

In cases of emergency, the Zoning Administrator may cause the immediate removal of a dangerous or unsafe sign without notice.

(K) Removal of Discontinued Signs

If a sign advertises a business, service, commodity, accommodation, attraction or other enterprise or activity that is no longer operating or being offered or conducted, that sign and sign structure including, but not limited to, the supporting braces, anchors or similar components shall be considered discontinued regardless of reason or intent and shall, within one (1) year after such discontinuation, be removed by the owner of the property where the sign is located. This Section shall not be construed to prevent the changing of the message of a sign.

(L) Removal & Disposal of Signs in Right-of-Way

The Zoning Administrator shall possess the authority to remove and destroy or otherwise dispose of any sign unlawfully placed within the right-of-way of any street.

II-2.8.2 Signs Expressly Prohibited

The following signs, components and characteristics are expressly prohibited within all zoning districts:

(A) Simulated Public Safety, Warning or Traffic Signs

Signs by their location, color, illumination, size, shape, nature, message or appearance tend to obstruct the view of or be confused with official traffic, safety or warning signs or lights or other devices erected by governmental agencies. This prohibition includes signs having no bonafide safety necessity, involving the terms "CAUTION", "DANGER", "SLOW", "STOP" OR "YIELD", or which utilize geometric figures, symbols, lights, location or message not unlike official traffic, safety or warning signs, signals or lights. Provided, however, this provision is not intended to prevent the placement on private property of signs with "stop", "yield" or other such wording or design where such is necessary for traffic control or other such legitimate notice to the public.

(B) Snipe Signs

Signs placed upon or attached to any curb, sidewalk, post, fence, hydrant, bridge, another sign or other surface, public bench, streetlight, or any tree, rock or other natural object located on, over or across any public street or public property or on any utility pole. Provided, however, this provision shall not apply to the posting of public interest, security and warning signs nor to street signs placed upon poles by governmental units for designating the names of streets.

(C) Flashing Signs

Signs or devices with flashing, intermittent, animated or changing intensity of illumination. Provided, however, traffic signals, railroad crossing signals and other official warning or regulatory signs and electronically controlled message centers or reader boards where different copy changes, involving alphabetical or numerical characters only, present messages of a public service or commercial nature shall not be considered flashing signs, as long as such signs comply with the provisions of this Ordinance

(D) Motion Signs

Signs or devices designed to attract attention, all or any part of which use movement or apparent movement by fluttering, revolving, rotating, spinning, swinging, animation or moving in some other manner and are set in motion by movement of water or the atmosphere or by mechanical, electrical or any other means including signs carried by or mounted on persons or animals. This shall not apply to authorized temporary signs.

(E) Signs Below Minimum Clearance

Signs, marquees, canopies and awnings with vertical clearance of less than nine (9) feet above sidewalks and pedestrian areas and less than fourteen (14) feet above parking or vehicular passage areas.

(F) Vehicle Signs

Signs placed upon, painted on, attached to or displayed on parked vehicles or trailers, where the primary purpose of the vehicle or trailer is to advertise a product or business or to direct people to a business or activity.

(G) Signs Obstructing Motorist Visibility

Signs that substantially interfere with the view necessary for motorists to proceed safely through intersections or to enter onto or exit from public streets or private roads or driveways or that obstruct the motorists view of approaching, merging or intersecting traffic including, but not limited to, signs in excess of three (3) feet in sight visibility triangles.

(H) Signs in Rights-of-Way

Any sign erected in or over any public right-of-way except for signs allowed to project in the C-B District by encroachment agreement; major special event signs by special permit; and governmental signs.

(I) Signs Emitting Glare

Signs with light sources or reflectivity of such brightness that result in glare, blinding or any other such adverse effect on motorist vision or into or upon any residential building not related to the signs; or which interfere with the effectiveness of, or obscures an official traffic sign, device or signal.

(J) Pennants or Streamers, Illuminated Tube Lights

Pennants, streamers, flags, and lights consecutively strung together including tube lighting outlining buildings and property.

(K) Obscene Signs

Signs containing words or graphics that are obscene, as defined in North Carolina General Statute 14-190.1.

(L) Off-Premises Signs

A sign or Structure, pictorial or otherwise, regardless of size or shape that draws attention to or communicates information about a business, profession, service, commodity, product, accommodation, event, attraction or other enterprise or activity that exists or is conducted, manufactured, sold offered, maintained or provided at a location other than on the premises where the sign is located. A "billboard". This definition does not include governmental, traffic, directional, or regulatory signs or notices of the federal, state, county or town government or their public agencies or off-premises signs specifically permitted by this Section.

TO: Mayor Thacker; Town Council
FR: Ray Allen
DATE: 2/27/18
RE: Off Premises Sign Ordinance Violations

This issue was laid over from the February 5 Council meeting to enable staff to compile a list of any current violations. You will recall that this issue was raised by the owner of the Highway 74 Truck Washing business after his billboard was covered over by NCDOT. This sign was erected without a permit recently in violation of the City's ordinances. The Mayor asked that staff compile a list of similar violations, and this list is enclosed. The number of violations is relatively small, and most of these are on Highway 74 but some are at other locations in town. The overwhelming majority of business owners are in compliance with the town's ordinances. Three of the violations are on in one location, on the side of a building on the south side of Highway 74.

Wadesboro's Ordinances are typical of ordinances in other communities that have been adopted in the last few decades to reduce visual clutter and to improve traffic safety by eliminating distractions and visibility issues caused by excessive signage.

26 February 2018

List of Off Premises Signs

1. Truck Wash- 2 signs
2. James Price Pottery signs- 2 signs
3. Med Northcutt Bonding- 3 signs
4. Humana Insurance 1- sign
5. McCormick Automotive- 1 sign
6. City Electric- 1- sign
7. Wadesboro Storage-2- signs
8. Forbes jewelry- 1 sign- going out of business
9. US Bonding-1 sign
10. Peaches & Cream- 1 sign near Jim Hill Sand & Gravel
11. Meadow Nursing- 1 sign- Anson High Intersection