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SIGN

REGULATIONS

**Sign Technician
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SIGN REGULATIONS

TYPES OF SIGNS:

Directional	An on premise sign giving directions, or instructions, e.g. enter or exit, in or out, an arrow symbol
Incidental	A small sign, emblem or decal informing the public of goods, facilities or services available on the premises, e.g., a credit card sign or a sign indicating hours of business.
Real Estate	A temporary sign pertaining to the sale or rental of property and advertising of property only for use for which it is legally zoned. No real estate sign shall be located within or over the public right-of-way.
Temporary	All charitable, non-profit and any educational uses of temporary signs are exempt from this ordinance but must be removed with 72 hours after any event.
Political	Political or campaign signs on behalf of candidates for public office or measures on election ballots. Signs must follow these guidelines: a) No sign shall be located with or over the public right-of-way b) Sign must be removed within five (5) days following said election
Wall	A business sign erected and permanently attached essentially parallel to and extending not more than (24) inches from the exterior wall of a building with no copy on the sides or edges and must not project above the roofline of the building. This definition includes painted, individual letter and cabinet signs. A permit from the building official's office will be required.
Placard	A temporary advertisement staked sign. They are not allowed in the City Limits. Exceptions are: ♦ Temporary placard real estates and political signs; ♦ And these signs must be approved by the Sign Technician or Building Official
Electronic	Changeable Electronic Variable Message Sign (CEVMS) or Changeable Copy Sign or Device – a sign with the capability of displaying words, symbols, figures or images controlled by electronic communications or mechanical processes.

ADVERTISING

Permanent Signs, Billboards, Painted Bulletin Boards and Poster Panel or other advertising devices:

OFF PREMISE SIGNS

Billboard sign shall mean a sign displaying advertising copy that pertains to a business, person, organization, activity, event, place, service or product not located, produced, manufactured, sold or furnished on the premises on which the sign is located.

- ♦ No advertising sign structure shall contain more than two (2) sign panels facing in the same direction. Maximum size is 672 square feet, or two (2) display signs of 336 square feet including cutouts for sign locations that are along divided four lane highways/interstates, and 378 square feet along any other roadways.
- ♦ Spacing – Minimum sign separation shall be 800 feet from any other advertising sign or painted bulletin board or poster panel along the same side of the street.
- ♦ Setback – Minimum distance of the sign height from any residential use or district boundary.
- ♦ Maximum overall height is 42 and ½ feet, measured from the highest point of the sign to the grade level of the interstate perpendicular to the sign. The lowest point of a projecting sign must be at least 14 feet above grade.

ON PREMISE SIGNS - shall mean a sign, which advertises or directs attention to a business, product service or activity, which is available on the premises where the sign is located.

REGULATIONS:

Any on premise sign (for a business) erected with 100 feet of the Interstate or Loop corridor right of way will be allowed to have a sign height of 50 feet measured from the grade level of the Interstate or Loop. The Zoning Board of Adjustment will not be allowed to grant a height variance for signage height.

All signs, which are damaged, in need of repair, abandoned or have become obsolete as determined by the building official, or designee, shall be removed or repaired by the owner of the building or premises upon which it is located.

PORTABLE SIGNS (Effective 10/01/01)

Portable is a sign which is not permanently fixed to the ground, a structure, a building and is designed to be moved easily, such as but not limited to: flashing arrow signs, sandwich board signs, or sidewalk signs.

All portable signs must be:

- a) Converted to permanent installation in compliance with all City code & specification; or
- b) Permitted by the City's Building Official at the amount determined by the ordinance

Requirements:

1. Only one (1) portable sign per freestanding business. Portable signs will not be allowed in a shopping center
2. Must withstand a 70-mile per hour wind.
3. Electrical code must be met; no extension cords will be allowed. Receptacle adjacent to sign must be GFCI protected.
4. Maximum size of 32 square feet.
5. Initial permit is required at a cost of \$150.00 and issued by the Building Official's office.
6. Subsequent annual permits will be renewed at a cost of \$100.00

Upon permanent installation of the sign, all directional arrows must be removed and parking requirements will be reviewed based on individual cases.

BANNER OR PROMOTIONAL SIGNS (Effective 10/01/01)

Banner or Promotional is a sign identifying or advertising a business, person, activity, products or services, which can be acquired on the property where the sign is located. It is made of fabric or any non-rigid material with no enclosing framework.

Exception: Flags, streamers or pennants are not considered banners or promotional signs.

Requirements:

1. Maximum size of 64 square feet.
2. No more than two (2) signs allowed per freestanding business.
3. No more than one (1) sign per business inside a shopping center, strip mall, or other multi-tenant commercial units. It must be attached to the building and not extend below any awning.
4. A banner or promotional sign permit shall be required at a cost of \$10.00 per sign or an annual fee of \$100.00 that covers all signage in this section and issued by the Building Official's office. Annual banner fee, banner must be changed out every 90 days.
5. A minimum distance of 15 feet **between** banners and/or promotional signs. Back to back banners or promotional signs shall be counted as one sign.
6. T-posts must be used and angled outward in order to insure the banner will be hung straight. **PVC piping over your t-posts will be required.**
7. The maximum allowable time for display is for 30 calendar days per banner or promotional sign. At the end of the allowed time any banner or promotional sign must be removed or replaced with a different sign with different verbiage and a new permit. If an annual fee is in effect a new diagram for each new sign must still be submitted to the building official's office.
8. Special business promotions will allow banners or promotional signs to be displayed for a longer period of time and shall require a permit issued by the Building Official. Special promotions permit shall be good for only (1) one banner or promotional sign for a maximum 90 calendar days, to be held no more than two (2) time annually. Permit fee shall be \$75.00 **per promotion**. Drawings of signage shall be submitted to the building official for approval.

Exception: When a new business opens, a banner may be attached to the existing shopping center sign or existing permanent business sign for 60 days, only as a temporary measure until the permanent business sign is in place. A permit is required.

All temporary, portable, banner or promotional signs must be maintained and in good condition with no tears, peeling or missing letters, broken or missing sign faces, no deteriorating or damaged structure, properly installed and be clean and legible at all times.

CHANGEABLE ELECTRONIC VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGN (CEVMS)

(Ordinance No. 121-08)

A sign with the capability of displaying words, symbols, figures or images controlled by electronic communications or mechanical processes.

1. For off-premise CEVMS, refer to Section 14-107 for height, size and setback requirements applicable thereto.
2. For off premise CEVMS, the message or image on the CEVMS must remain static for a minimum of eight (8) seconds or more and a change of message shall be accomplished simultaneously on the entire sign face. For on-premise CEVMS, the message or image must remain static for a minimum of four (4) seconds and change of message shall be accomplished within two (2) seconds.
3. A CEVMS must contain a default mechanism that freezes the sign in one position if a malfunction occurs.
4. No CEVMS shall be erected without a light detector/photocell (dimmer switch) by which the sign's brightness shall be dimmed when ambient conditions darken so that signs are not unreasonably bright for the safety of the motoring public. The maximum brightness during the day shall be 5,000 nits at night 1,000 nits. Nits are a measure of brightness – Candela per meter squared.
5. A CEVMS **shall not**:
 - a. Be illuminated by flashing lights, strobe lights, lights resembling emergency vehicles, or moving lights;
 - b. Contain or display moving video or streamed video advertising;
 - c. Consist of a static image projected upon a stationary object;
 - d. Be a mobile sign located on a truck, trailer or any moving vehicle, or
 - e. Be attached to any wall, widow or any type exterior façade of any building
6. The owner of a CEVMS shall coordinate with local authorities to display Public Service Announcements (PSA"s), and when appropriate, emergency information important to the traveling public, such as Amber Alerts or alerts concerning terrorist attaches or natural disasters. Emergency information messages shall remain in the advertising rotation according the protocols of the agency that issues the information.
7. An exception for an on-premise CEVMS will be allowed without the approval of a SUP in the GR, LC, CB, C, I-1, & I-2 zoning districts under the following terms and conditions:
 - a. The on-premise sign is limited to a maximum size of 50 square feet with the maximum height of 20 feet; and
 - b. All other restrictions pertaining to CEVMS shall apply

SPECIFIC USE PERMITS (8-500)

The City Council of the City of Texarkana Texas, after public hearing and proper notice to all parties affected and after recommendations by the Planning an Zoning Commission may authorize the issuance of Specific Use Permits for the uses indicated by "S" in the Use Schedule (previous page).

- ◆ The Planning and Zoning Commission in considering and determining its recommendations to the City Council on any request for a Specific use Permit may require from the applicant, plans, information, operating data and expert evaluation concerning the location and function and characteristics of any building or use proposed. The City Council may, in the interest of the public welfare and to assure compliance with this Ordinance, establish conditions of operation, location, arrangement and construction of nay use for which a permit is authorized. In authorizing the location of any of the uses listed as Specific Use Permits, the City Council may impose such development standards and safeguards as the conditions and locations indicate important to the welfare and protection of adjacent property from excessive noise, vibration, dust, dirt, smoke, fumes, gas, odor, explosion, glare, offensive view or other undesirable or hazardous conditions.
- ◆ All Specific Use Permits approved in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance in its original form or as hereafter amended shall be referenced on the Zoning District Map and a list of such permits shall be maintained in the Appendix of this Ordinance.

SIGN REGULATIONS (14-100)

The districts in which the various types of signs are permitted are indicated by the schedule of uses, 8-100. The following special provisions shall apply to the various types of signs in the districts indicated on the following page.

PERMANENT TYPE SIGNS (14-101) See Section 10-101 for sign heights in each zoning district and Section 14-109/

TYPE SIGN	MAXIMUM AREA	ZONE PERMITTED	SPACING STANDARDS
Name Plate	2 Sq Ft No Restriction	All Residential Districts All Districts Except Residential	—
Institutional Sign	70 Sq Ft	All Residential Districts All Districts Except Residential	—
Apartment Sign	70 Sq Ft No Restriction	MF-1 & MF-2 Districts O,NS,GR,LC,C,I-1 & PD Districts	1 per street frontage
Business Sign	No Restriction Except as Hereinafter Provided for Certain District and Type	Permitted in O,NS,GR,LC,CB,C I-1,I-2 and PD Districts	1 per street frontage
Advertising Sign (off-premise/billboard) (on-premise with/business signage)	672 Sq Ft See Section 14-107 —	Permitted in GR, CB, LC, C, I-1, I-2, Districts with a SUP — Permitted in GR, LC, CB, C, I-1, I-2. Permitted in O, NS and PD Districts with a ...SUP	See Section 14-107 —
Agricultural Sign	100 Sq Ft	Permitted in A,NS,GR,LC,CB,C,I-1,I-2 & PD Districts	200 Ft between signs
Changeable Electronic Variable Message Sign (CEVMS) (off premise) (on premise)	672 Sq Ft 50 Sq Ft (20 Ft Max Height) or as approved by SUP	Permitted in O, NS, GR, LC, CB, C, I-1, and I-2 Districts with a SUP Permitted in O,NS, GR, LC, CB, C, I-1, I-2, and PD Districts with a SUP Exception -See 8-700 71(A)(7)	See Section 14-107 See Section 8-700 71(A)

TYPE SIGN	MAXIMUM AREA	ZONE PERMITTED	SPACING STANDARDS
Real Estate	12 Sq Ft No Restriction	All Residential Districts In All Districts Except Residential	1 for ea platted lot or tract & for acreage 1 for ea 200 Ft of street frontage Non specified
Construction Sign	60 Sq Ft	In All Districts	None
Promotional/Banner Sign	64 Sq Ft	In All Districts	See Definition #66
Development Sign	400 Sq Ft	In All Districts	**See Below

**For each development of 10 acres or less, a max of 2 signs shall be permitted. Developers with frontage on 2 or more streets may have signs on any 2 street frontages. Development with frontage on 1 street may have 2 signs where street frontage exceeds 500 ft. Development of more than 10 acres may have a max of 3 signs

**SIGN HEIGHTS IN BUSINESS DISTRICTS: (Amended Ord. 82-01)
THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (ZBA) BOARD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO INCREASE SIGN HEIGHT.**

A, Agricultural District	Three (3) stories
P, Parking District	Three (3) stories except as noted in 10-102 A following
O, Office District	Sign Height; Maximum size—6’ height and 8” length. Type: Monument, planter or low profile signage.
NS Neighborhood Service District	Sign Height limited to 35 ft, measured from the grade level of the closest adjacent roadway
GR, General Retail District	Sign height limited to 35 ft, measured from the grade level of the closest adjacent roadway
LC, Limited Commercial District	Sign height limited to 35 ft measured from the grade level of the closest adjacent roadway.
CB, Central Business District	Sign height limited to 35 ft measured from the grade level of the closest adjacent roadway.
C, Commercial District	Sign height limited to 35 ft measured from the grade level of the closes adjacent roadway.
I-1, Light Industrial District	Sign height limited to 35 ft measured from the grade level of the closest adjacent roadway.
I-2, Heavy Industrial District	Sign height limited to 35 ft measured from the grade level of the closest adjacent roadway
PD, Planned Development District	Sign height limited by the City Council with site plan approval

ORDINANCE SPECIFICATIONS:

(14-102) - In a Planned Development District, no sign otherwise permitted shall be erected or placed in position without first receiving approval from the City of Texarkana, Texas, for a proposed site plan or amendment to an existing site plan, specifying the location, description and physical dimensions of the proposed sign, and the applicant shall further be required to meet all permit requirements of the Standard Building Code of the City prior to installation of a sign in a Planned Development District. Any person upon conviction in the Municipal Court of Texarkana, Texas, shall be fined not more than \$200.00. Each day of any such violation shall be deemed to be a separate offense. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the City from Instituting injunction proceedings requiring removal of any unauthorized sign erected in a Planned Development District.

(14-103) - No sign shall be constructed to exceed the maximum building height permitted in the specific district where the sign is located except in shopping centers or similar commercial or office centers containing 6 acres or more, pylon or major identification signs not to exceed 75 feet in height may be erected when set back from the side and rear property line a distance equal to the height of the sign and when such high rise signs comply with the Southern Standard Building Code as to design and construction.

(14-104) - No sign shall be located or constructed so as to interfere with or confuse the control of traffic on the public streets and no sign shall use a rotating beacon, beam or slashing illumination resembling an emergency signal.

(14-105) - Any non-conforming sign which is damaged or is deteriorated to a point where its restoration costs exceeds 50 percent of its replacement value shall be removed.

(14-106) - No sign shall be erected so as to project into the public right-of-way of any street or alley, except in the CB, Central Business District. In the CB, Central Business District, any projecting sign shall not extend outward from any building face to the public right-of-way for a distance of more than 10 feet or to within 18 inches of the street curb, whichever is more restrictive.

(14-107) - No advertising sign structure shall contain more than 2 sign panels facing in the same direction.

(14-108) - No provision of this ordinance shall supersede or replace any other Ordinance of the City of Texarkana, having to do with sign standards, materials or construction except the provisions of this Ordinance pertaining to the use of the various types of signs in the various districts shall take precedence overall other Ordinances, regulations and standards.

(14-109) - Any on premise sign (for a business) erected within 100 feet of the interstate or loop corridor right of way will be allowed to have a sign height of fifty (50) feet measured from the grade level of the interstate or loop. The zoning board of adjustment will not be allowed to grant a height variance for signage height. (Amended Ord. #82-01)

(14-110) - All signs which are damaged, or in need of repair, abandoned, or have become obsolete as determined by the building official, or designee, shall be removed or repaired by the owner of the building or premises upon which it is located. (Amended Ord. #82-01)

(14-111) - No permanent sign is permitted on any utility or public easement, or any signage or posters of any kind (including hand held) will be allowed for display on any public or utility poles or on right of ways. (Refer to Section 15-2 of the Code of Ordinances. (Amended Ord. # 82-01)

OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ADVERTISEMENT, HANDBILLS, ETC:

- ◆ The printing, pasting, sticking or placing of all advertisement, handbill or placard or any printed, pictured or written matter upon any house, wall, building, fence or other private property without the permission of the owner or person in charge thereof is hereby prohibited.
- ◆ All advertising of any form, whether temporary or permanent, is hereby prohibited on all streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way, easements, parks or any other public property within the cooperate limits of the city; provided, however, that the city council may, after hearing, grant to civic organizations the privilege of placing private advertising on public property when said advertising is done in connection with projects beneficial to the public interest. The city council may require the remove of said advertising at any time that it becomes destroyed, unsightly, deteriorated or in bad taste. Notwithstanding the prohibitions set forth hereinabove and to provide an express exception thereto for the allowance and posting of advertising on athletic, fields, the following guidelines shall obtain the posting of advertising on athletic fields:
- ◆ All requests for permission to lace of advertising signs on city park property shall be made in writing to the director of parks and recreation;
- ◆ Advertising signage may be placed on the outfield fence and scoreboard or other areas which may be deemed appropriate by the director of parks and recreation;
- ◆ Signs shall be no taller than the outfield fence and no wider than 8 feet.
- ◆ Hard body signs may be plywood or metal shall be installed no earlier than one week prior to the competition season and removed no later than 10 days after the completion of the season except that signs affixed to scoreboards may remain throughout the year as long as the sign is permanently attached to the scoreboard structure, unless otherwise approved in writing by the director of parks and recreation;
- ◆ Banners or flexible signs shall be installed no earlier than 3 days prior to the competition season and removed anytime there is a 3 day lag in play and/or no later than 5 days after the completion of the season, unless otherwise approved in writing by the director of parks and recreations;
- ◆ All signs shall be of professional quality and in good taste and shall not promote alcohol consumption, tobacco or tobacco products or nudity;
- ◆ It shall be the responsibility of the league to properly install, remove and maintain the signage with the understanding that signs must remain in good quality condition and not pose a hazard to participants or spectators, provided that the city is in o way responsible for the loss of or damage to signs for any reason including, but not limited to, loss due to theft, vandalism, or natural causes;
- ◆ The parks and recreation department reserves the right to remove signs for any reason with notice
- ◆ Any such advertisement not in compliance with this section which is not removed by the owner or person in charge thereof shall be removed by the proper city officials and disposed of.

REMOVAL

Any obstruction or encroachment upon any sidewalk, street, alley or other public thoroughfare of the city shall be removed by the owner or person in charge thereof, and upon failure to do so, the city, through its agents, shall remove said obstruction or encroachment and dispose of the same.

INTERFERENCE WITH VIEW OF STREET INTERSECTION

It shall be unlawful for any person to place or maintain any sign, display, or any structure at street intersections in such a manner that the view of intersecting traffic is obstructed, hindered, or obscured, or to place or maintain any sign, display, or any structure in such a manner as to hinder or obscure the vision of operators of motor vehicles, or pedestrian upon the streets, sidewalks, or alleys of the city.

SIGNS-PERMITS

Any person desiring to erect or place an overhanging sign over or across any sidewalk or over or across any public property in the city shall first apply for and secure a permit to do so from a city inspector. If such sign, complies with the provisions of the Southern Standard Code, and, if in the judgment of the city inspector such sign can be safely erected or paced, the permit shall be issued.

USE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

The supports and guys of all signs and awnings which are not publicly owned shall be placed on private property and such supports and guys shall comply with the provisions of the Southern Standard Building Code.

HIGH-RISE-SIGNS

- ◆ High-rise signs as defined herein are signs of any kind which exceed 30 feet in height as measured from the ground level to the topmost part of the structure, and shall include signs attached to or placed on buildings or structures not specifically built for supporting such signs. High-rise signs are also defined as any sign of sufficient height and proximity to existing electrical power lines that they could fall or be blown down upon any electrical line of more than 300 volts to ground.
- ◆ Before any permit is issued for such sign or signs a construction plan shall be submitted to thee city engineer by the applicant for the permit. The specifications and design of such sign or signs must bear the seal and signature of a registered professional engineer in the State of Texas certifying that the design and specifications meet or exceed the minimum requirements as set forth in the Southern Standard Building Code. Failure to furnish such certification upon request shall constitute grounds for refusal of the permit.
- ◆ No guys on any type structure that extend over any electrical power line 300 volts to ground shall be permitted.

ZONING DISTRICTS	AGRICULTURE	SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING-1	SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING-2	SINGLE FAMILY DWELLING-3	PLANNED UNIT RESIDENTIAL	TWO FAMILY DWELLING-1	TWO FAMILY DWELLING-2	TOWNHOUSE DWELLING	MULTIPLE FAMILY DWELLING	MULTIPLE FAMILY DWELLING	PARKING	OFFICE	NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICE	GENERAL RETAIL	LIMITED COMMERCIAL	CENTRAL BUSINESS	COMMERCIAL	INDUSTRIAL-1	INDUSTRIAL-2	PLANNED DEVELOPMENT	
	TYPES OF USES																				
8-110	SIGN AND IDENTIFICATION USES																				
NAME PLATE (63)																					
REAL ESTATE SIGN (64)																					
CONSTRUCTION SIGN (65)																					
PROMOTIONAL SIGN (66)																					
INSTITUTIONAL SIGN (67)																					
APARTMENT NAME SIGN (68)																					
AGRICULTURAL SIGN (69)																					
GENERAL BUSINESS SIGN (70)																					
ADVERTISING SIGN (Off-Premise) (71)															S	S	S	S	S	S	
ADVERTISING SIGN (On-Premise) (71)													S	S							
CHANGEABLE ELECTRONIC VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGN (CEVMS) (Off-Premise) (71A)													S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
CHANGEABLE ELECTRONIC VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGN (CEVMS) (On-Premise) (71A)													S	S	S*	S*	S*	S*	S*	S*	S
8-111	AGRICULTURAL TYPE USES																				
FARM OR RANCH (72)																					

*Exception See Section 8-700 (71A, #8)