

ORDINANCE NO. 13-06-061

TO AMEND TITLE 15 CHAPTER 15.24 OF THE CITY OF LOCUST GROVE CODE OF ORDINANCES, WHICH PROVIDES FOR SIGN REGULATIONS; TO AMEND CHAPTER 15.24 ENTITLED "SIGN REGULATIONS"; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LOCUST GROVE HEREBY ORDAINS

SECTION 1. Chapter 15.24 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Locust Grove is hereby amended by repealing Chapter 15.24 in its entirety and replacing in lieu thereof the following:

Chapter 15.24 SIGN REGULATIONS

Sections:

15.24.010 Purpose.

15.24.020 Definitions.

15.24.030 Applications and permits.

15.24.040 Construction standards—All signs.

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15.24.070 Special requirements by zoning classification.

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15.24.090 Unsafe and unlawful signs Section 3-7-239 unsafe and unlawful signs.

15.24.100 Nonconforming signs.

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15.24.010 Purpose. The purpose of the ordinance codified in this chapter is set out as follows herein.

- A. A comprehensive regulation is necessary because of the current burgeoning growth in Locust Grove and Henry County in general and because a major interstate highway runs through the city and attracts signs that are unrelated to business uses inside the city, leading to poor aesthetics and dropping property values.
- B. To prevent the further deterioration of the city and to ensure that it remains an attractive residential area as well as a viable commercial area, it is necessary to maintain a visually satisfying environment. A plethora of signs of a certain size and nature, no matter how tasteful, can have an undesirable effect upon traffic safety and the well-being of the entire community. The city is more likely to attract commercial enterprises and permanent residents if it improves and maintains the city's appearance. City residents will ultimately benefit from enhanced retail and commercial environments and improvements in the quality of life as a result of these regulations. It is a rational desire of the community, and most specifically of those who live therein from day to day, to plan their physical surroundings in such a way that unsightliness is minimized.
- C. Further, the city has an obligation and a right to protect the rights of adjoining landowners to adequate light and air, to promote desirable living conditions and sustain stability of neighborhoods, to protect property against blight and deprivation, and to encourage the most appropriate use of land, buildings and other structures throughout the city.
- D. Accordingly, in consideration of the city's rights and obligations to promote traffic safety, to preserve property values, to provide for the convenience and enjoyment of public travel, to eliminate annoyance to travelers, to attract tourists, residents and industry, to serve the public health, safety and morals, to advance the general prosperity of the community, and to serve the general welfare, the city council imposes the regulations contained in this chapter.
- E. The city council finds that signs provide an important medium through which individuals and entities may convey a variety of noncommercial and commercial messages. However, left completely unregulated, signs can become a threat to public safety as well as a traffic hazard. Such signs may also constitute an aesthetic nuisance and be a detriment to property values and the city's public welfare. The city council intends by enacting the ordinance codified in this chapter to:
 - 1. Balance the rights of individuals and entities to convey their message through signs and the right of the public to be protected against the unrestricted proliferation of signs.

2. Protect the public health, safety, welfare, and aesthetics of the city;
3. Reduce traffic and pedestrian hazards;
4. Maintain the historical image of the city;
5. Protect property values by minimizing the potentially adverse effects and visual blight caused by signs;
6. Promote economic development; and
7. Ensure the fair and consistent enforcement of sign regulations.

15.24.020 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter, the definitions contained in this section shall control. In addition, the following words and phrases shall have the meanings respectively ascribed to them below, unless the context clearly indicates a contrary meaning:

“Aerial view sign” means any sign which is designed primarily to be viewed from the sky from an airplane, helicopter, etc. This includes, but is not limited to, any sign horizontally affixed to a roof or attached to a roof such that the sign is not readily viewable from the surrounding ground.

“Aggregate signable area” means the sum total of the signable area of any and all signs, for a given lot. This applies to all types of signs on the properties, including, but not limited to, window signs, wall signs, flashing signs, ground sign and temporary signs. Signs exempt from permitting requirements of this chapter as stated in Section 15.24.120 shall not be counted towards aggregate signable area. Street numbers assigned by the United States Postal Service shall not be considered in calculating the aggregate signable area.

Animated sign. See Flashing sign.

“Awning sign” means any sign on a cloth, metal, plastic or other cover designed to shade a window or entrances and attached to any structure.

“Back to back sign” means a sign with two parallel sign faces oriented in opposite directions.

Banner sign. See Temporary sign.

Beacon. See Temporary sign.

Bench sign. See Ground sign.

Blade sign. See Projecting sign or Swinging sign.

Bracket sign. See Projecting sign or Swinging sign.

“Building frontage” means the linear feet of the exterior wall of a building that faces any road or street that provides a means of direct ingress and egress to the lot.

“Building Official” means the individual in the City of Locust Grove’s Building Department who is designated by the Community Development Director to administer this ordinance or the Building Official’s designated representative.

“Business subdivision” means a single parcel on which multiple businesses are located, or multiple connected parcels on which businesses are located and where the owners of the parcels share any common property.

Canopy sign. See Wall sign.

“Central Business District Overlay (CBDO)”. That area defined in Chapter 17.04.136 designating the Central Business District Overlay District.

Changeable copy sign. See Flashing sign.

“Community Development Director” means the City of Locust Grove’s Director of the Community Development Department or his designated representative.

“Community Sign Overlay (CSO)”. That area defined in Chapter 17.04.136 designating the Community Sign Overlay District.

“Day(s)” means a business day or days in which the Department of Community Development is open to the public and does not include weekends or holidays designated by the city.

“Decal” means a picture, design or label made to be transferred (as to glass, wood, metal or any other hard object) from specially prepared paper.

“Decision date” means the date upon which (depending upon applicability) the Community Development Director, the Building Official, or the City of Locust Grove’s city council or its designated representative makes a final decision on the approval or denial of a sign application.

Detached sign. See Ground sign.

Door sign. See Wall sign or Window sign.

“Eave” means the projecting lower edges of a roof overhanging the wall of a building.

“Electronic Sign” means a type of flashing sign containing light emitting diodes (LED) or similar technology (Super Amoled, OLED, Plasma) for their purpose of illumination and display.

“Entrance sign” means any sign placed at the intersection of a public street and a public or private entryway into an apartment complex, condominium complex, office complex, industrial complex or other building or buildings with multifamily residential dwelling units or multiple commercial units.

“Erect” means to build, paint, construct, attach, hang, place, suspend, assemble or affix.

“Externally illuminated signs” means any sign illuminated by an external light source directed primarily toward such sign.

Fascia sign. See Wall sign.

“Flag” means a usually rectangular piece of fabric of distinctive design that is used as a symbol as of a nation, as a signaling device or as a decoration.

“Flashing sign” means any sign whose message or appearance scrolls, flashes, rotates or changes, or whose illumination changes in intensity more often than once every ten (10)seconds, including but not limited to reader boards, animated signs, changeable copy signs, electronic signs, marquee signs, moving signs, multiple message signs, revolving signs, rotating signs and tri-vision signs.

Flat sign. See Wall sign.

“General Sign Overlay (GSO)”. That area defined by Chapter 17.04.136 designating the General Sign Overlay District.

“Ground sign” means any sign supported by a monument, pole, or other structure which is permanently placed into the ground, and not supported by or suspended from any building.

“Hand held signs” means any sign larger than six inches by six inches carried , worn, or conveyed by a human being including but not limited to picket signs, shields, arrows, or sandwich boards and excluding clothing.

“Height” means the vertical distance measured from the lowest adjacent grade to the highest point of the sign or sign structure.

“Inflatable signs” means signs which can be inflated with air or gas, and mounted or flown over a site.

“Internally illuminated signs” means any sign which has characters, letters, figures, designs or outlines illuminated by electric lights or luminous tubes located within the interior parts of the sign.

“Interstate sign” means a special type of ground sign whose sign area is no more than 48 feet in width and 16 feet in height and whose total structure height may be no greater than seventy feet in height located on private premises and situated such that the message of the sign is directed to attract the attention of the traveling public on Interstate 75. Such sign is commonly known as a “billboard” or “outdoor advertising” sign and may be comprised of fabric, panels, or electronic types of display.

“Interstate Sign Overlay (ISO)”. That area defined by Chapter 17.04.136 designating the Interstate Sign Overlay District.

“Lot” means a single tax parcel as shown on Henry County’s tax map.

Mansard sign. See Roof sign or Wall sign.

Marquee sign. See Flashing sign.

“Mixed Historic Neighborhood Sign Overlay (MHNSO)”. That area defined by Chapter 17.04.136 designating the Mixed Historic Neighborhood Sign Overlay District.

Mobile sign. See Temporary sign.

Monument sign. See Ground sign.

Moving sign. See Flashing sign.

Multiple Message sign. See Flashing sign.

“Non-combustible material” means any material which will not ignite at or below a temperature of one thousand two hundred degrees Fahrenheit and will not continue to burn or glow at that temperature.

“Nonconforming sign” means any sign which does not conform to the provisions of this Article at the date of adoption of same.

Painted Wall sign. See Wall sign.

Parapet sign. See Wall sign.

Pennant See Temporary sign.

“Person” means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company, entity or organization of any kind.

Pitched Roof sign. See Roof sign.

“Planned center” means a building or group of buildings in close proximity to each other (not to exceed 10 contiguous acres) that are operated under a common promotional plan as depicted on a specially designated plat on file with the City Clerk as approved by City Council, occupied by three (3) or more retail stores, service establishments, offices, industries or any other business.

Pole sign. See Ground sign.

Portable sign. See Temporary sign.

“Primary Facade” means the exterior wall of the building that faces the main parking area or street and includes the primary entrance into the building. If the building faces more than one parking area or street, the largest exterior wall of the building with a primary entrance which is most nearly parallel to the widest street or largest parking area to which the building faces.

“Projecting sign” means any sign which is attached perpendicular to a building or other structure and extends more than twelve inches horizontally from the plane of the building wall.

Pylon sign. See Ground sign.

Reader board. See Flashing sign.

“Reflectors” means any device created for the purpose of reflecting light directed at the device so

as to render the device especially visible.

“Residence” means a structure, home, abode, or place where individuals reside.

Revolving sign. See Flashing sign.

“Roof sign” means a sign which is attached to a building or structure and is displayed above the lowest horizontal line of a building’s roof.

Rotating sign. See Flashing sign.

Sandwich sign. See Temporary sign or Hand held sign.

Searchlight. See Temporary sign.

“Secondary Facade” means any exterior wall of a building, other than the primary facade. Shingle sign. See Projecting sign or Swinging sign.

Sidewalk sign. See Temporary sign.

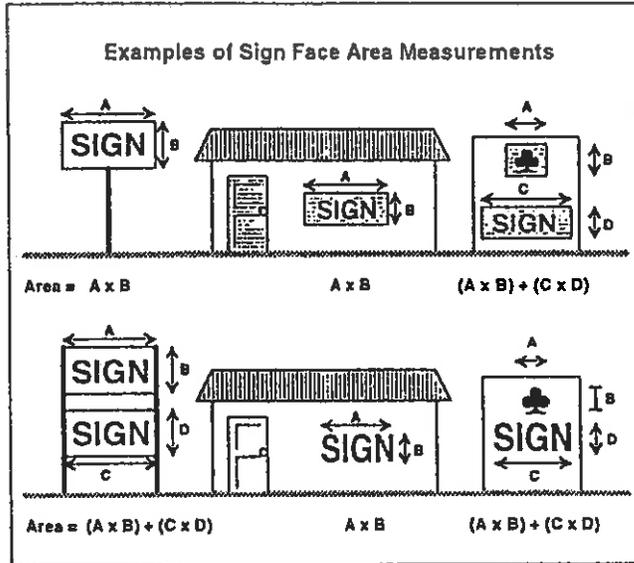
“Semi-Permanent Directional Signage” means a sign which conveys directions to a specific event, specific place under construction, or specific real estate for sale, and is not intended to be permanent but rather are intended to provide direction to a event or place for a limited period of time beyond the maximum period for a temporary sign.

“Sign” means every device, item, structure, product, frame, letter, figure, character, mark, plane, point, design, picture, stroke, stripe, trademark, or reading matter, which is used or intended to be used to attract attention or convey information when the same is placed in view of the general public. For the purpose of determining number of signs, a single display surface or a single display device containing different elements that are organized, related, and composed to form a unit shall be considered to be one sign.

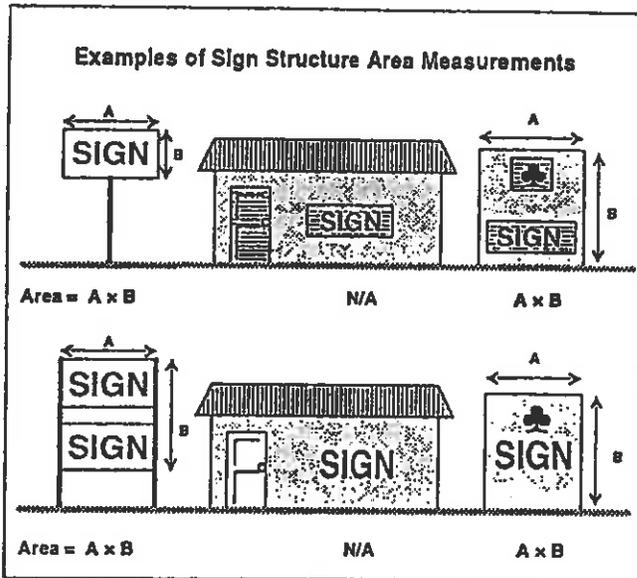
Sign face. See Signable area.

“Signable Area” means the area within the smallest square, rectangle, triangle, circle or combination of such geometric figures, or portions thereof, enclosing the limits of ANY sign face, or the combination of the areas of all such geometric figures delimiting each sign face, together with any frame or material, texture or color forming an integral part of the sign face, or which is used to differentiate the sign face from the structure upon which it is placed. The computation of signable area shall not include the structure, supports, or uprights on which the sign face is placed, or any portions of a sign structure that are not intended to contain any message or idea, and are purely structural or decorative in nature, other than those portions contained within a geometric figure that delimits the sign face or a sign face module. Any unused space contained within the limits of the geometric figure delimiting a sign face shall be included in the computation of the area of such sign face or sign face module. For any sign on which words, letter, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements routinely change

or are intended to be changed from time to time, the sign face area shall include the entire area within which any words, letters, figures, symbols, logos, fixtures, colors or other design elements may be placed, together with any frame or material, texture or color forming an integral part of the sign face or used to differentiate the sign face from the structure upon which it is placed.



“Sign Structure Area” means the total area of the supporting structure for ANY sign and total area upon which the signable area is placed. The area of a sign structure shall be computed as the area within the smallest square, rectangle, triangle, circle or combination of such geometric figures, or portions thereof, enclosing the limits of the surface of a sign whereon the sign may be placed, including all portions of a sign structure that provide a background for the sign face, but are not intended to contain any message or idea, and are purely structural or decorative in nature. Any unused space contained within the limits of the geometric figure delimiting a sign structure shall be included in the computation of the area of such sign structure.



“Stake sign” means any temporary sign supported by at least one upright placed into the ground, and not supported by or suspended from any building with signable area not greater than eight square feet.

“Store front” means the primary facade of a single, undivided unit containing an area larger than seven hundred and fifty square feet.

Streamer. See Temporary sign.

“Subdivision sign” means any sign placed at the intersection of two public roads where one of the roads is the main thoroughfare into and out of a single family residential subdivision.

“Subdivision internal sign” means any sign placed at the intersection of two public roads inside a residential subdivision.

“Submission date” means the date stamped on a sign application indicating the date the application was actually received by the Community Development Department.

Suspended sign. See Projecting sign or Swinging sign.

“Swinging sign” means any sign which is mounted such that the sign may freely move back and forth.

“Temporary sign” means any sign or device which is not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure, which is designed to be mobile or is designed to remain in place for a limited time. This includes, but is not limited to, signs which are designed to be transported regularly from one location to another, signs which are designed with wheels, regardless of whether the wheels remain attached to the sign, or signs tethered to an existing structure. These signs include, but are not limited to: (1) sky lights; (2) balloons; (3) streamers; (4) flag strings; (5)

banners; (6) beacons; (7) searchlights; (8) pennants; (9) sandwich signs; and (10) mechanical or animated figures.

“Queen Anne Style, Folk Victorian Style, Craftsman Style and International Style” shall mean that style of building, sign, font, and color as found in *Historic Commercial District Design Guidelines & Proposed Historic Residential District Design Guidelines* dated Spring 2013, prepared for the City of Locust Grove by the Preservation Planning Class, Georgia State University, a copy of which shall be on file with the Community Development Department.

“V Formation sign” means a sign with two sign faces where the two (2) permitted faces of a standard double-faced yard or monument sign placed in a v-shaped configuration where the two (2) faces or their supporting structures are connected at the point of the “V”. The angle between the two (2) faces shall not exceed sixty (60) degrees.

“Wall sign” means any sign which is attached parallel to or painted on an exterior building wall, which may include a door.

“Wayfinding sign” means any sign that is part of a coordinated program for the purpose of facilitating vehicular tourist traffic to local tourist destinations, commercial activities or services as designated and recognized by the City’s wayfinding signage program or as approved through a PD Master Sign Plan or Planned Center common promotional plan.

“Window sign” means any sign displayed to an outside observer on or through a window or covering a window, which may include a door.

“Zoning district” means the use classification of parcels of land as defined under the city’s zoning map generally.

15.24.030 Applications and permits.

- A. Application Requirements. All applications for sign permits must be complete and contain all required information. If either the Community Development Director or the Building Official shall determine that the application does not contain all required information as set forth in this chapter, or if such information is inaccurate or untrue, the application shall be denied.
- B. Permit Application. Application for permits to erect signs shall be made upon forms provided by the Community Development Department, and shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:

- 1. Name, address, and telephone number of the applicant;

2. Address of building, structure, or property to where the sign is to be attached or erected;
3. Position of the sign in relation to nearby buildings or structures, property lines and other signs located on the lot showing compliance with all setback lines required by the city;
4. Two (2) sets of accurately scaled color drawings of the plans, contents, specifications, and method of construction and attachment to the building or the ground for the sign as well as a scaled drawing of the site showing drives, structures, and any other limiting site features;
5. Name of person, firm, corporation, or association erecting the sign (i.e. contractor or builder);
6. Written consent of the owner of the building or lot upon which the sign is to be erected;
7. A written list describing all other signs located on the lot indicating the sign type, size and placement;

C. Submission of Sign Permit Applications.

1. Sign permit applications must be delivered to the Community Development Department. It shall be the duty of the applicant to ensure that the Community Development Director receives a copy of the permit application with all attachments as required by the ordinance codified in this chapter.
2. All permit applications submitted to the Community Development Department must be stamped by the Community Development Director indicating the submission date.

D. Approval of the Community Development Director. Approval of the Community Development Director is required for all sign permit applications. Such officer shall examine the plans and specifications to determine if the same complies with the city's zoning regulations and the provisions of this Chapter.

E. Approval of the City Building Official. Approval of the Building Official is required for all sign permit applications. Such officer shall examine the plans and specifications to determine if the same comply with the city's building code requirements.

- F. **Permit Required.** Except for those signs exempt from this chapter under Section 15.24.120, a permit is required to erect, repair, alter, relocate, or maintain any sign as defined in this chapter.
- G. **Application Fees.** Each application for a sign permit must be accompanied by a payment of the application fee to the Community Development Department. The fee for sign permit applications shall be fifty dollars (\$50.00) for permanent signage, twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for semi-permanent signage, and fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for temporary signage.
- H. **City Permit Fees.** Before a sign permit may be issued the applicant shall pay to the city a permit fee of fifty cents (\$0.50) per square foot (per side) of all permanent signage, or a minimum permit fee of two-hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00), whichever is greater, plus electrical permit fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for all signs with internal or indirect lighting. For temporary signage, the applicant shall pay a fifty dollar (\$50.00) permit fee. For semi-permanent signage, the applicant shall pay a one hundred dollar (\$100.00) permit fee. Such fees may be adjusted by the city council over time.
- I. **Issuance and Denial of Applications and Permits.**
1. In the event the Community Development Director determines or learns at any time that the applicant has not properly completed the application for the proposed sign or that the application does not meet all requirements for approval, he shall promptly notify the applicant of such fact. The applicant shall have five (5) days from said notification to submit a revised application, and if a revised application correcting all deficiencies not received within five (5) days, the application shall be deemed abandoned and stand denied. When said notification has been provided to the applicant, the time frame for a decision under the following paragraph shall be extended by ten (10) days.
 2. Provided that the sign application is complete and approved, all fees have been paid, and the proposed sign and the lot upon which the sign is to be placed are within all the requirements of this chapter and all other ordinances of the city and other applicable law, the Community Development Director shall approve the application and then forward the same to the Building Official for consideration. Upon making his final decision, the Community Development Director must stamp each application with a decision date. If the Community Development Director has not approved or denied the application or revised

application within thirty (30) days of receipt, then on the 31st day from receipt, the application shall be deemed approved, and the applicant shall have five (5) days to forward a copy of the application to the Building Official for consideration. If the applicant fails to forward a copy of the application within five (5) days to the Building Official, the application shall be deemed abandoned and shall stand denied.

3. In the event the Building Official determines or learns at any time that the applicant has not properly completed the application for the proposed sign or that the application does not meet all requirements for approval, he shall promptly notify the applicant of such fact. The applicant shall have five (5) days from said notification to submit a revised application, and if a revised application correcting all deficiencies is not received within five (5) days the application shall be deemed abandoned and shall stand denied. When said notification has been provided to the applicant, the time frame for a decision under the following paragraph shall be extended by ten (10) days.
4. Provided that the sign application is complete and approved, all fees have been paid, and the proposed sign and the lot upon which the sign is to be placed are within all the requirements of this chapter and all other ordinances of the city and other applicable law, the Building Official shall approve the application and then forward the same to the city council for consideration. Upon making his final decision, the Building Official must stamp each application with a decision date. If the Building Official has not approved or denied the application or revised application within thirty (30) days of receipt, then on the 31st day from receipt, the application shall be deemed approved, and the applicant shall have five (5) days to forward a copy of the application to the city council for consideration. If the applicant fails to forward a copy of the application within five (5) days to the City Council, the application shall be deemed abandoned and shall stand denied. The city clerk shall be the designated person to receive the application on behalf of the City Council.
5. Once an application is approved by both the Community Development Director and the Building Official and forwarded to the City Council, the application shall appear on the agenda of the City Council's meeting within sixty (60) days of the Council's receipt from the applicant. Provided that the sign application is complete and approved, all fees have been paid, and the

proposed sign and the lot upon which the sign is to be placed are within all requirements of this chapter and all other requirements of the city's building code requirements, City Council shall approve the application. If the City Council has not approved or denied the application or revised application within sixty (60) days of receipt, then the application shall be deemed approved.

J. Time Period. If the permit holder has not completed the work authorized under a or has not applied for a permit extension within six months after the permit issuance date or presumed approval date, the permit shall become null and void. Applications for permit extensions shall be filed with the Community Development Director and shall set for the additional time needed for completion, the reasons completion has not yet occurred and the reasons justifying the requested extension. An application for extension shall be accompanied by at fifty dollar (\$50.00) fee. Provided that the extension application is complete, all fees have been paid, and the progress made on the sign is in strict compliance with the permit issued, the requirements, conditions and ordinances of the City and other applicable laws as of the date of the issuance of the permit, the Community Development Director shall grant one (1) extension of the permit for a duration not to exceed three (3) months. No additional extensions shall be granted.

K. Display of Identification Number. Every sign constructed, erected, or maintained for which a permit is required by this chapter shall be plainly marked with the identification number issued by the Community Development Department for the structure firmly affixed to the sign in such manner that the identification number shall be readily visible, accessible for inspection and durable.

L. Altering Identification Number. Displaying an identification number that has been tampered with, altered, or mutilated, or displaying a sign without an identification number shall be an ordinance violation punishable in municipal court. The penalties for such a violation are provided in Section 15.24.130.

M. The denial of a permit or permit extension under this section by either the Community Development Director or the Building Official may be appealed to the city council under the procedure set forth below:

1. In the event that the Community Development Director denies an application, he or his designated representative shall notify the applicant of the denial of a sign

- permit application within ten (10) days of the decision date. Notice shall be made in writing and sent to the applicant's address listed on the sign permit application.
2. In the event that the Building Official denies an application, he or his designated representative shall notify the applicant of the denial of a sign permit application within ten (10) days of the decision date. Notice shall be made in writing and sent to the applicant's address listed on the sign permit application.
 3. Any appeal of the decision of the Community Development Director or of the Building Official relating to a sign permit application must be made within three (3) days of receipt of notice of the denial. The appeal must be in writing and filed with the city clerk. In the event that no appeal is made within the three day period, the decision of the Community Development Director or of the Building Official shall become final.
 4. The city council shall hold a hearing on any such appeal no more than thirty (30) days after receipt of the appeal.
 5. The city council shall make its final determination on the appeal not more than thirty (30) days after the date of the hearing. The city clerk shall notify the applicant of the council's decision in writing, delivered to the address contained on the sign permit application. Denial of a permit by city council may be appealed to the Superior Court of Henry County by writ of certiorari or as otherwise provided by state law.

15.24.040 Construction standards—All signs.

- A. **Building Code Compliance.** All signs shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with the provisions of the city's building code.
- B. **Materials Required.** All signs for which a permit is required by this chapter, except those covered by Section 15.24.070 of this chapter and temporary signs, shall be constructed of non-combustible material.
- C. **Reflectors.** Reflectors and lights shall be permitted on ground signs, roof signs, and wall signs; provided, however, that the reflectors and lights shall be provided with proper glass lenses so that no light there from creates a hazardous or dangerous condition.
- D. **Internal Illumination.** Where permitted, the illumination of internally illuminated signs shall not exceed twenty foot candles of incandescent light measured at a distance of ten feet (10') from such structure.

- E. **External Illumination.** Where permitted, externally illuminated signs shall be lighted so that no lights are positioned in such a manner that light glares or shines into the eyes of motorists or pedestrians so as to create a hazardous or dangerous condition.
- F. **Other Code Compliance.** All building, construction, setback, zoning or other relevant codes excluding permitting (other than that provided elsewhere herein) shall be applicable to the location, construction and siting of signs and shall be read in harmony with this chapter.
- G. **Construction Near or On a Lot Containing an Existing Ground Sign.**
 - 1. Construction of any structure, building, or appurtenance adjacent to, or on a lot containing an interstate sign or ground sign greater than thirty-five feet (35') under the standards of this provision shall require that:
 - a. No buildings, structures, or appurtenances may be constructed within the fall zone of such sign. A “fall zone” is defined as an area equal to one hundred percent of the height of the sign in every direction;
 - b. No subdivision of a parcel containing an interstate sign shall be permitted unless the subdivided lot containing the interstate sign is large enough to encompass the Fall zone of such sign.
 - 2. Construction of any interstate sign or ground sign greater than thirty-five feet (35') on a lot containing any structure, building or appurtenance under the standards of this provision shall require that:
 - a. No sign may be constructed where a building, structure or appurtenance will be located within the fall zone of the sign. A “fall zone” is defined as an area equal to one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the height of the sign in every direction;
 - b. No subdivision of a parcel containing an interstate sign or ground sign greater than thirty-five feet (35') shall be permitted unless the subdivided lot containing the sign is large enough to encompass the fall zone of such sign.
 - 3. **Alternative Provision for Reduction of Fall Zone area.** Under review and approval by City Council, the Fall Zone as defined herein may be reduced to no less than thirty-five feet (35') where the applicant of the respective Interstate Sign or Ground Sign can demonstrate construction standards greater than that required under the city’s building code for wind load, including use of “hurricane

frame” or other generally-accepted structural sign practice recommended by the Building Official.

15.24.050 Special limitations.

In addition to the limitations set forth in the other sections of this chapter, the following limitations shall apply to these specific types of signs:

- A. **Wall Signs.** No wall sign shall cover wholly or partially any wall opening, nor project beyond the ends or top of the wall to which it is attached.
- B. **Ground Signs.**
 - 1. **Architectural Standards.** No ground sign shall be erected or maintained within the City with an exposed supporting pole. Sign structure shall generally be comprised of material similar to or superior than the materials comprising the elevations of primary structure on the lot or within five hundred feet (500') of the proposed ground sign.
 - 2. **Monument-type supports.** For ground signs twenty feet (20') and less in permitted height, sign structure shall be of the full monument variety with no separation of space between supports and/or the signable area.
- C. **Projecting Signs.**
 - 1. No projecting sign may be placed over streets, alleys, or ways available for vehicular traffic.
 - 2. **Night Illumination.** Every projecting sign located at a commercial business shall be illuminated between sunset and eleven p.m. every night Monday through Saturday, on each side thereof, by at least five watts per square foot of sign surface, but in no case less than sixty watts for each sign surface.
 - 3. All projecting signs must be installed at a ninety degree angle to the building facade.
 - 4. **Architectural Standards.** Within the CBDSO and MHNSO, projecting signs shall be comprised of the respective architectural style of the building (Queen Anne Style, Folk

Victorian Style, Craftsman Style, or International Style) and shall not be internally illuminated unless approved by City Council.

D. Temporary Signs.

1. Temporary signs are permitted for a maximum period of ninety (90) calendar days per year, with a maximum consecutive period of sixty (60) days. After said time periods, all temporary signs shall be removed from the premises within except:

a. Stake signs of professional quality print placed upon a lot by the property owner, or at the property owner's request, advertising the lot, or any portion thereof to be for sale or lease, which shall be removed immediately upon the sale or rent of the property; and

b. Banners placed in city parks, which shall be removed within seventy-two hours after placement.

c. Political Signs

d. Graduation banners placed on residentially-zoned property. Such banners may be no more than 24 square feet in size/area and must be maintained in good condition and individually attached to a pole, mast, arm, or other structure. A graduation banner may not be placed on any lot for more than sixty (60) consecutive days.

2. Stake signs shall not be erected before three p.m. on Friday and shall be removed no later than eleven fifty-nine p.m. Sunday; except for any stake sign of professional quality print placed upon a lot by the property owner, or at the property owner's request, advertising the lot, or any part thereof, to be for sale or rent.

3. Stake signs may be located on private property, subject to the restrictions of this chapter. Stake signs may not be placed in the right-of-way of any public road, street, highway, interstate, or other thoroughfare.

4. All temporary signs shall be securely installed, and shall meet all applicable safety standards as prescribed by the building code, electrical code or as promulgated by the city council or its designated representative.

6. If any temporary sign is erected or maintained in such a manner so as to be in violation of this chapter or any other ordinance or law of the city, the city council or its designated representative may give written notice to the owner thereof and to the owner of the property and premises upon which the sign is located that the sign must be removed within three days. If the sign is not thereafter removed, the city council may cause its removal and impose the cost of the removal as a lien upon the property upon which the sign sits.

E. Semi-Permanent Directional Signs.

5. All semi permanent directional signs shall be mounted on single or double poles of sufficient strength to safely support the sign, and shall not be affixed in any manner to trees, natural objects, streetlight poles, utility poles, federal, state or county signs or poles or other permanent sign structures.
6. All semi permanent directional signs shall be spaced a minimum of 150 feet from any other semi permanent directional sign.
7. No more than four (4) semi-permanent directional signs shall be located within 200 feet of any street intersection, but no semi-permanent sign shall be permitted any closer than twenty-five (25) feet of any street intersection. The distance restrictions herein shall be measured in a straight line from the closest structural aspect of the sign to the center point of the right-of-way in which the intersection is located.
8. The maximum signable area for a semi-permanent directional sign is 32 square feet.
9. The maximum height of a semi-permanent directional sign is 10 feet.
10. All semi-permanent directional signs shall be removed within 10 days after the event or that the project is completed, or within ten days of closing of the sale of the last lot in a subdivision or construction project.
11. A lot may have only one semi-permanent directional sign per year.
12. The amount of temporary signable area allotted by the zoning district and overlay district on a lot shall be reduced by the signable area of any semi-permanent signs.

F. Awning Signs.

1. Awning signs must be painted or installed directly on the valances of the awning.
2. Awning signs shall not have lettering or graphics exceeding ten inches in height.
3. No awning sign may be internally illuminated.
4. The signable area of any awning sign shall not exceed ten percent of the surface area of the awning.

G. Entrance Sign. All entrance signs shall be placed on private property and may not be placed in the right-of-way, except that the city council may allow an entrance sign to be placed in the right-of-way in a center median if: (1) the sign has two faces; (2) the location has been approved in writing by the city council and, if applicable, the Henry County Department of Transportation or the Georgia Department of Transportation; and (3) the applicant agrees to be responsible for maintenance and repair of the entrance sign and ensures that the existence of the entrance sign is documented on the final plat for the development.

H. Subdivision Sign. All subdivision signs shall be placed on private property and may not be placed in the right-of-way, except that the city council may allow a subdivision sign to be placed in the right-of-way in a center median if: (1) the sign has two faces; (2) the location has been approved in writing by the city council and, if applicable, the Henry County Department of Transportation or the Georgia Department of Transportation; and (3) the applicant agrees to be responsible for maintenance and repair of the subdivision sign and ensures that the existence of the subdivision sign is documented on the final plat for the development.

I. Flags.

1. In Ground. A flag may be flown from a metal pole permanently placed in the ground. The pole shall not exceed two and five-eighths inches in diameter, nor twenty feet in height. The flag flying from such pole shall not exceed three feet in width and five feet in length.
2. Projecting. A flag may be flown from a metal or wooden pole attached to a bracket projecting from the side of a building or door frame. The pole shall not exceed six feet in length, nor one inch in diameter. The flag flying from such pole shall not exceed three feet in width and five feet in length. Additionally, the

flag displayed in such manner shall not impede pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

3. Hanging. A flag may be hung in either the primary facade or secondary facade of a property appropriately zoned under this chapter. The flag shall count against the percentage of window signage permitted for the zoned property as delineated in Section 15.24.080.

4. Limit. Only one flag (either ground, projecting or hanging) shall be flown or displayed on each property. The flag shall count against the allocation of the ground, projecting or window signage permitted for each property in Section 15.24.080.

J. Hand Held Signs. All hand held signs shall meet the following regulations:

1. No hand held signs shall be placed or carried which extend more than twelve inches beyond the width of the carrier's body or which extend more than thirty-six inches above the carrier's head.

2. All persons carrying any such signs, shields or sandwich boards shall remain at least ten feet apart, shall not stand or loiter in front of any doorway, driveway or street intersection and shall not interfere with the general flow of traffic, whether pedestrian or vehicular.

3. All hand held signs are exempt from the permitting requirements of Section 15.24.030.

K. Banners on City Property.

1. In accordance with Section 15.24.060 city sponsored or operated events shall be exempt from sign regulation.

2. Banners shall be considered temporary signs as defined in Section 15.24.020 of this chapter.

3. In addition to the special limitations found in Section 15.24.050(D), banners placed on city property by private parties shall be further regulated as follows:

a. Banners on city property can be displayed for no more than seventy-two hours;

- b. No person shall be permitted to display more than one banner on the premises, and only one banner shall be displayed on the premises at any given time;
- c. Each person is responsible for erecting and removing his/her banner;
- d. No banner shall be any larger than sixty square feet;
- e. All banners shall be attached to poles provided by the city, and no banner shall at any time be attached to trees.

L. Wayfinding Signage. Wayfinding signage shall be permitted only within PD districts and in Planned Center as approved as part of a Master Sign Plan in addition to property zoned TCU as part of an approved Wayfinding Signage Plan by the Locust Grove Downtown Development Authority, the City Council, or the Georgia State Department of Transportation.

15.24.060 Special requirements—All signs.

A. City Property. All lots, buildings, structures or property owned or operated by the city of Locust Grove shall be exempt from all requirements of this chapter. No sign shall be placed in the public right-of-way or other properties zoned TCU unless part of an approved Wayfinding Signage Plan by the city council, the city Downtown Development Authority, or the Georgia State Department of Transportation.

B. All Signs Must be Placed upon a Lot. No sign may be placed on any lot, which lot does not meet the minimum requirements of the zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations of the Code of Locust Grove, Georgia.

C. Obstruction to Doors, Windows, or Fire Escapes. No sign shall be erected, constructed, relocated, or maintained so as to obstruct any fire escape or any window or door or opening used as a means of egress or so as to prevent free passage from one part of a roof to any other part thereof. A sign shall not be attached in any form, shape or manner to a fire escape, nor be placed in such manner as to interfere with any opening required for ventilation.

D. Sign Not to Constitute Traffic Hazard. No sign or other structure regulated by this chapter shall be erected at the intersection of any streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision from vehicles thereupon; or be placed at any

location where, by reason of the position, shape, or color, it may interfere with, obstruct the view of, or be confused with, any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device; or make use of the words "STOP", "DANGER", or any other word, phrase, symbol, or character in such manner as to interfere with, mislead, or confuse motorists.

E. Posting on Trees, Poles, etc. No sign shall be allowed to be tacked, painted, posted, marked, or otherwise affixed on trees, utility poles, or other similar structures, or on rocks, the ground itself, or other natural features.

F. No Posting on Supports. No message may be displayed on any portion of the structural supports of any sign.

G. Maintenance. All signs regulated by this chapter shall be kept clean, neatly painted, and free from all structural, electrical and mechanical hazards, including, but not limited to, faulty wiring and loose connections, and the premises surrounding the signs shall be maintained by the owner in a sanitary and inoffensive condition, free and clear of all weeds, rubbish, and debris. All interstate or ground signs thirty-five feet (35") or greater in height shall be subject to the following inspection and reporting requirements:

1. An affidavit of visual inspection of all structural, mechanical, and electrical elements by a Georgia sign company registered in the State of Georgia or a structural engineer licensed in the State of Georgia shall be submitted to the Community Development Department every two (2) years from the date of adoption of this amendment.
2. An engineering report of structural integrity, including X-ray or other acceptable inspection technology of all welds, fasteners and components shall be submitted to the Community Development Department every five (5) years from the date of adoption of this amendment.
3. Any sign falling under this section shall have affidavits of inspection upon initial installation by a registered Georgia structural engineer.

H. Special Situations. Those developments which include at least one building of three stories or more may be permitted wall or roof signs in sizes not exceeding one hundred square feet per primary and secondary facade. The sign allowance provided under this section shall be exempt from the aggregate signable area allowed per lot.

I. No Simulation of Public Signal. No sign shall be erected which simulates an official traffic control, warning sign or public service signal.

15.24.070 Special requirements by zoning classification. See 15.24.080 for additional requirements.

A. No sign shall be illuminated, either internally or externally, in any residential zoning except that entrance signs and subdivision signs may be illuminated from dusk until dawn.

B. All temporary signs are prohibited on lots zoned for residential use, except for stake signs as allowed in the charts contained in Section 15.24.080.

C. In any district zoned PD, or, for an area designated as a Planned Center, in addition to those limitations found in Section 15.24.080, the following requirements shall be observed:

1. A uniform design scheme of signs shall be established for the development as a whole and/or for each building in the development and approved by the city council. Decals may be allowed provided they do not exceed four inches in width and twelve inches in length or forty- eight square inches in size.
2. Plans for the development shall include detailed descriptions of all signs, including but not limited to, size, height, location, type, colors and materials to be used, lighting and ownership responsibility.
3. Plans for signs shall undergo the same review and approval process as is required of other aspects of the development; provided that the city council may make no modification of these regulations which would permit total signable area or total sign structure area otherwise prohibited under this chapter.
4. All signs shall be designed, erected and maintained in accordance with an approved master sign plan.
5. In addition to the signage allowed in Section 15.24.080, each individual unit with store front may have one wall sign with signable area not to exceed one square foot for each horizontal linear foot of store front.

D. Historic Preservation District Overlay (HPDO). The City Council considers the Historic Preservation District Overlay to be unique in its historic, architectural, and cultural character. In addition to the requirement of a Certificate of Appropriateness, the following standards apply:

1. Signs should be consistent with the architectural style of the building (Queen Anne Style, Folk Victorian Style, Craftsman Style, or International Style) and coordinate with the building color.
2. Signs will be of traditional materials, such as wood, glass, copper, corrugated “tin”, bronze, or combinations thereof. Sandblasted wood signs are appropriate; printed/molded plastic, plywood, adhesive letters, or unfinished wood are not appropriate.
3. Temporary cardboard or paper posters are prohibited on the outside of buildings.
4. Wall signs will be sized in proportion to the building and not exceed more than twelve percent (12%) of the wall area on which they are placed.
5. Murals painted on building wall surfaces will be consistent with the architectural style of the building on which it is placed (Queen Anne Style, Folk Victorian Style, Craftsman Style, or International Style).
6. Buildings may not have more than two signs on any one wall or surface.
7. Neon signs shall be consistent with the architectural style of the building on which it is placed (Queen Anne Style, Folk Victorian Style, Craftsman Style, or International Style) may be permitted; however, neon or neon signs may not be used to outline windows or the building.
8. Font or lettering shall be consistent with the respective architectural style of the building on which it is placed (Queen Anne Style, Folk Victorian Style, Craftsman Style, or International Style) and shall be consistent with Appendix B “Acceptable Type Styles for the HPDO District” .
9. Appropriate sign locations include:
 - a. Storefront
 - b. Upper Façade
 - c. Hanging or projecting, with mounting brackets anchored in mortar, not masonry
 - d. Windows:
 - i. May not be more than thirty-three percent (33%) of the window area.
 - ii. Must be mounted or painted on inside surface.
 - e. Awnings
 - f. Ground Signs

- i. Permitted only on a lot of 20,000 square feet or greater and a minimum of 100 feet of frontage on a Principal Arterial Street where a building is set back twenty or more feet from the primary right-of-way.
- ii. Placed where adequate property and visibility allow.
- iii. Poles or supports will be L-shaped with hanging signs.
- iv. Maximum of ten feet in height.
- v. Poles or supports will be of wrought-iron or other suitable material.

g. Sandwich Boards

- i. May be placed in the outdoor display area within the HPDO between the hours of 7:00 AM to Midnight.
- ii. Must not interfere with pedestrian movement.
- iii. Must be within five feet (5') of the business entrance.

- 10. Waivers or Variances shall be considered by the Historic Preservation Commission to the standards herein where the applicant demonstrates that the overall intent of maintaining the historic character of the HPDO will be met.
- 11. Appeals from decisions of the Historic Preservation Commission regarding signs shall be made to city council in the same manner with the same procedure as an appeal from a decision of the Community Development Director or Building Official.

E. Variances. This subsection shall provide the exclusive procedures for granting variances to the requirements of this chapter, but no variance shall be granted for signs along interstate highways as set forth under section 15.24.140. An appeal of a decision regarding a variance shall be made to Superior Court of Henry County by writ of certiorari.

- 1. Upon application by the property owner of a lot zoned OI, C-1, C-2, C-3, M- 1 or M-2, covering more than ten contiguous acres, the city council may grant a variance to allow the aggregate signable area of ground signs to exceed five hundred (500) square feet, but not to exceed one hundred additional square feet, where the applicant has shown that:

- a. All signs and structures within the business development are in conformance with this chapter; and
- b. The variance, if granted, would not cause substantial detriment to adjoining property owners or tenants, ~~or to the public good~~; nor would it impair the purpose and intent of this chapter; and
- c. The city council shall consider ~~at least one of~~ the following factors:
 - i. The size of buildings constructed on the subject lot,
 - ii. The potential to subdivide the lot; or
 - iii. The number of different tenants occupying the buildings; and

d. Financial Loss to the Applicant. However, such loss is not sufficient grounds, by itself, to justify a variance. Furthermore, peculiar conditions or circumstances which are the result of actions of the current or former owner(s) of the property covered by the application cannot be considered as grounds to justify a variance. The grant of a variance hereunder shall terminate **upon** the subdivision of the lot upon which such variance was granted, unless such sign remains within the approved master sign plan.

15.24.080 Charts.

In addition to all other regulations in this chapter, all signs must conform to the requirements of the charts contained in this section. The notation of "X" in the chart shall mean that this type of sign is not permitted in that zoning district under the conditions stated. Any distance limitation herein shall be measured in a straight line from the closest structural aspect of the sign.

E. For properties zoned RA, R-1, R-2, R-3, RD, and RMH (where no residential use/structure is on the lot):

In the CSO, GSO, ISO, MHNSO, and CBDO Districts						
	Maximum Signable Area (sq. ft.)	Setback	Maximum Structure Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Structure Height	Maximum Structure Width	Number of Signs
Ground Sign	100	5 feet	125	20 feet	15 feet	1

(where allowed for a nonresidential structure as part of a conditional use or government property)		from ROW				
Projecting Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wall Sign (where allowed for a nonresidential structure as part of a conditional use or government property)	10% of wall area of the primary façade	X	X	X	X	3, provided the total of the signs do not exceed the maximum signable area.
Temporary Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	8	8	1 per public street frontage, but may not be used with Semi-Permanent signage
Semi-Permanent Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	10	8	1 per public street frontage, but may not be

						used with any Temporary signage
Entrance Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Subdivision Sign	40 for 1, or 25 per side for 2	2' from ROW	60 for 1, or 35 per side for 2	8	10	1 in center median, 2 on sides of entrance street
Window Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wayfinding Sign (except in PD or Planned Center per approved Master Sign Plan/Common Promotional Plan)	X, (24 in PD or Planned Center)	X (NA in PD or Planned Center)	X (32 in PD or Planned Center)	X (6 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (5 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (As approved in Master Sign Plan for PD or Common Promotional Plan in Planned Center)

F. For properties zoned RA, R-1, R-2, R-3, RD, and RMH (where a residential structure is on the lot):

In the CSO, GSO, ISO, MHNSO, and CBDO Districts						
	Maximum Sign Area (sq. ft.)	Setback	Maximum Structure Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Structure Height	Maximum Structure Width	Number of Signs
Ground Sign (where allowed for home occupation)	10	5' from ROW	12	5'	4'	1
Projecting	X	X	X	X	X	X

Sign						
Wall Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Temporary Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	8	8	1 per public street frontage, but may not be used with Semi-Permanent signage
Semi-Permanent Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	10	8	1 per public street frontage, but may not be used with any Temporary signage
Entrance Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Subdivision Sign	40 for 1, or 25 per side for 2	2' from ROW	60 for 1, or 35 per side for 2	8	10	1 in center median, 2 on sides of entrance street
Window Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wayfinding Sign (except in PD or Planned Center per approved Master Sign Plan/Common Promotional Plan)	X, (24 in PD or Planned Center)	X (NA in PD or Planned Center)	X (32 in PD or Planned Center)	X (6 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (5 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (As approved in Master Sign Plan for PD or Common Promotional Plan in Planned Center)

G. For properties zoned RM:

In the CSO, GSO, ISO, MHNSO, and CBDO Districts						
	Maximum Sign Area (sq. ft.)	Setback	Maximum Structure Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Structure Height	Maximum Structure Width	Number of Signs
Ground Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Projecting Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wall Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Temporary Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	8	8	1 per public street frontage, but may not be used with Semi-Permanent signage
Semi-Permanent Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	10	8	1 per public street frontage, but may not be used with any Temporary signage
Entrance Sign	40 for 1, or 25 per side for 2	2' from ROW	60 for 1, or 35 per side for 2	8	10	1 in center median, 2 on sides of entrance street
Subdivision Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Window Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wayfinding	X, (24 in	X (NA	X (32 in	X (6 feet	X (5 feet in	X (As

Sign (except in PD or Planned Center per approved Master Sign Plan/Common Promotional Plan)	PD or Planned Center)	in PD or Planned Center)	PD or Planned Center)	in PD or Planned Center)	PD or Planned Center)	approved in Master Sign Plan for PD or Common Promotional Plan in Planned Center
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H. For properties zoned C-1, C-2, and C-3 with multiple businesses per lot: or business subdivision.

In the CSO District						
	Maximum Sign Area (sq. ft.)	Setback	Maximum Structure Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Structure Height	Maximum Structure Width	Number of Signs
Ground Sign	1 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 125 square feet	10' from ROW	1.2 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 175 square feet	20 feet	15 feet	1, except if otherwise additional signage is permitted under 15.24.150
Projecting Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wall Sign	15% per tenant space building wall frontage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3, provided that the total sq. ft. does not exceed the maximum sq. ft. allowed
Temporary Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	8	8	1 per public street

						frontage, but may not be used with Semi-Permanent signage
Semi-Permanent Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	10	8	1 per public street frontage, but may not be used with any Temporary signage
Entrance Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Subdivision Sign (for business subdivision)	1 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 125 square feet	10' from ROW	1.2 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 175 square feet	20 feet	15 feet	1, except if otherwise additional signage is permitted under 15.24.150
Window Sign	10" of the primary and secondary façade window space	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wayfinding Sign (except in PD or Planned Center per	X, (24 in PD or Planned Center)	X (NA in PD or Planned Center)	X (32 in PD or Planned Center)	X (6 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (5 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (As approved in Master Sign Plan for PD or Common

approved Master Sign Plan/Common Promotional Plan)						Promotional Plan in Planned Center
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In the GSO District						
	Maximum Sign Area (sq. ft.)	Setback	Maximum Structure Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Structure Height	Maximum Structure Width	Number of Signs
Ground Sign	1 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 200 square feet, up to 400 square feet within intersection of ISO District*	40' from ROW	1.2 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 250 square feet, up to 600 square feet within intersection of ISO District*	35 feet, or up to 50 feet within 800 feet of I-75	30 feet, up to 40 feet within intersection of ISO District*	1, except if otherwise additional signage is permitted under 15.24.150
Projecting Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wall Sign	15% per tenant space building wall frontage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3, provided that the total sq. ft. does not exceed the maximum sq. ft. allowed
Temporary Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	8	8	1 per public street

						frontage, but may not be used with Semi-Permanent signage
Semi-Permanent Sign	32	5' from ROW	40	10	8	1 per public street frontage, but may not be used with any Temporary signage
Entrance Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Subdivision Sign (for business subdivision)	1 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 125 square feet	10' from ROW	1.2 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 175 square feet	20 feet	15 feet	1, except if otherwise additional signage is permitted under 15.24.150
Window Sign	10" of the primary and secondary façade window space	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wayfinding Sign (except in PD or Planned Center per	X, (24 in PD or Planned Center)	X (NA in PD or Planned Center)	X (32 in PD or Planned Center)	X (6 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (5 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (As approved in Master Sign Plan for PD or Common

approved Master Sign Plan/Common Promotional Plan)						Promotional Plan in Planned Center
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*Any sign exceeding 250 square feet in signable area within the intersection of the GSO and ISO must be separated by a minimum of 500 feet from another sign 250 square feet in area or greater on the same side of the street and a minimum of 250 feet from another sign 250 square feet in area or greater on the opposite side of the street. The distance restrictions herein shall be measured in a straight line from the closest structural aspect of each affected sign.

In the ISO District						
	Maximum Sign Area (sq. ft.)	Setback	Maximum Structure Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Structure Height	Maximum Structure Width	Number of Signs
Ground Sign	1 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 750 square feet	75' from ROW	1.2 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 850 square feet	70 feet	50 feet	1 per 1,000 feet of property frontage*
Projecting Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wall Sign	15% per tenant space building wall frontage	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3, provided that the total sq. ft. does not exceed the maximum sq. ft. allowed
Temporary Sign	32	5' from interior street	40	8	8	1 per public street frontage, but

		ROW, may not be placed along Interstate 75				may not be used with Semi- Permanent signage
Semi- Permanent Sign	32	5' from interior street ROW, may not be placed along Interstate 75	40	10	8	1 per public street frontage, but may not be used with any Temporary signage
Entrance Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Subdivision Sign (for business subdivision)	1 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 125 square feet	10' from ROW	1.2 sq. ft. per lineal building frontage up to 175 square feet	20 feet	15 feet	1, except if otherwise additional signage is permitted under 15.24.150
Window Sign	10" of the primary and secondary façade window space	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wayfinding	X, (24 in	X (NA	X (32 in	X (6 feet	X (5 feet in	X (As

Sign (except in PD or Planned Center per approved Master Sign Plan/Common Promotional Plan)	PD or Planned Center)	in PD or Planned Center)	PD or Planned Center)	in PD or Planned Center)	PD or Planned Center)	approved in Master Sign Plan for PD or Common Promotional Plan in Planned Center
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In the MHNSO District						
	Maximum Sign Area (sq. ft.)	Setback	Maximum Structure Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Structure Height	Maximum Structure Width	Number of Signs
Ground Sign	32 sq. ft	5' from ROW	40 sq. ft.	10	8	1
Projecting Sign	32 sq. feet	N/A	32 sq. ft.	4	8	1 along primary road frontage
Wall Sign	6% of building wall frontage or 32 sq. ft., whichever is greater	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3, provided that the total sq. ft. does not exceed the maximum sq. ft. allowed
Temporary Sign	20	5' from interior street ROW	24	8	5	1 per public street frontage, but may not be used with Semi-

						Permanent signage
Semi-Permanent Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Entrance Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Subdivision Sign (for business subdivision)	20 sq. ft.	10' from ROW	32 sq. ft.	8 feet	5 feet	1
Window Sign	10" of the primary and secondary façade window space	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wayfinding Sign (except in PD or Planned Center per approved Master Sign Plan/Common Promotional Plan)	X, (24 in PD or Planned Center)	X (NA in PD or Planned Center)	X (32 in PD or Planned Center)	X (6 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (5 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (As approved in Master Sign Plan for PD or Common Promotional Plan in Planned Center)

In the CBDSO District						
	Maximum Sign Area (sq. ft.)	Setback	Maximum Structure Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Structure Height	Maximum Structure Width	Number of Signs

Ground Sign*	X	X	X	X	X	X
Projecting Sign	50 sq. ft.	N/A	50 sq. ft.	5	10	1 along primary road frontage
Wall Sign	6% of building wall frontage or 32 sq. ft., whichever is greater	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3, provided that the total sq. ft. does not exceed the maximum sq. ft. allowed
Temporary Sign**	X	X	X	X	X	X
Semi-Permanent Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Entrance Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Subdivision Sign (for business subdivision)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Window Sign	10" of the primary and secondary façade window space	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wayfinding Sign (except in PD or Planned Center per	X, (24 in PD or Planned Center)	X (NA in PD or Planned Center)	X (32 in PD or Planned Center)	X (6 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (5 feet in PD or Planned Center)	X (As approved in Master Sign Plan for PD or Common

approved Master Sign Plan/Common Promotional Plan)						Promotional Plan in Planned Center
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I. For properties zoned TCU

In the CSO, GSO, ISO, MHNSO, and CBDO Districts						
	Maximum Signable Area (sq. ft.)	Setback	Maximum Structure Area (sq. ft.)	Maximum Structure Height	Maximum Structure Width	Number of Signs
Ground Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Projecting Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wall Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Temporary Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Semi- Permanent Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Entrance Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Subdivision Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Window Sign	X	X	X	X	X	X
Wayfinding Sign	64 maximum for any single sign	N/A	80 maximum for any single sign	10	10	Subject to wayfinding signage master plan approval

* A ground sign not to exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in signable area and forty (40) square feet in sign structure area may be permitted upon review and approval of City Council for

tracts of land in the CBDSO district that are greater than 20,000 square feet in area and have a minimum of 100 feet of frontage on a principal arterial street.

****In the CBDSO district, a sandwich-type sign may be placed outside the business along the sidewalk area during open business hours than cannot exceed twelve (12) square feet in signable area and sixteen (16) square feet in structure area, with maximum height of three feet six inches (3'6"), provided that a minimum of sixty inches (60") of clearance along the sidewalk is made for pedestrian traffic.**

15.24.090 Unsafe and unlawful signs.

A. If the city council or its designated representative shall find that any sign regulated herein is unsafe or unstable, or is a menace to the public health or safety, or is abandoned, or is maintained in a dilapidated condition, or has been constructed or erected or is being maintained in violation of the provisions of this chapter, the city council or its designated representative shall notify the permittee, owner, or occupant of the property on which the sign is located by certified mail and regular mail of such violation. Said notice shall include a brief and complete statement of the violations to be remedied. If the permittee, owner, or occupant of the property where the sign is located cannot be located, notice shall be affected by the city council or its designated representative affixing the notice to the sign or to the building on which the sign is erected.

B. If the permittee or property owner fails to remove or alter the structure so as to comply with the standards herein set forth within ten (10) days after such notice, the permit for such sign shall be revoked and the permittee or property owner shall be subject to the penalties set forth in Section 15.24.130 of this chapter.

C. In any case in which a sign is an immediate threat to the physical safety of persons or adjoining property, the city council or its designated representative may cause such structure to be removed summarily and without notice and cause the cost of same to be placed as a lien on the property upon which the sign sits.

15.24.100 Nonconforming signs.

A. The following provisions shall apply to signs which, on the effective date of this chapter, were approved and legally erected under previous sign restrictions and which became nonconforming with respect to the requirements of this chapter's restrictions:

1. The Community Development Director shall notify each owner of a nonconforming sign that said sign is considered nonconforming by the City. Said notification shall be made by certified mail to the last known address of the owner. The owner of the sign shall secure a permit for the continuation of the sign subject to the restrictions of this section. Application for such permit must be filed within ten (10) days of the notice of nonconformance. There shall be no charge for this permit. Failure to apply for such permit within ten (10) days shall result in waiver of the protections afforded nonconforming signs by this section and the display of such sign shall be thereafter unlawful.
2. No change shall be made in the size of any nonconforming sign, nor shall any structural changes be made in such a sign unless the sign is brought into compliance with the provisions of this chapter.
3. Any nonconforming sign declared to be unsafe by the city council or its designated representative shall be removed or rendered safe and brought into compliance with the provisions of this chapter.
4. Except as provided in this chapter, any sign erected on any public property or right-of-way in violation of this chapter may be removed therefrom by duly authorized employees of the city or Henry County, and the responsible party may be cited for such violation.

B. Except when destroyed by fire or other Act of God, a nonconforming sign shall not be replaced by another nonconforming sign, except that the substitution or interchange of poster panels, painted boards or dismountable material on nonconforming signs shall be permitted, subject to subsection C herein.

C. Minor repairs and maintenance of nonconforming signs shall be permitted. However, no structural repairs or changes in the size or shape of the sign shall be permitted except to make the sign comply with the requirements of this chapter. For the purposes of this section, changing a static sign face to a tri-vision or electronic (i.e. LED, Plasma, OLED or other digital light-emitting technology) face is considered a structural change.

D. No change in shape, size or design shall be permitted on a nonconforming sign except to make the sign comply with all requirements of this chapter. (Ord. 02-07.01C § 2)

15.24.110 Prohibited signs.

It shall be unlawful for any person to erect flashing signs, inflatable signs, portable signs, roof signs, tri-vision signs or aerial view signs in the city.

15.24.120 Exemptions.

A. The following signs are exempt from the permitting requirements of this chapter; provided, however, that such signs shall be subject to all other provisions of this chapter:

1. Wall signs one square foot and smaller;
2. Stake signs;
3. Projecting signs five square feet and smaller;
4. Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings, and dates of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible materials.
5. Directional sign six square feet and smaller when placed on a lot with other approved ground sign.

B. The following signs are exempt from all provisions of this chapter:

1. Signs that are not visible from any public right-of-way or any adjacent property.
2. Temporary signs required to be posted by federal law, State law or by the Code of Ordinances of Locust Grove, Georgia.
3. Decals affixed to or signs painted on equipment, fuel pumps or other types of vending equipment used for dispensing retail products, provided that such decals or signs have a signable area not exceeding four square feet on any single piece of equipment. (Ord. 02-07.O1C § 2)

15.24.130 Penalties.

Any person found in violation of any of the provisions of this chapter shall be subject to a fine not to exceed five hundred dollars per day. A separate offense shall be deemed committed each day during or upon which a violation occurs or is permitted to continue. Any sign erected or

maintained in violation of this chapter for more that thirty (30) days shall also be subject to removal by the city at the owner's or permittee's expense.

15.24.140 Signs along interstate highways.

A. This section shall apply to all interstate signs visible from 1-75 and located within the following area: one thousand two hundred feet long beginning five hundred feet from the right-of-way of the interstate point where the pavement widens on the main traveled way to accommodate the longest entrance or exit ramp at every exit along 1-75.

B. No new interstate sign shall be erected unless it is in compliance with the regulations of this section. Interstate signs must be constructed of durable materials, maintained in good condition, and not permitted to become dilapidated.

C. Non-Conforming Interstate Signs. Any legally erected interstate signs which would become non-conforming as a result of this ordinance may be allowed to remain until purchased by the Georgia Department of Transportation provided that the interstate sign meets the requirements of state laws and rules and regulations governing such interstate signs.

D. Appendix A. To aid in the greater understanding of the meaning of this section, a sketch is attached to this ordinance and incorporated herein by reference as "Appendix A" and said appendix is hereby made an integral part of this section.

E. New Interstate Signs. New interstate signs shall meet the following requirements:

1. The outside measurement of all new interstate signs shall be fourteen feet in height and forty eight feet in length, with or without trim, except that existing factory manufactured metal signs, now located within the twelve hundred foot zones set out previously and if holding a conforming state permit on December 7, 1982, are considered to be conforming with respect to size requirements until such time as the interstate sign is moved, enlarged, raised or otherwise physically altered with respect to dimensions or changes from its present configuration or sign type.

2. The total height of the interstate sign may not exceed seventy feet above the level of the surface of the pavement of the nearest lane of the main traveled way or seventy feet from the ground at the base of the structure to the tallest part of the structure, whichever is greater. Upon the effective date of the ordinance

codified in this chapter, no new permit applications shall be accepted for signs with the total height of the sign exceeding seventy feet above the level of the surface of the pavement of the nearest lane of the main traveled way or seventy feet from the ground at the base of the structure to the tallest part of the structure, whichever is greater. Permits for signs of this configuration, the applications for which were in effect prior to the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter, shall retain conforming status.

3. Extrusions beyond the face of the sign, excluding aprons, are prohibited.
4. Only one sign shall be allowed to face the same direction per location. This allows either a back to back sign or a "V" formation sign but prohibits two signs (side by side or stacked atop one another) facing the same direction.
5. Sign locations shall be no less than five hundred feet apart measuring from pole to pole.
6. Sign locations shall be no less than ten Feet from any property or right-of-way line, measured from the face of the sign.
7. Three signs shall be allowed per quadrant of an interchange adjacent to the interstate. This will allow a maximum of twelve signs per interchange. These signs must be within an area zoned commercial or industrial as specified by the Georgia Department of Transportation.
8. No new interstate sign shall be allowed except within the corridor described in subsection A of this section.

15.24.150 Sign setbacks and restrictions.

- A. All signs shall be required to be located within the required front yard of a principal structure, and shall not be permitted to extend beyond the front property line into the street right-of-way. The location of signs shall not interfere with the view of a traffic signal or traffic vision.
- B. When the charts in Section 15.24.080 make reference to this subsection, in order to erect a second sign a use must have frontage on two publicly dedicated streets with each street including a legal curb cut. In addition, there must be a minimum lot area of one-half acre to permit a second such sign to be erected. In those instances where one of the street frontages is on a street serving a residential subdivision, a second sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in signable area and forty-eight (48) square feet in sign structure area. For second frontage not on a street serving

a residential subdivision, the second ground sign, if permitted shall not exceed one-half of the signable area and the sign structure area.

Section II. Severability

If any section, clause, sentence, or phrase of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way effect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section III. This ordinance shall be codified in a manner consistent with the laws of the State of Georgia.

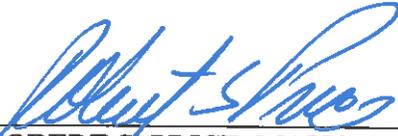
Section IV.

- A. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that all sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance are and were upon their enactment, believed by the City Council to be fully valid, enforceable and constitutional.
- B. It is hereby declared to be the intention of the City Council that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, each and every section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is severable from every other Section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance. It is hereby further declared to be the intention of the City Council that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, no section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is mutually dependent upon any other Section paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.
- C. In the event that any section, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance shall, for any reason whatsoever, be declared invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable by the valid judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, it is the express intent of the City Council that such invalidity, unconstitutionality or unenforceability shall, to the greatest extent allowed by law, not render invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable any of the remaining sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the Ordinance and that, to the greatest extent allowed by law, all remaining Sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, or phrases of the Ordinance shall remain valid, constitutional, enforceable, and of full force and effect.

Section V. **Repeal of Conflicting Provisions.** Except as otherwise provided herein, all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section VI. **Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon/of its adoption by the Mayor and Council of the City of Locust Grove.

SO ORDAINED this 3rd day of June 2013.



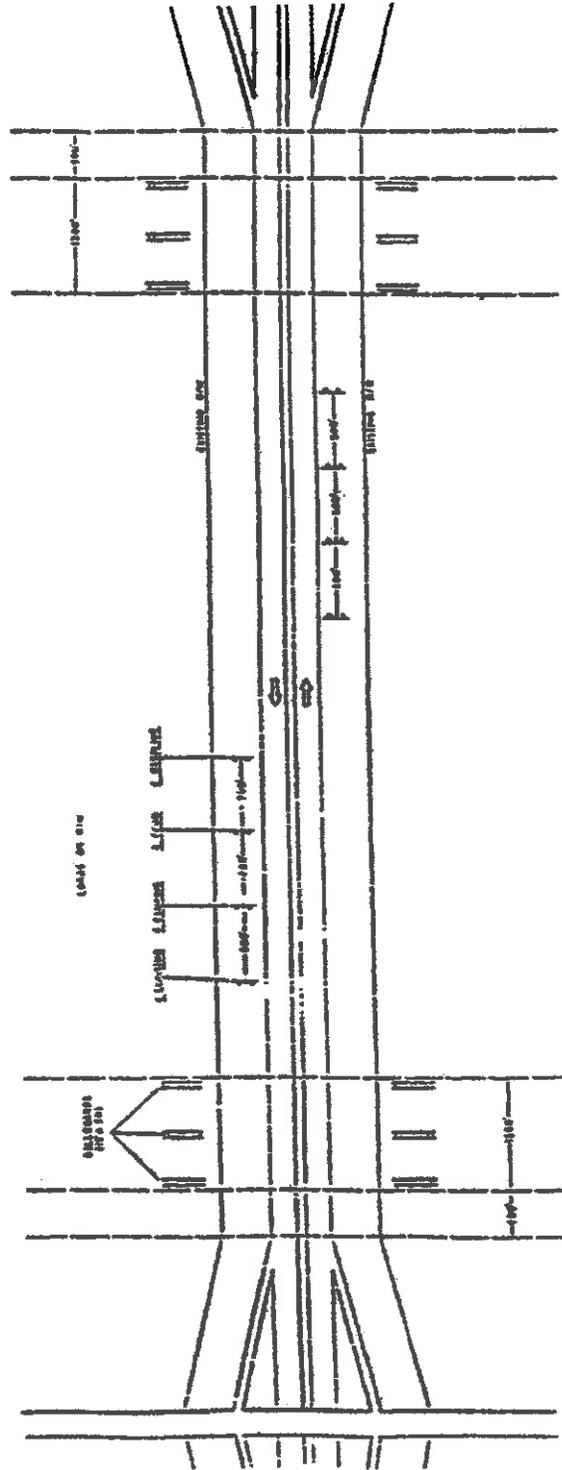
ROBERT S. PRICE, MAYOR

ATTEST:



THERESA BREEDLOVE, City Clerk
(Seal)

APPENDIX A



Appendix B

Acceptable Type Styles for the HPDO District

For example, letter styles like **Medieval, Stracciel, Computer, Far Out, WERD, Flaky**, obviously are not appropriate.

Many letter styles and original designs may be allowed, but must be approved by The Historic Preservation Commission

Some suggested standard font styles that are appropriate:
(Letter styles can be made thicker, thinner, taller, shorter, etc.)



