

ORDINANCE NO. 658

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS  
WASHINGTON, CREATING A SIX-MONTH  
MORATORIUM ON THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR  
CERTAIN SIGN PERMITS; PROVIDING FOR  
SEVERABILITY; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY; AND  
ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Granite Falls has adopted a Comprehensive Plan in compliance with the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted a Zoning Code consistent with that Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City has adopted development regulations including sign regulation ordinance consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and in accordance with the Growth Management Act; and

WHEREAS, the City Council needs sufficient time to carefully consider appropriate regulations for signs within the City limits; and

WHEREAS, absent the adoption of the moratorium and of the moratorium, further sign development of a certain nature may occur to the further detriments of the environment and may result in the construction of non-conforming signs; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that protection of the public health, safety, and welfare support the adopting of a moratorium on applications for certain sign permits and approvals within the corporate limits of the City of Granite Falls; and

WHEREAS, the City also desires to ensure public input on these issues; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to preserve the status quo for the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the City residents, as it relates to development in Granite Falls, until these matters are more fully considered;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1. Findings of Fact.** The "Whereas" clauses, above, are hereby adopted by reference as the City Council's findings of fact as is fully set forth herein.

**Section 2. Moratorium Established.** A moratorium is hereby established upon the filing of certain sign permits and approvals relating to certain sign permits described as follows:

1. Exterior neon signs.
2. Exterior signs that are internally illuminated.
3. Signs with flashing or moving lights.
4. Signs that create noise or play music.
5. Permanent exterior signs made of plastic.

No such new sign applications permits shall be accepted during the effective period of this moratorium; provided, however, that this moratorium shall not affect vested rights, if any, applicable to any such previously submitted and fully completed applications.

**Section 3. Exception.**

1. Any party that contacted the City during the period of time from May 22, 2002 to June 12, 2002, regarding sign permit applications may within the next 30 days submit a sign permit application according to the rules and regulations in place prior to the moratorium.
2. Repairs made to an existing sign restoring it to its original state.

**Section 4. Emergency Declared and Effective Date/Period of Moratorium.**

This ordinance and the moratorium is a public emergency measure necessary for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare, and shall be effective immediately upon adoption and shall continue in effect until December 11, 2002 unless earlier repealed, renewed or modified by the City Council as provided by state law.

**Section 5. Public Hearing to be Held.** A public hearing on the issue of the moratorium shall be held no later than sixty (60) days after the date of adoption herein.


Public Hearing date July 12, 2002.

**Section 6. Work Plan.** The Mayor is authorized to allocate the necessary staffing resources to prepare a work plan to address the sign regulation issues in this ordinance and the City shall implement such a work plan.

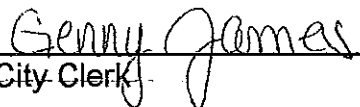
**Section 7. Severability.** If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance, be declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalide for any reson, or should any portion of this ordinance be pre-empted by state or federal law or regulation, such a decision or pre-emption shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this ordinance or its application to any other persons or circumstances.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS,  
WASHINGTON, AT A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING, ON THIS 26 DAY  
OF JUNE, 2002.

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk

Approved as to form:

  
Cheryl L. Beyer, City Attorney

Filed with the City Clerk: 6/26/02  
Passed by the City Council: 6/26/02  
Ordinance No.: 656