

**CITY OF GRANITE FALLS
SIGN ORDINANCE NO. 712-05**

Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to preserve and maintain the quality and unique historic character of the city. It is to promote and protect the public welfare, health, safety, and aesthetics by regulating existing and proposed signs.

The City of Granite Falls believes it is important to encourage business owners to advertise their businesses, products and/or services to potential customers in an effective and appropriate manner that helps the businesses to thrive.

It is also recognized that unregulated signing of the City may result in the following problems: accidents resulting from visual confusion between advertising and traffic control signs; the collapse of improperly constructed signs; distracting demand for attention which may cause accidents and be injurious to health, creation of urban blight, destruction of natural beauty and loss of property values.

The intent of this Ordinance is to regulate the number, size, location, height, illumination, character, and other pertinent features of signs, in order to provide adequate identification and advertising for business, and access to advertising signage in a manner that will promote for fair economic competition and at the same time protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City.

Definitions

For the purposes of this chapter, the following terms, phrases, words, and their derivatives shall be construed as specified in this section.

- A. "Abandoned sign": any sign which represents or displays any reference to a business or use which has been discontinued for ninety (90) or more consecutive days or for which no valid business license is in effect in the town. Abandoned sign shall also mean any sign remaining in place after a sign has not been maintained for a period of sixty (60) or more consecutive days after notification of such by the city.

- B. "Area" or "sign area": for regularly shaped signs, the simple area of the sign. For irregularly shaped signs, the area shall be that of the rectangle, triangle or circle (whichever is smaller) which will wholly contain the sign. The structure supporting a sign shall not be included in determining the area of the sign unless the structure is designed in a way to form an integral background for the display. In the case of a wall mural incorporating commercial wording, the sign area includes only the portion of the mural, which contains the wording circumscribed as set forth in this definition. For identical multiple sided signs, only one (1) face shall be included in the area calculation.

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- C. "Building face": the outer surface of any building which is visible from any private or public street, highway, or alley.
- D. "Commercial": property zoned and used for business purposes, such as a restaurant or an office building; as distinguished from residential, industrial, or agricultural property.
- E. "Community service event" or "civic event": an event (e.g. festival, parking, fun run, and/or meeting) sponsored by a private or public organization, and benefiting a non-profit cause or governmental program, including but not limited to events sponsored by schools, churches, or civic fraternal organizations.
- F. "Eave line": the juncture of the roof and the perimeter wall of the structure.
- G. "Erect": to build, construct, attach, place, affix, raise, assemble, create, paint, draw, or in any other way bring into being or to establish.
- H. "Height (of a freestanding sign)": means the vertical distance measured from the highest point of the sign structure to the lowest surface grade immediately beneath the sign.
- I. "Maintained": in good unbroken, clean condition, with a minimum of tears or rips, or faded paint or lettering, and securely attached or affixed to the supporting structure.
- J. "Maintenance": means the cleaning, painting and/or minor repair of a sign in a manner that does not alter the basic design, size, color or structure of the sign.
- K. "Semipublic body": means any organization operating as a nonprofit activity and serving a public purpose or service that includes, without limitation, such organizations as noncommercial clubs, lodges, theater groups, recreational and neighborhood associations, cultural activities and schools.
- L. "Sign": any one or collection of letters, figures, designs, symbol, trademarks or devices, including artificial representations of stock in trade, which acts as a communication, or is used to attract attention to any activity, service, place, subject, person, firm, corporation or business, but does not include actual un-priced stock in trade on display and available for sale. The term "sign" includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - 1. "Banner sign": any sign intended to be hung, with or without framing, and possessing characters, letters, illustrations or ornamentations applied to fabric or any non-rigid material, but not including flags, governmental insignias, awning signs, posters and temporary signs, which communications or symbols are treated elsewhere in this chapter.
 - 2. "Bench sign": a sign located on any part of the surface of a bench or seat placed on or adjacent to a public right of way.

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3. "Business listing sign": a sign on which the names of the occupants of a building are listed. The individual signs comprising a business listing sign shall be uniform or consistent in size, shape and design.
4. "Commemorative plaque": a memorial plaque or plate, with engraved or case lettering, which is permanently affixed to or near the structure or object it is intended to commemorate.
5. "Construction sign": any sign giving the name or names of principal contractors, architects and lending institutions responsible for construction on the site where the sign is placed, together with other information included thereon.
6. "Directional sign": a sign giving directions, instructions, or facility information (e.g. parking, exit or entrance signs), which may contain the name or logo of an establishment for identification purposes only.
7. "Directory sign": a sign containing a building diagram or list of the names, addresses, and locations of occupants or the use or uses of the building to which the sign relates.
8. "Drive-thru menu board sign": a freestanding or wall sign used by restaurant establishments to display their menu items and prices for a drive-thru food service.
9. "Nonconforming sign": a sign located within the City limits on the date of adoption or amendment of the ordinance codified in this chapter, which does not conform with the provisions of this chapter, as amended, but which did conform to all applicable laws in effect on the date the sign was erected. Existing nonconforming signs shall not include temporary signs.
10. "Freestanding sign": a sign not attached to any building or structure, which is securely and permanently attached to the ground.
11. "Illuminated sign": any sign internally illuminated, in any manner, by an artificial light source, including all signs lit with neon tube style with gas, either directly or indirectly. Other types of directly illuminated signs are not included in this definition.
12. "Incidental sign": any sign, emblem or decal informing the public of business hours, facilities, or services available on the premises (e.g., open/closed signs, restroom signs and bank card signs).
13. "Integral sign": any memorial sign, tablet, name or date of erection of a building when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible material mounted on the face of a building.

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14. "Logo sign": any sign bearing characters, letters, symbols, or characteristic design which, through trademark status or consistent usage, has become the customary identification for a business.
15. "Residential sign": any sign that bears only property address numbers, postal box numbers or names of occupants of premises.
16. "Off-site sign": any sign which directs attention to a business, profession, product, activity or service which is not conducted, sold or offered on the premises where the sign is located.
17. "Political sign": any temporary signs advertising a candidate or candidates for public elective office, or a political party, or signs urging a particular vote on a public issue decided by ballot in connection with local, state, or national election or referendum.
18. "Portable sign": any mobile, movable sign or sign structure, such as a sandwich board sign, which is not securely attached to the ground or any other structure.
19. "Private use sign": a temporary sign announcing an event, use or condition of personal concern, non-business in nature, to the sign, including, without limitation, "garage sale" or lost animal signs.
20. "Projecting sign": any sign affixed to any building or wall, the leading edge of which extends beyond such building or wall.
21. "Real estate sign": any sign that is used to offer property for sale, lease or rent.
22. "Residential development sign": a sign identifying a recognized subdivision, condominium complex, or residential development.
23. "Roof sign": any sign erected or constructed wholly upon and over the roof of any building and supported on the roof structure.
24. "Special event sign": a sign allowed for a city approved special event.
25. "Temporary sign": a sign intended or constructed for short-term use only.
26. "Trailer sign": any sign mounted on a vehicle normally licensed by the state as a trailer and used for advertising or promotional purposes.
27. "Wall sign": any sign painted on or attached to and erected and confined within the limits of the outside wall of any building (excluding directory signs and business listing signs), which sign is supported by such wall or building and which displays

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only one (1) advertising surface. Awning signs are considered wall signs for the purposes of this definition.

28. "Warning sign": any sign which is intended to warn persons of danger or prohibited activities such as "no trespassing", "no hunting", or "no dumping".
29. "Window sign": any sign placed upon the interior or exterior surface of a window or placed inside the structure and oriented so as to be readable or readily recognized on the adjacent street or sidewalk.

Scope

This chapter applies within the City Limits of Granite Falls to all signs erected, moved, relocated, enlarged, structurally changed, painted, or altered after the date of adoption of this ordinance, to the extent set forth herein.

Permit Required

No sign governed by the provisions of this chapter shall be erected, altered or relocated by any person, firm or corporation from and after the date of adoption of this ordinance without a permit first having issued from the City, unless such a sign be expressly exempted from the necessity of a permit by the terms of this ordinance. Date stamping of temporary signs is required even if the sign is exempt from the permitting process.

Signs Exempt from Permitting Requirements

The following types of signs are exempt from the permitting requirement of this ordinance; provided that they are maintained in good condition in a manner that does not threaten public health, safety, or welfare; and provided further that any specific conditions of the exemptions set forth below are satisfied:

- A. Non-commercial signs of a semi-public body, such as community information signs; provided that said signs meet the location, size and dimensional requirements of this ordinance.
- B. Menu signs, provided the menu displayed is the same as that given to the customers, the signs are utilized only for food service establishments and the signs are limited to two (2) signs with a total maximum area of six (6) square feet. The Granite Falls Planning Commission may make exceptions to the total allowable area for existing menu signs.
- C. Flags, symbols, and insignias of any government, not attached to or made part of any other sign subject to this ordinance.
- D. Signs of a public body, non-commercial in nature, including, without limitation to, community service information signs, traffic control signs and all signs erected by a public officer in the performance of a public duty.

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- E. Signs of a semi-public body, non-commercial in nature, including, without limitation to, community service informational signs, provided, however that such signs shall meet the location, size, and structural requirements of this chapter.
- F. Non-commercial signs other than those of a semi-public body of not more than five (5) square feet in area.
- G. Directional signs not exceeding two (2) square feet in area or four (4) feet in height.
- H. Commemorative plaques or integral signs not exceeding three (3) square feet in area.
- I. Construction signs; provided that:
 - 1. Only one construction sign per street frontage of a building is allowed.
 - 2. The area of the sign does not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in a residential district and thirty-two (32) square feet in other zoning districts
 - 3. The sign is removed within thirty (30) days of completion or occupancy of the building (whichever comes first).
- J. Real estate signs; provided that only one real estate sign shall be allowed per street frontage; and provided further that the area of a real estate sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet in the area, exclusive of the post and any wrought iron work; and provided further that the sign is displayed only on the parcel being listed for sale.
- K. Political signs; provided that:
 - 1. The area of the sign does not exceed four (4) square feet.
 - 2. The sign is not placed in any public right-of-way.
 - 3. The sign is not placed in the commercial zoning district.
 - 4. The sign is removed one week after pertinent election.
- L. Community bulletin board signs, provided that:
 - 1. No more than one bulletin board sign per block shall be allowed.
 - 2. The bulletin board contains no direct advertising of products or services offered on the premises.
 - 3. The total sign area does not exceed eight (8) square feet.
- M. Temporary signs; provided that:
 - 1. If used for commercial purposes, the sign is date-stamped by the City Clerk prior to posting or erection, and is thereafter removed on or before the thirtieth (30) day following the City Clerk's date stamp.
 - 2. If used for non-commercial purposes, the sign is removed within fourteen (14) days of posting or erection.

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3. The sign is securely affixed to the surface of a building wall or window.
 4. The sign has the City Clerk's date stamp for initial posting clearly showing on the face of the sign, and is neat, and in the case of commercial signs, professional in appearance.
 5. The sign does not exceed two (2) square feet in size.
Exception: In the event of a grand opening of a new business, a temporary grand opening sign not to exceed 2% of the building façade up to twenty (20) square feet will be allowed for 30 days from the date stamp and stamped prior to erection.
 6. No more than one temporary sign per street frontage may be posted by any business.
 7. No business may post, erect, or maintain more than three (3) commercial purpose temporary signs in one calendar year.
- N. Incidental signs, if erected in accordance with the location requirements of this chapter; provided that no incidental sign shall exceed a total of two (2) square feet in size.
- O. Real Estate "Open House" signs provided that:
1. No real estate "open house" signs are allowed in the central commercial zone.
 2. No real estate "open house" signs shall be allowed within any public right-of-way.
 3. The sign is either a sandwich board style, a sign hanging from the top of the frame, or a panel sign in a black metal frame.
- P. Special event signs; provided that:
1. The sign is attached to a booth, tent, awning and/or concession area.
 2. No sandwich or freestanding type signs shall be allowed.
 3. The sign has no internal, indirect or backlit illumination of any kind.
 4. The sign does not exceed four (4) square feet in area.
 5. The sign is removed immediately at the end of the event.
- Q. Residential development signs: provided that the sign height does not exceed six (6) feet, the sign is freestanding, and the sign area does not exceed eighteen (18) inches.
- R. Temporary community service event signs, including banners; provided the signs are installed no more than two (2) weeks prior to the start of said event, the signs are removed no more than two (2) days after the end of the event and also provide that the area of the sign shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area. Such sign may be portable but shall be professional in appearance, visually appealing, and shall be immediately removed if not maintained. The allowed area of this sign is in addition to any other allowed sign area.
- S. Warning signs; provided that the area of the signs are no more than one (1) square foot in area and no more than one (1) sign placed per fifty (50) feet of property frontage.

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- T. Private use signs; provided the signs are no more than two (2) square feet in area, and are located in a residential district or on any City installed private use sign posts. Private use signs shall not be posted on any utility post, traffic post or street light post. A private use sign can be displayed for a maximum of seven (7) days. Private use signs shall be removed the day the event or special condition end.
- U. Signs located on the property of a residence, provided the sign is non-commercial in nature.
- V. Illuminated window signs, other than neon signs, placed more than fifteen (15) feet back from the interior window surface or no less than one-half (1/2) the building depth, whichever is less.
- W. Non-illuminated window signs placed more than three (3) feet back from the interior window surface.
- X. Neon signs placed within a structure and not oriented so as to be readable or readily recognized on the adjacent street or sidewalk, with the exception of one (1) open sign per business.
- Y. Real estate companies may show photos of listings in the windows visible from the outside provided the display does not cover more than one-third (1/3) of the lower window space.
- Z. Window clings or signs on glass frontages (e.g. windows, glass doors, etc.) provided they take up no more than twenty-five (25%) of the window space.
- AA. Tow away signs; provided that only one (1) sign is posted if the lot is not striped and one (1) sign for every two (2) parking spaces if the lot is striped.
- AB. Portable signs; provided they do not exceed four (4) square feet each side and are not in the right of way. One portable sign is allowed per building.

Permit Applications

- A. The owner or tenant of the property on which the sign is to be located, or an authorized agent shall make application for a sign permit. Such application shall be made in writing on forms furnished by City Hall, and shall be accompanied by a review fee established by the City of Granite Falls. The City shall accept only fully completed applications.
- B. The application for a sign permit shall be accompanied by the following plans, information and fees as per current City of Granite Falls Fee Schedule.
 - 1. The name, address, telephone number of the owner or person entitled to possession of the sign and of the sign contractor or erector.
 - 2. The location by street address of the proposed sign structure; the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the property on which the sign is to be located.

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3. A statement of valuation of the sign, for replacement criteria.
 4. A drawing shall be submitted along with the sign permit application. The drawing shall be on paper capable of being folded for storage in an eight and one half-inch-by-fourteen-inch (8 ½" x 14") file, and shall become the property of the town. The drawing shall contain the following:
 - a. An accurately colored drawing to a scale sufficient to show all detail of the sign and construction employed, and all mounting structures and devices.
 - b. An accurately scaled drawing of all building faces to be signed including the scaled outlines of all existing and proposed signs in the case of wall and projecting signs.
 - c. An accurately scaled site plan showing the location of building(s), street(s), and sign(s) in the case of freestanding signs.
 5. The signatures of the sign owner and the owner of the property on which the sign is to be located.
- C. The City of Granite Falls Planning Commission shall approve or deny the sign permit. Each sign permit application shall be filed with the City at least seven (7) calendar days prior to a regular meeting to be considered at such meeting.
- D. In the event the permit application is denied and the applicant alleges there was an error in the decision, the applicant may appeal to the Granite Falls City Council by filing a written Notice of Appeal of Sign Permit Decision with the City within seven (7) business days of the date of the Planning Commission's decision to deny the permit.
- E. No sign permit application shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission for a sign which has been erected or otherwise put in use after the effective date of this ordinance without a permit having been first obtained from the City until such a sign is removed or the use discontinued pending review.
- F. Changes in an approved sign size or design shall not be made without first obtaining a new permit; provided that the City Clerk may approve minor lettering or color changes or adjustments to the location of a previously permitted sign by notation on the original permit.
- G. Individual signs in an approved directory or business listing sign may be added, moved, or replaced with signs for new businesses or uses without the necessity of application for a new or amended sign permit; provided that the sign as modified continues to meet any requirements of the original permit.

Sign Requirements

- A. Signs may not be made of plastic-appearing material.

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- B. Signs may contain a franchise trademark or copyrighted material; provided that the sign elsewhere meets the requirements set forth in this chapter.

Applications for signs shall be reviewed by the City of Granite Falls Planning Commission which shall consider the proposed general design, lettering, arrangement, size, texture, material, colors, lighting, placement, and appropriateness of the proposed sign in relation to other signs and other structures on the premises and contiguous area, in keeping with the intent of this chapter. All signs permitted within the commercially zoned districts of Granite Falls shall conform to the following design criteria unless otherwise provided for in this chapter:

- A. Signs must be compatible in design and color with the buildings with which they are associated.
- B. Projecting and freestanding signs must be in harmony with the size and scale of the building or property on which they are to be located.
- C. Signs illuminated by spotlights or indirect lighting shall be lighted in such a manner that glare from the light source is not visible to pedestrian or vehicular traffic. The lighting of the sign shall be an integral part of the design of the sign and shall require approval before a permit is issued.
- D. Logo signs shall meet all design review criteria.
- E. Freestanding signs and projecting signs may contain only text and artwork as approved by the City of Granite Falls Planning Commission.

Prohibited Signs

Unless specifically exempted in this chapter, it is unlawful to erect or maintain:

- A. Off-site signs.
- B. Signs that have moving parts, or are designed to move in any way by the wind.
- C. Portable signs, including without limitation, and trailer signs and non-complying sandwich-board signs.
- D. Banner signs, pennants on rope, balloons and streamers, except for specific limited use as established by this ordinance.
- E. Neon signs, illuminated signs, signs with flashing lights, flashing lights, moving lights, messaging signs, or signs that make or create a noise or any sounds or music. The sole exception to this is an electric, non-flashing, or neon "open/closed" sign (2 feet x 3 feet maximum size).

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- F. Bench signs.
- G. Roof signs that are located on or project or extend above the eave or parapet line of a main portion of the building.
- H. Signs that are plastic in appearance.

Location and Number Requirements

All signs shall conform to the following sign location and number requirements, unless otherwise provided in this chapter.

- A. There shall be no "private" signs on City property.
- B. The sidewalks and corners at the intersection of Stanley Street and Granite Avenue shall remain clear of all signs with the exception of non-profit organization directional sandwich boards or signs as approved by the Granite Falls Planning Commission.
- C. Wall signs shall not be located on more than two (2) sides of any building, unless the building contains individual businesses with separate entrances on more than two (2) streets (alleys included), in which case signs may be located on as many sides as there are separate entrances.
- D. Murals require review by the City of Granite Falls Planning Commission to determine whether the content is appropriate to the applying business and/or the existing signage in the area.
- E. One (1) projecting sign shall be allowed per business building. In no case shall more than one (1) projecting sign be permitted per exterior building entrance, unless connected together as a part of a projecting business listing sign. Buildings allowed a street project sign are limited to only one (1) and shall be a maximum of six (6) square feet. The area of a street projecting wall sign and all projected business listing signs will be subtracted from the total allowable signage area.
 - 1. Exception: not more than two (2) projecting signs may be allowed on one (1) street frontage, provided that each projecting sign is six (6) square feet or less in size, only one (1) side of the building has projecting signs, the signs are evenly spaced and the building face is greater than or equal to one hundred (100) feet long. Such projecting signs shall be included in the total sign area allowed per business face but shall not exceed fifteen (15) percent of the area allowed for wall signage.
- F. Buildings without street frontage, which are located less than ten (10) feet from the front or side property lines, may not have a freestanding sign.

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- G. Buildings with frontage on Stanley Street, Alder Street, Granite Avenue, or Galena Street and buildings without these frontages that are located more than ten (10) feet behind the front or side property line, may have a single freestanding sign. Any such freestanding sign shall be entirely within the yard area, shall not obstruct public walkways, and shall not be placed where a vehicle driver's visibility (intersections, alleys, driveways) might be obscured. Only one (1) freestanding sign shall be allowed per business property or parcel, provided, however, that two (2) freestanding signs shall be allowed on parcels two (2) acres or more in size if all the following conditions are met:
1. There shall be at least a total of two hundred and thirty (230) linear feet of frontage on two (2) streets (alleys not included).
 2. There must be vehicle ingress for each freestanding sign, per street frontage.
 3. Only one (1) freestanding sign shall be allowed per street frontage, and such sign shall be placed in close proximity to the required vehicle ingress.
 4. Freestanding signs located off any street other than a highway shall be allowed to be six (6) square feet in area.
- H. Buildings allowed a freestanding sign may also have a projecting sign.
- I. For buildings with a restaurant establishment with drive-thru provisions and a main floor area of over one thousand (1,000) square feet, a drive-thru menu board sign may be installed. The sign shall be constructed of any material allowed by this code. A clear, rigid cover may be installed to cover the sign to provide security and protection from the weather. Lighting of the sign must comply with the requirements of this code. A best effort shall be made to screen the menu board sign from residential and public right-of-way properties as to view, lighting, and sound.
- J. The Granite Falls Planning Commission shall review signage for transient businesses. Wall signage on one (1) face shall be the only signage allowed for a business. Such signage shall be compatible in design with the building, structure or other item with which they are associated but shall not exceed six (6) square feet. Except for the open/closed sign allowed in this chapter, no other signs for transient business shall be exempted.
- K. One (1) non-illuminated freestanding, projecting or wall sign shall be allowed for businesses in residential zones.
- L. One (1) directory sign shall be allowed per building.

Allowable Area of Signs

All signs within the City shall conform to the following area requirements, unless otherwise provided for in this chapter.

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- A. Wall Signs: the maximum area for the total of all permitted wall signs shall not exceed three percent (3%) of the building face area. This shall include all window and door areas and shall be measured from the sidewalk or ground line to the building eave line. Building names, not exceeding ten (10) square feet, when approved by Granite Falls Planning Commission, shall not be included in the allowable sign area.
- B. Window clings and/or signs on glass frontages (e.g. windows, glass doors, etc.) provided they take up no more than twenty-five (25%) percent of the glass area.
- C. Business Listing Signs: the maximum area for the total of all permitted wall signs may be exceeded for buildings using business listing signs as the primary means of identification, provided that the Granite Falls Planning Commission finds the overall design compatible with the style and design of the building. In all cases, wall business listing signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet per business or use.
- D. Projecting Signs Locations: the total area of all non-street projecting signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet for an individual business or use. This area is in addition to that allowed in sub-section A of this chapter. Supporting work for each sign need not be included in the sign area.
- E. Projecting and Freestanding Business Listing Signs: the maximum sign area for projecting and freestanding business listing signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet for each business or use, provided that all projecting and clearance standards can be met.
- F. Freestanding Signs: the maximum area for permitted freestanding signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet, not including support structure.
- G. Drive thru menu boards shall not exceed thirty (30) square feet in area. The sign area is in addition to that allowed in other sections of this chapter.
- H. Signs for residential business shall not exceed four (4) square feet.
- I. Directory Signs: the allowable area for a directory sign shall not exceed two (2) square feet per business or a maximum of eight (8) square feet for multiple businesses.

Sign Height and Projection Requirements

All signs permitted within the City shall conform to the following height and projection requirements, unless otherwise provided for in this chapter.

- A. Projecting Signs, non-street location: such signs shall not extend more than four (4) feet out from the building face, and shall be a minimum height of ten (10) feet above ground. Signs shall not exceed four (4) square feet.
- B. Freestanding, non-street location. Such freestanding signs shall not exceed eight (8) feet.

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- C. Freestanding street signs shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet.
- D. Drive-thru Menu Board Signs. The height of a drive-thru menu board sign shall not exceed six (6) feet.
- E. Freestanding signs for business in residential zones shall not exceed four (4) feet in height.
- F. All Signs: clearance under the lowest point of any which projects out over a public walkway shall not be less than ten (10) feet.

Structural Requirements and Maintenance

All signs shall conform to the following structural and maintenance requirements.

- A. All permitted signs shall be designed, constructed and erected in conformance with the allowable stresses of the materials used. The design of wood, concrete, steel or aluminum members shall conform to the requirements of the current Building Code. Load both vertical and horizontal, exerted on the soil shall not produce stresses exceeding those specified in the current Building Code.
- B. Plans for projecting signs with an area exceeding twenty (20) square feet in area shall be prepared by a Washington State licensed architect or engineer.
- C. Wiring for indirectly lighted signs shall be installed in accordance with the Washington State electrical code.
- D. Sign Maintenance: all signs must be kept in good repair and in a safe manner at all times. The sign owner must repair damaged or deteriorated signs within sixty (60) days of notification from the City. The area surrounding freestanding signs must be kept free of litter and debris at all times. Signs not repaired within the allowed sixty (60) days shall be considered abandoned signs.

Application Fees

The Granite Falls City Council shall establish by resolution a schedule of fees, charges and expenses for permit applications and other matters pertaining to this title related to sign permits. Until all applicable fees, charges, and expenses have been paid in full, no action shall be taken by the City on any application, appeal or request.

Existing Non-conforming Signs

Existing non-conforming signs as defined in this chapter are permitted, but shall be removed or brought into compliance with this chapter, as amended, any time the basic design, size, color or structure of the sign is altered, unless the proposed alteration renders the sign more in compliance with this chapter and the cost of the alteration is less than fifty percent (50%) of the replacement value of the sign. Signs damaged or altered in any manner by more than fifty percent (50%) of their replacement value shall be replaced with a sign that meets the

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requirements of the chapter. All existing non-conforming signs shall be brought into compliance with this code no later than December 31, 2010. The Granite Falls Planning Commission shall review and make decisions on appeals alleging errors in the interpretation or enforcement of the zoning code or any other developmental regulation.

Variance From Sign Code

Any standard listed in this chapter, except prohibited standards or design criteria, shall be subject to the variance process set forth in the Granite Falls Municipal Code.

Violations

Any violation of this ordinance shall constitute a public nuisance.

Compliance and Conformance

The following penalties and remedies are in addition to the enforcement provisions established in the Granite Falls Municipal Code (refer to GFMC Ordinance 392: 4.16.6).

- A. Compliance with other applicable codes: all signs erected or altered under this chapter must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations relating to signs, including without limitation, the provisions of the current City of Granite Falls Building Code. If any provision of this code is found to be in conflict with any provision of the zoning, building, fire, safety or health ordinance or code of the City, the provision that establishes the higher standard shall prevail.
- B. Immediate removal of signs: all signs located within a public right-of-way or on a public utility pole, traffic sign pole, sidewalk or other public property or private use signs located in the commercial zone or signs that present an immediate or serious danger to the public shall be considered a nuisance and may be immediately removed by the City. All signs removed by the City shall be available for recovery by the owner of such sign for a period of one (1) week after which time they will be destroyed. Recovery of any sign removed by the City shall be subject to payment of administrative fees partially to cover the City's cost in removing and/or storing the sign. The City shall not be responsible for damages or loss during removal or storage of any signs. This administrative fee shall be in addition to any other penalty imposed pursuant to City code.
 - 1. Exception: Temporary signs printed on paper or other non-durable material may not be available for recovery by the owner.
- C. All signs located within the city limits of Granite Falls which do not conform to the provisions of this chapter, except "existing non-conforming signs" as defined in this chapter, and signs exempt from the permit requirements of this chapter, are unlawful and shall be removed within thirty (30) days of the ordinance codified in this chapter.
- D. The City may remove any unlawful sign that has not been removed within fifteen (15) days after the imposition of civil penalty and the costs charged to the person violating this chapter. If removal costs have not been paid and the sign reclaimed within thirty (30) days

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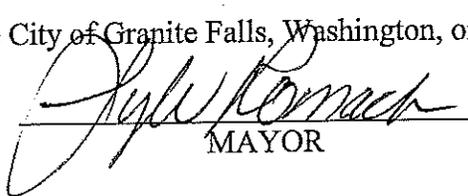
of its removal by the City, then City shall be entitled to file with the county auditor a lien against the real property on which the sign was located to secure repayment of such costs and expenses of removal enforcement by the City. The lien may be foreclosed in the manner provided by Washington State law for foreclosure of labor and material man liens. The City may sell or otherwise dispose of a sign removed and apply the proceeds toward the cost of removal. Any proceeds in excess of removal costs shall be paid to the owner of the sign.

- E. Abandoned signs as defined in this chapter may be removed by the City and the cost of the removal shall be paid by the owner of the sign and shall be a lien on the real property from which the sign was removed subject to the same provisions for foreclosure of the lien as provided in subsection D of this section.
- F. Duty to Correct: payment of a monetary penalty pursuant to City code does not relieve a person of the duty to correct the violation.
- G. Attorney fees: in any action brought by the City to enforce this chapter or in any action brought by any other person in which the City is joined as a party challenging this chapter, in the event the City is a prevailing party, then the non-prevailing party challenging the provisions of this chapter or the party against whom this chapter is enforced in such action shall pay, in addition to the City's cost, a reasonable attorney fee at trial and in any appeal thereof.

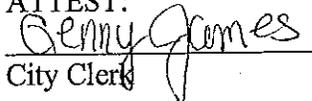
Effective Date

This Ordinance shall take effect five (5) days after the date of its publication.

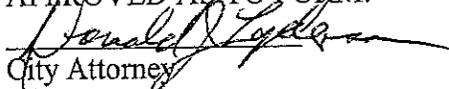
PASSED by the City Council of the City of Granite Falls, Washington, on this 24 day of August, 2005.


MAYOR

ATTEST:


City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


City Attorney

DATE OF FIRST READING:	July 13, 2005
DATE OF SECOND READING:	August 10, 2005
DATE OF THIRD READING:	August 24, 2005
DATE OF PUBLICATION:	August 28, 2005
EFFECTIVE DATE:	September 4, 2005