

CITY OF GRANITE FALLS

ORDINANCE NO. 680-03

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 adopt 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 moratorium on application 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 approval 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
6. Temporary banners displayed longer than 30 days

No such new sign application 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. 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 June 10, 2004, 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 adoption herein.

Public Hearing Date: December 29, 2003

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 invalid for any reason, 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 10 day of December, 2003.

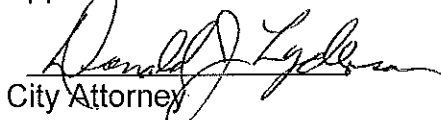
CITY OF GRANITE FALLS


MAYOR

Attest:


City Clerk

Approved as to form:


City Attorney

FIRST READING:
PUBLISHED:
EFFECTIVE:

December 10, 2003
December 17, 2003
December 10, 2003