

ARTICLE 5 SIGN REGULATIONS

Section 191 Purpose. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following sign regulations are hereby established:

1. to assure compatibility of signs with surrounding land usage;
2. to enhance the economy of the City;
3. to protect the public investment in streets and highways;
4. to promote the safety and recreation value of public travel;
5. to preserve natural beauty and to protect property values by promoting the reasonable, orderly, and effective display of business and related signs.
6. to promote the aesthetic values of the City of Oxford and the University of Mississippi by elimination of visual blight
7. to preserve the quality of urban life in the community.
8. to improve the safety of the citizens of, and visitors to, the City of Oxford by restrictions upon the size and location of certain types of signs or by the elimination of certain types of signs.

Section 192 General Provisions

192.01 Signs Prohibited as Public Nuisance

1. Erection of any business sign or outdoor advertising signs in any residential or agricultural District, except as provided in this Ordinance, shall be prohibited. Outdoor advertising signs shall be permitted only in the Industrial (I) District.
2. Portable signs are hereby declared to be a public nuisance contributing to traffic hazards and visual blight and detrimental to the aesthetic environment of the City of Oxford, and, therefore, are not permitted within the corporate limits of the City of Oxford.
 - a. All portable signs shall be removed from the premises within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this Ordinance. Provided, however, that a portable sign may be converted to a permanent sign, meeting all requirements of this ordinance, upon application for a variance and approval by the Board of Adjustment.
3. No business sign shall be erected upon or overhang the street, road or highway right-of-way.
4. Pennants, spinners, streamers, and similar devices shall not be permitted upon any property or attached to the exterior of any building, upon any pole, tree or other structure.
 - a. All banners, pennants, spinners, streamers, and similar devices not in compliance with this ordinance (*Ordinance No. 1993-3*) shall be removed from the premises within thirty (30) days after the effective date of this ordinance.

(Ordinance No. 1993-3)

192.02 Setback Requirements

1. Business signs may be erected no closer than ten (10) feet from any street, road or highway pavement edge or curb-line, nor within any public Right-of-Way.
2. Business signs may be erected no closer than one hundred (100) feet from any property zoned or used for residential purposes or from any residential portion of a planned unit development.
3. Outdoor advertising signs shall be located no closer than fifty (50) feet from any street, road or highway right-of-way, and only in Industrial (I) Districts.
 - a. No outdoor advertising sign shall be located closer than one thousand (1,000) feet from any other outdoor advertising sign situated on the same side of the street, road or highway.

192.03 Visibility

Business signs may be erected no closer than ten (10) feet from any street, road or highway pavement edge or curb line, provided, however, that no business sign shall be erected upon or overhang the street, road or highway right-of-way. All business signs located between ten (10) and twenty (20) feet of any street, road or highway pavement edge or curb line, which obstructs visibility within an area measured between two and one-half (2-1/2) and nine (9) feet above the ground line, shall be located at least ten (10) feet away from any entrance driveway located upon the premises or any entrance driveway situated upon adjacent property. Outdoor advertising signs shall be located no closer than fifty (50) feet from any street, road or highway right-of-way.

192.04 Lighting

All lighted or illuminated signs shall be so constructed as to prevent any undue glare in any direction, which may interfere with traffic or become a nuisance to adjoining property. No sign shall flash or move; provided, however, that signs providing noncommercial public service information such as "time and temperature" shall be permitted

192.05 General Regulations

1. Temporary signs shall be permitted in all Districts, provided that such signs shall meet the setback and visibility requirements of this ordinance.
2. Signs for churches, religious, or cultural institutions shall meet the setback and visibility requirements for business signs as required by this ordinance.
3. One (1) flagpole shall be allowed for each business for display of commercial flags.
4. On-premises directional signs, not exceeding two (2) square feet, may be erected, in any District, provided they are not within the right-of-way of any street.
5. Business signs may be placed inside buildings or affixed or painted upon the windows or glass doors of any building. Such signs shall not cover or be attached to any portion of the exterior surface of the building other than upon window or door glass.
6. Business signs shall not be permitted to locate closer than one hundred (100) feet from any property used or zoned for residential purposes.
7. Signs shall not be erected or maintained within a public street right-of-way, nor upon trees or utility poles, or painted or drawn upon rocks or natural features, nor upon any

motor vehicle or tractor trailer parked in the front setback of any business or directly adjacent to any public right-of-way.

8. Apartment complexes may have one (1) monument sign not to exceed eight (8) feet in height and twenty-four (24) square feet in sign area. In addition, one (1) wall sign not to exceed twenty (10) square feet in sign area shall be permitted.
9. In the P-B District, one (1) monument sign not to exceed eight (8) feet in height and twenty-four (24) square feet in sign area. In addition, one (1) wall sign not to exceed twenty (20) square feet in sign area shall be permitted.

192.06 Size of Signs

1. Calculating Total Area of any business sign, whether freestanding, mounted, or painted upon the outside wall or canopy of a building shall be by means of the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem or other display, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed, but not include any supporting framework, bracing or other means of support.
 - a. The total sign area for any freestanding or projecting sign with one (1) or more faces shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign faces visible from one (1) point.
 - b. The total sign area for wall-mounted signs shall be based upon the width of the front, sides or rear of any building.
 - c. The total sign area for any outdoor advertising sign shall not exceed three hundred (300) square feet.
2. Maximum Sign Area
 - a. The maximum sign area for such freestanding or projecting business signs shall be forty (40) square feet.
 - 1) Provided, however, that the area of such sign may be increased by one (1) square foot for each one thousand (1,000) square feet of building floor area, with a maximum size of sixty (60) square feet.
 - 2) Provided also, that freestanding business signs located within five hundred (500) feet of the nearest edge of the primary travel lanes of the Mississippi Highway Number 6 and 7 bypasses may contain a maximum of sixty (60) square feet.
 - b. Shopping center entrance signs may contain additional square footage not to exceed ten (10) square feet for each business located within the shopping center when such additional footage is devoted exclusively to individual businesses located within such shopping center and when no freestanding signs are to be erected.
 - 1) In the event that no individual signs are to be erected as part of the shopping center entrance sign, or erected as freestanding signs on the shopping center property, then such shopping center entrance sign may contain a total of one hundred (100) square feet.

- c. Wall-mounted business signs shall not exceed one (1) square foot in area for each one (1) linear foot of building (front, rear or side) for buildings located within thirty (30) feet from the edge of the street.
 - 1) For buildings located more than thirty (30) feet from the edge of the street, two (2) square feet of sign area for each one (1) linear foot of building (front, side or rear) shall be permitted.
- d. The maximum for all wall or canopy-mounted signs shall be two hundred (200) square feet. Whenever canopies are used for determining the total sign area, no signs shall be mounted upon the building.

192.07 Height of Signs

- 1. No outdoor advertising sign shall be erected to a height in excess of thirty (30) feet
- 2. No freestanding business sign shall exceed a height of twenty (20) feet.
- 3. Provided, however, that freestanding business signs located within five hundred (500) feet of the nearest edge of the primary travel lanes of the Mississippi Highway Number 6 and Number 7 bypasses may be erected to a height not to exceed thirty (30) feet.
- 4. No sign attached to any building shall project above the roofline of such building.

192.08 Number of Signs

- 1. The number of free-standing signs shall be limited to one (1) per lot provided that where a lot has frontage on two (2) public streets and has a minimum frontage of three hundred (300) feet on either street and a combined frontage greater than six hundred fifty (650) feet, the number of free-standing signs may be increased to two (2).
- 2. The number of wall signs shall be limited to two (2) signs and shall include business identification or product advertising signs displayed in windows.

192.09 Special Provisions

- 1. Commercial Banners and Temporary Signs: One (1) commercial banner per business may be erected for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days on four (4) occasions per calendar year.
 - a. A permit shall be obtained to erect any commercial banner.
- 2. Specific Regulations in the Downtown District
 - a. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this 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 (8) feet above the sidewalk and shall not project more than forty-two (42) inches from any building or within twenty-four (24) inches of any curb line or pavement edge.
 - b. 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 two and one-half (2.5) feet and

nine (9) feet from the ground line, and within twenty (20) feet of the street, road, or highway pavement edge or curb line.

3. Specific Regulations for Professional Business Signs
 - 1) One (1) sign shall be permitted for each professional office.
 - 2) Signs for professional offices, which may be permitted in residential Districts, shall not exceed eight (8) square feet in area or two and one-half (2 1/2) feet in height.
 - 3) Signs for home occupations shall be as required by Section 117.

192.10 Sign Permit Required Before any person or firm shall erect, place, hang, or otherwise install any sign not exempt from this Ordinance, he shall apply for a permit covering such operations. The cost of such permit shall be as required by the Standard Building Code and the holder of said permit is required to furnish an application to the administrative official, and diagrams depicting the following:

1. Specifying the location, size, character, height, and setback for each and every sign to be installed.
2. Drawings depicting the location of proposed outdoor advertising signs shall include accurate data regarding the location of other outdoor advertising signs on the same side of the street, road, or highway, and within one thousand (1,000) feet of such proposed outdoor advertising sign.

192.11 Exemptions No permits shall be required for temporary signs, incidental signs, signs inside buildings or attached to or painted upon windows or glass doors, directional signs, and name signs for apartment complexes or duplexes when mounted flush against walls, fences or buildings.

192.12 Nonconforming signs.

1. All nonconforming signs shall be modified to conform with these regulations, or shall otherwise be removed, when the nature or name of the business which the sign advertises is changed and/or if the sign is to be changed or modified, either in shape, size, message, or if the face of the sign is replaced, provided, however, that advertising messages on nonconforming outdoor advertising signs may be changed, notwithstanding the provisions of this section. All nonconforming signs including outdoor advertising signs shall be removed or brought into compliance within five (5) years of adoption of this ordinance.
2. Any sign not conforming to the provisions of this Ordinance which is destroyed or severely damaged, as determined by the Administrative Official, shall not be repaired or replaced except in conformity with this Ordinance.
3. Any sign conforming with the provisions of this Ordinance, which becomes unsafe, hazardous, insecure or in danger of falling shall be removed or repaired by the owner, or the owner of the property upon which such sign is located, within fourteen (14) days of receipt of written notice from the Administrative Official.
4. Any sign not conforming to the provisions of this Ordinance, which becomes unsafe, hazardous, insecure or in danger of falling shall be removed by the owner, or the owner of the property upon which such sign is located, within fourteen (14) days of receipt of written notice from the Administrative Official.

5. Any nonconforming signs including outdoor advertising signs shall be removed or brought into compliance within five (5) years of the date of adoption of this Ordinance.

192.13 Abandoned signs If it shall appear and the Administrative Official of the City of Oxford in charge of zoning shall so find that a sign has been abandoned or is in nonuse for a period in excess of one hundred and eighty (180) days, he shall notify, in writing, the owner of the land together with the owner of the sign, if known, to remove the sign within thirty (30) days of said notice. If same is not removed, the city may demolish said sign and bill the sign owner and land owner jointly and severally for the cost of said destruction or removal.

192.14 Penalty All persons failing to comply with the provisions of this section shall be in violation of this ordinance and shall be subject to punishment as provided in Section 216.11 et seq. of this Ordinance.

(Ord. No. 1981-12, § 1, 5-5-81; Ord. No. 1990-13, §§ 1-14, 9-18-90; Ord. No. 1991-3, §§ 1-4, 4-16-91; Ord. No. 1993, §§ 1-7, 4-20-93)

Section 193 Reserved

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