

ORDINANCE # 455

ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF FOREST, MISSISSIPPI ENACTING REGULATIONS OF SIGNS WITHIN THE CITY AND RELATED MATTERS

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Board have considered and do hereby adopt the following Ordinance to be known as the Sign Ordinance of the City of Forest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the City of Forest as follows:

THE REGULATIONS HEREIN SET FORTH SHALL APPLY AND GOVERN IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS AS HEREINAFTER PROVIDED. NO SIGN OR OUTDOOR ADVERTISING DEVICE SHALL BE ERECTED UNLESS IT IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS FOR THE DISTRICT IN WHICH IT IS LOCATED AS SPECIFIED.

Section A. General Requirements and Limitations:

1. Business (On-premise) Sign Limitations

- a. One free standing sign and one mobile sign is allowed on the premise, except an additional business free standing sign will be allowed for corner lots having two street frontages.
- b. Business (on premise) signs advertising the primary nature, activities or products of the business or industry conducted or sold on the premises shall setback a minimum of five (5) feet from the right-of-way.
- c. The height limitation of the business signs shall be thirty five (35) feet to the top of the sign.
- d. A business sign shall not exceed 32 square feet in a neighborhood commercial zone (C1); 80 square feet in a community commercial zone (C2); 150 square Feet in a highway commercial zone (C3).
- e. Shopping centers or multiple commercial buildings on the same premises are considered as one business and paragraphs (a.--d.) shall apply. Each business in the shopping area may be identified on the business sign. **Exempt from paragraphs A-D.**

2. Outdoor Advertising Sign (off premise sign, billboard) Requirements.

- a. Outdoor advertising signs and business signs of a permanent nature shall be classified as a business use and shall be permitted in commercial districts as specified herein.
- b. No outdoor advertising sign shall be erected, placed or hung nearer than twenty (20) feet to the highway, street or road right-of-way upon which display faces.
- c. Outdoor advertising signs (off premises signs) shall not exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height measuring from the adjacent road grade to the top of the sign area.
- d. Outdoor advertising signs shall not exceed 300 square feet in sign area.
- e. All outdoor advertising signs permitted to be erected under this ordinance shall be erected a minimum distance of five hundred (500) feet from another such outdoor sign on the same side of the road as measured along a line parallel to such road, except back-to-back or v-type sign structures may be considered as one sign, and side by side signs must abut each other and combined size not exceed six hundred (600) square feet.

3. Limitations.

- a. Mobile signs, when allowed, shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in sign area and be anchored to withstand wind pressures. All mobile signs shall conform to all other sign regulations contained herein.
- b. Signs with flashing or blinking lights shall be restricted to 75 watt bulb capacity, and red, amber or blue flashing lights are prohibited.
- c. Signs shall not interfere with driver visibility of any traffic control device or sign, or with the visibility of the street, road, thoroughfare or expressway itself. Such signs shall maintain a setback of twenty-five (25) feet from the intersection of two (2) streets, except if the sign is constructed with the bottom of the sign no lower than nine (9) feet from the ground and mounted on a pole no larger than nine (9) inches in diameter.
- d. All signs that are illuminated shall be permanently wired to meet the National Electric Code. Special care shall be given to ground fault connections, underground wire and/or conduit with proper circuit breakers. Connecting wire from sign to permanent outlet shall not exceed four (4) feet.

- e. A trailer/portable sign shall be tied down in an approved manner to withstand a minimum wind of forty (40) miles per hour.
- f. Any sign which by reason of size, shape, content, coloring, location or manner of illumination interferes with driver visibility of any traffic control device or sign; or any sign which resembles any traffic control or emergency device or sign which creates any traffic hazard is not allowed.

Section B. Permitted and Exempted Signs.

1. On-site signs on the site of any construction work bearing the name of the building, owner and those furnishing construction or professional services or materials used on such construction work of a temporary nature, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet.
2. Temporary poster signs erected behind glass windows or temporary signs painted on glass windows.
3. Any political sign or poster not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet erected on property by the owner thereof or with the owner's consent pertaining to a candidacy or issue to be voted upon at any election or referendum, provided such sign or poster shall not be erected more than sixty (60) days prior to such election or referendum and shall be removed within ten (10) days after the referendum or last such election in which the candidate is eligible.
4. Signs painted on, or attached to, trucks or other vehicles for identification purposes, but not used for advertising purposes.
5. Signs on glass doors or windows not exceeding six (6) square feet of sign area stating name or nature of business, location and hours of business. Signs covering windows and doors thus blocking visibility into the building are not allowed.
6. Signs at entrances to subdivisions, multi family dwellings or mobile home parks showing name, description or location only and not exceeding fifteen (15) square feet.
7. Signs not exceeding one (1) square foot in area and bearing only property numbers, post office box numbers, names of occupants of premises or other identification of premises not having commercial connotation.
8. Flags and insignia of any government except when displayed in

connection with commercial promotion.

9. Legal notice or identification, information or directional signs erected or required by governmental bodies.
10. Integral decorative or architectural features of buildings except letters, trademarks, moving parts or moving lights.
11. Signs not exceeding four (4) square feet, and guiding traffic and parking on private property, but bearing no advertising matter.
12. On-site signs, advertising property for sale or rent provided such signs in a single family residential district shall not exceed twelve (12) square feet.
13. On- site church directory or bulletin board not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet and not over eight (8) feet in height.
14. Special purpose signs advertising a special area event may be erected on property by the owner thereof or with the property owner's permission provided such sign or poster shall not be erected more than sixty (60) days prior to the event and shall be removed within ten (10) days after the event and provided such sign shall not exceed thirty two (32) square feet.

Section C. Signs in Disrepair or Abandoned.

Any outdoor advertising sign, whether permitted to remain as a non-conforming sign structure or an erected advertising sign structure under the terms of this ordinance, which is found to be abandoned, or is not properly maintained or in a state of disrepair, or signs which do not meet all requirements of the building codes, including the issuance of a permit therefore, shall be removed by the property owner or sign owner within thirty (30) days after written notice to the property owner or lessee is provided by the City, without liability.

Business (on premises) signs which are not properly maintained and are in a state of disrepair, or which are abandoned, may likewise be removed by the City, without liability, following thirty (30) day period of notification to the property owner or lessee.

Signs placed on any City building, structure or lot or within the right-of-way of any City road or easement without a permit issued thereof by appropriate City authority shall be subject to immediate removal by the City.

Section D. Design and Maintenance.

It shall be the owner's responsibility that all signs shall be designed according to generally accepted engineering practices to withstand wind pressures and that loads are distributed to structural supports to avoid overstress, and that all signs are properly anchored to avoid being swept away by wind. Also, all signs shall be maintained in good repair and appearance.

Section E. Permit Required.

It shall be unlawful to erect, enlarge, rebuild or structurally alter any sign without first obtaining the proper permit except Permitted and Exempted Signs.

Permit fees shall be as adopted and approved by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen.

This Ordinance shall go into effect thirty (30) days after the publication, the public interest requiring, but this Ordinance shall be published in the *Scott County Times*, as provided by law.

ORDAINED, this the 3rd day of June, 2014.

NANCY N. CHAMBERS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

FAYE JOHNSTON, CITY CLERK