



Draft

Ordinance Review Committee

Agenda

Thursday, December 17, 2015

8:30 AM

1st Floor Conference Room

Old Business

1. Amendment to enable Traditional Neighborhood District (tabled until January 2016 meeting when the Orion Group is available.)

New Business

2. Amend Section 117 Definitions in the Land Development Code to include a needed definition of a carport.
3. Review recommended changes to signage in the Downtown Business District, including amendments to Section 117.156 Signs: Awning, Marquee and Window Signage. Also including amendments to Section 192.08 (2) number of wall signs, as well as amendments to Section 192.09 Special Provisions (2) included added references to the Historic District. These amendments have been discussed with the Courthouse Square Historic Commission and the Historic Preservation Commission.
4. Discuss January meeting date and time.
5. Adjournment

Definition

ADD 117.31A **Carport** – roofed structure not more than 75% enclosed by walls and attached to or detached from the main building for the purpose of providing shelter for one or more motor vehicles. A carport is not intended for any visible storage outside a fully enclosed container nor a place to store furniture.

Section 117 Definitions

Add 117.156 Sign:

1. **Awning** – A building mounted sign that provides additional functionality as shelter. Lettering or symbols can be incorporated into the drop or valance or the awning surface. The color of the awning can reinforce the store's identity, but should also complement the historic building. Awning signs may be illuminated, but internal illumination is not permitted.

- 1(a). **Business sign:** A sign, which directs the attention of the general public to a business, product, service or activity, conducted upon the premises where such sign is located. Business signs shall be classified as an accessory business use and shall be permitted in all commercial and industrial zones. Business signs shall only be allowed on the premises upon which such business is located and any other type of "off-premises" business sign, other than shopping center entrance signs and outdoor advertising signs, is prohibited. Outdoor advertising signs shall be permitted only in the industrial zone. Erection of any business sign or outdoor advertising sign in any residential or agricultural zone, except as provided in this ordinance, shall be prohibited.

- 7(a). **Marquee** – A sign that is mounted to a permanent canopy. Some twentieth-century commercial buildings, particularly hotels and theaters, originally featured suspended canopies of metal, glass, and/or wood over entrances. These signs occasionally included lights or changeable messages.

16. **Window Signage** – A sign that is painted on, applied to or attached to, or suspended directly behind or in front of a window or the glass portion of a door. Painted window signs were common at the turn of the century. Typically, these signs were metallic gold; information on storefront windows, glass doors or other surfaces must be of high quality, professionally executed following accepted standards and cover no more than 15% of the glass. Spacing of the letters is extremely important and should only be attempted by a professional sign maker.

192.08 Number of Signs

1. The number of freestanding signs shall be limited to one per lot provided that where a lot has frontage on two public streets and has a minimum frontage of 300 feet on either street and a combined frontage greater than 650 feet, the number of freestanding signs may be increased to two.
2. The number of wall signs shall be limited to two signs and shall include business identification, logo, or product advertising signs. **Projecting, awning, window and marquee signs** that display business advertisement shall be included in the calculation of the number of signs.

192.09 Special Provisions

2. Special regulations in the ~~the downtown district~~: **Historic Preservation Districts-** (Additional signage standards in Oxford Design Guidelines)
 - a. All sign regulations in the Historic Preservation Districts take precedent over any provisions in Article 5 of the Land and Development Code when the sign regulations of the Historic Preservation Districts are in conflict with the provisions of Article 5 of the Land and Development Code. Where there is no conflict between the sign regulations of the Historic Preservation District and any

provision Article 5 of the Land and Development Code, provisions in Article 5 of the Land and Development Code will apply to the Historic Preservation Districts.

- b. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the ordinance, business signs located within the central business district may project over public street rights-of-way, provided, however, that all such signs shall maintain a clear height of eight feet above the sidewalk and shall not project more than 42 inches from any building or within 24 inches of any curb line or pavement edge. **and shall maintain a minimum spacing of 10 feet between neighboring signs.**
- c. **All sign regulations in the Historic Preservation Districts take precedent over any provisions in Article 5 of the Land and Development Code when the sign regulations of the Historic Preservation Districts are in conflict with the provisions of Article 5 of the Land and Development Code. Where there is no conflict between the sign regulations of the Historic Preservation District and any provision Article 5 of the Land and Development Code, provisions in Article 5 of the Land and Development Code will apply to the Historic Preservation Districts.**
- d) The use of franchise or corporate architecture is prohibited. Buildings or structures, other than allowable signs, shall not be designed in an attempt to use the building or structure itself as advertising. Building where the proposed architecture is the result of "corporate" or franchise style shall be prohibited. New construction should provide variety and diversity and express its own uniqueness of structure, location or tenant. Buildings shall be consistent with the local architectural vernacular, establish a sense of permanence, and avoid over-commercialization. Building design shall reflect local, unique, and traditional designs rather than chain or franchise designs. This provision shall not apply to existing franchise businesses established prior to the effective date of this ordinance, September 16, 2014 and located within the historic district if a certificate of appropriateness is obtained from the historic commission.
- e) In instances where off-street parking is provided in the front of any building located within the central business district, no sign shall be erected which obstructs visibility in an area measured within 2.5 feet and nine feet from the ground line, and within 20 feet of the street, road, or highway pavement edge or curb line
- f) **No freestanding commercial** sign shall be erected which obstructs visibility in an area measured within 2.5 feet and nine feet from the ground line, and within 20 feet of the street, road, or highway pavement edge or curb line.
- g) **Window signs shall be included in the overall signage calculation.**
- h) **Businesses are allowed only one *interior* illuminated business sign that is located within a three-foot radius and visible from any exterior window. This illuminated sign shall not flash or move and shall not exceed four square feet in size.**
- i) **In multi-tenant buildings, which may include residential, professional businesses, retail, or a combination of, each street level tenant may have all signage as outlined in section 192.08. Upper story tenants are permitted to display an entry in the building's directory.**
- j) **All commercial signs are subject to the approval of the Courthouse Square Historic Planning Commission or the Oxford Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). If a permit is required, HPC approval is required before furnishing a permit application. HPC approval is based on both the provisions set forth in this**

section (192.09, 2) and the HPC approval guidelines found on the City of Oxford official website.