1) foot inside the curb line.
- (3) Wide. No marquee shall be wide than the entrance or entrances of the building, plus five (5) feet on each side thereof, provided, however, that where the entrances to a building are not more than twenty (20) feet apart, a marquee may be made a continuous single structure between said entrances.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, § 2, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-22. - Signature or logo identifier (SLI).

- (a) Such signs shall be mounted directly upon the ground with internal structural support of sufficient strength to carry the stresses and weight imposed upon such structures by wind or other external forces. All such internal structural supports must be hidden from view. Such signature or logo identifiers shall be landscaped at their base in a manner that presents a pleasing appearance to those passing on adjacent roadways and must be aesthetically commensurate with their surroundings. Such identifier's (SLI's) may be lighted from within or without to accentuate or enhance appearances of a logo or signature, but may not have exposed neon tubing.
- (b) Such identifiers (SLIs) may be of any innovative or decorative shape such as triangular, curved, ovate, square, round, or rectangular, but must conform to and be in consonance with the surrounding area.
- (c) Such identifiers (SLIs) shall be at least fifteen (15) feet behind the street right-of-way at the sign's center and may not under any circumstance be closer than five (5) feet to a right-of-way at any point. The size of such identifiers (SLIs) shall not exceed, as previously stated above, twenty-two (22) feet

in height nor six (6) feet in width at the widest and/or tallest points above the grade level of the adjacent street; or a grand total per face of one hundred thirty-two (132) square feet.

- (d) Such identifiers (SLIs) may have two (2) faces for a grand total square footage of two hundred sixty-four (264) square feet but only forty (40) square feet of each facing may be used to present a commercial message or advertisement about the location.
- (e) Such commercial message or advertisement area shall be considered as that portion containing the message or advertisement plus three (3) inches bordering the top, ends, and bottom of such lettering, printing, marking, carving, engraving, or other means of display whatsoever.
- (f) When such identifiers (SLIs) are to have two (2) faces for message or advertisement area and such faces are back to back, the identifier shall be erected perpendicular to the main thoroughfare to which it is closest. If triangular in shape or of a shape having a point from which is two (2) faces radiate in different directions, then that point must be placed in such a manner that a line bisecting its center must be perpendicular to the main thoroughfare upon which it rests. Where only one (1) face addresses the main thoroughfare and it is the only face of the identifier presenting a commercial logo or commercial advertisement of the location name, it shall be placed parallel to the street or roadway.
- (g) All lettering, engraving, carvings, printing, numerals, symbols, or other markings purveying any advertisement shall be no more than three (3) feet in height and shall be constrained by the forty-square-foot requirement mentioned elsewhere in this section.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-23. - Real estate signs.

One (1) sign advertising property "for sale," "for rent," or "for lease," will be permitted for each unit available for sale, rent, or lease.

- (1) It is the legislative intent and expression of the City of Forest Park that the inclusion of the category of off premise real estate directional signs described further below is not an integral part of the City of Forest Park regulatory scheme regarding signs, and that, if found to be an unconstitutional limitation upon freedom of speech, or otherwise found to cause this chapter to be potentially invalid or for any reason to violate any law, it is the intention of the City of Forest Park that these provisions be deemed "non-integral" to the regulatory scheme of the City of Forest Park and be severed and stricken therefrom.
- (2) No real estate sign shall interfere with road or highway visibility or obstruct or otherwise interfere with the safe and orderly movement of traffic.
- (3) No real estate sign located on a building, structure, or real estate unit which is for sale, rent, or lease shall be closer than five (5) feet to a right-of-way at any point except for buildings, structures, or real estate units already in existence at the date of the adoption of this chapter, where compliance with this chapter is rendered impossible due to the proximity of the buildings, structures, or real estate unit to the right-of-way.
- (4) No real estate sign shall be located on utility poles or within the right-of-way of any street or public roadway.
- (5) Off premise real estate directional signs shall be of a uniform design with standard colors and graphics. No company names or logos shall appear on the face of the sign. The sign shall not exceed fifteen (15) inches by eighteen (18) inches in size.
- (6) No off premise real estate sign shall be allowed at any intersection with a state highway or at the intersection of any two (2) arterial streets.
- (7) A maximum of two (2) premise directional signs, one (1) per direction, shall be allowed at any other intersection (signs must direct from the major street onto the lesser street only). If any street intersects another street at more than one (1) place, signs may be placed at only one (1) of the intersections.

- (8) A maximum of four (4) off premise real estate directional signs may be located along any single collector street.
- (9) No real estate sign shall be erected more than five (5) feet above ground level.
- (10) No real estate sign shall be located within thirty (30) feet of the intersection of street right-of-way lines extended or at a location that would cause an obstruction of vision to vehicular traffic.
- (11) No real estate sign shall be located within thirty (30) feet of another real estate sign unless the size or shape of the properties for sale, rent, or lease would render compliance with this section impossible as determined by the director by application of the parameters of this chapter.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-24. - Nonconforming signs.

- (a) Signs which on the effective date of this chapter were approved and erected under previous sign restrictions which were in existence before the effective date of this chapter or which became nonconforming with respect to the requirements of this chapter, may continue in existence so long as there is no change in the use of the property, the size of any such sign is not increased beyond that existing as of the effective date of this section or any subsequent change in the ordinance, and the sign has sustained no damage requiring repairs costing in excess of fifty (50) percent of the sign's value. The value of the sign shall be determined by director of the department of planning, building and zoning or his/her designee based on the advice of a professional sign company, using accepted industry standards. No such nonconforming sign shall be moved in whole or in part to any portion of the lot or parcel other than that occupied by the sign at the time it became nonconforming. If use of the premises served by the sign ceased for any reason for a period of more than ninety (90) days, then any such sign shall lose its nonconforming status, and any subsequent sign erected for the premises shall conform with the regulations of this chapter. Upon sale, transfer, or exchange of the sign, the nonconforming sign will be discontinued.
- (b) Any sign erected in violation of this chapter may be removed by duly authorized employees of the city from any public property or right-of-way, and a responsible party may be cited for such violation.
- (c) A conforming sign or advertising device shall not be erected for the same establishment on the same lot with an existing nonconforming sign until the nonconforming sign has been removed.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-25. - Appeals.

The denial of a permit under this section may be appealed to the board of zoning appeals under the procedure set forth in article I of chapter 8 of title 8 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Forest Park, Georgia, subject to the following time limits:

- (1) Any appeal of the director's decision concerning a sign permit application must be made within seven (7) days of receipt of notice of the denial. In the event that no appeal is made within the seven-day period, the decision of the director shall become final.
- (2) The board of zoning appeals shall hold the hearing on any such appeal no more than thirty (30) days following receipt of the appeal; and
- (3) The board of zoning appeals shall render a final determination on the appeal not more than thirty (30) days following the date of the hearing.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, § 7, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-26. - Construction and maintenance.

- (a) No sign shall be erected or maintained unless it is structurally safe, clean, and in good repair.

- (b) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, all signs for which a permit are required shall be constructed and maintained in conformance with the city building and electrical codes. Such signs, together with their supports, braces, guys, and anchors shall be kept in good repair, and, unless constructed of galvanized or noncorroding metal, shall be given a protective coating as necessary to maintain a clean appearance and safe condition.
- (c) Every sign may be inspected by the director from time to time, as the director may require, so as to determine continuing compliance with this Code.
- (d) Should any sign become insecure or in danger of falling or otherwise unsafe in the opinion of the director or his/her representative, the owner thereof, or the person or firm maintaining the same, shall upon written notice from the director, forthwith in the case of immediate danger, and in any case within ten (10) days, secure the same in a manner to be approved by the director or his/her representative, in conformity with the provisions of this Code, or remove such sign. If such notice is not complied with within ten (10) days, a formal citation will be issued for the violation. Notice shall consist of a letter sent regular or certified mail to the owner or the person or firm maintaining the sign. Once a citation is issued violations of this section shall be punishable under section 8-3-30(d).

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000; Ord. No. 13-23, § 2, 11-18-2013)

Sec. 8-3-27. - Erection rights-of-way.

No sign of any kind shall be permitted to extend into or above or to be anchored or placed in any portion of the right-of-way of a state or county highway, street, or road, or city street or road, or public sidewalk (except official city, county, state signs and O.C.G.A. Title 40 authorized traffic control devices).

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-28. - False advertising.

It shall be unlawful for any person to display untrue, false, or misleading statements upon signs, billboards, or other public places, calculated to mislead the public as to anything sold, any services to be performed or information disseminated. The fact that any sign or display shall contain words or language sufficient to mislead an ordinary person in reading it shall be prima facie evidence of a violation of this section by person displaying the signs or permitting them to be displayed upon their property, at their residence, establishment or place of business.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-29. - Exemptions from permit requirements.

The following advertising structures, advertising signs, and advertisements or parts thereof upon which they are posted or displayed are excepted from the permit requirements of this chapter:

- (1) Those that are used on particular sites of real property advertising that it is for sale, lease, or rent may be exempted from the permit requirements; providing that the dimensions of the sign contained in section 8-3-17(b) are adhered to, that the sign is on the property affected, that it is compatible with the aesthetics of the area, and that it is not used by stores, shopping centers, apartments, or condominiums; that the sign is removed promptly upon consummation of the sale, rental, or lease; and that distance between signs as set out in this chapter is maintained.
- (2) Official notices or advertisements posted or displayed by or under the direction of any public official or court officer in the performance of official or directed duties or by trustees under deeds of trust, deeds of assignment, or other similar instruments.
- (3) Signs solely to denote the route to any city, town, village, or historical place or shrine.
- (4) Notice of any railroad, bridge, ferry, or other transportation or transmission company necessary for the direction or safety of the public.

- (5) Historical markers erected by duly constituted and authorized public authorities.
- (6) Signs erected upon property warning the public against hunting, fishing, or trespassing thereon.
- (7) Signs erected by Red Cross authorities relating to Red Cross emergency stations.
- (8) Highway markers and signs erected or caused to be erected by duly authorized authority.
- (9) Name plates not exceeding twenty-four (24) inches by six (6) inches and containing only the name of the business or professional office.
- (10) Two (2) corner signs for garage, rummage, or carport or permit for garage sales located in the city, for the duration of the sale only and in no case to exceed three (3) consecutive days. Signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet and shall be mounted in such a manner so as not to interfere in any way with vehicular or pedestrian traffic. The sign shall be removed by the responsible party the day after the sale ends. Signs advertising garage and carport sales held outside the city are prohibited.
- (11) Traffic control devices erected pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 40 and/or local ordinance.
- (12) Signs announcing a candidacy for elected office, or portraying a candidate for political office may be allowed only if placed on private property, only with permission of the property owner, and only if their presence does not pose a safety hazard. All signs shall be removed within seventy-two (72) hours of the closing of polls for the election for which the candidacy was offered, or within seventy-two (72) hours after a run-off is completed, where a run-off is required. Election signs may remain on the property between primary elections and general elections for candidates who proceed to general elections. Removal shall be the responsibility of the owner of the property. Failure to remove the sign shall constitute a violation of this chapter. The provisions of the laws of the State of Georgia concerning campaign posters as set out in O.C.G.A. § 21-1-1 shall be enforced within the city, and the municipal court shall act as a committal court for violations thereof.
- (13) Other signs on property with the permission of the owner of the property of a non-commercial nature.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)

Sec. 8-3-30. - Penalties.

Any conviction of a violation of this section shall constitute grounds for the city to refuse to issue or to revoke a sign permit or to remove a sign; and further, or in the alternative, upon conviction of said violation, the owner or operator shall also be punishable by imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days; for not more than ninety (90) days at labor on the roads and street or other public works; by a fine or two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00), either one (1) or more thereof. Each twenty-four-period after a citation is issued, under this chapter, except for signs being in disrepair under section 8-3-12 which requires a ten-day notice before a citation is issued, for a violation committed or allowed to continue shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punishable as such hereunder. Continuing violations of section 8-3-12 after citations are issued shall be punished as set out hereinabove.

(Ord. No. 00-10, § 1, 8-7-2000)