

A N O R D I N A N C E

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 77-3 REGARDING THE ERECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF SIGNS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

The following additions, deletions and changes should be made to the following Articles in Ordinance No. 77-3.

Article II, Section 1: Interpretation of Certain Terms or Words

Delete Title: Building Code Board of Appeals

Insert New Title: Board of Adjustments and Appeals

Article III, Section 1: Prohibited Signs

Delete: g) Abandoned signs or signs in a state of major disrepair.

Insert: g) Abandoned or dilapidated signs.

Article III, Section 3: On-Premise Signs

Delete: b) The total area of signs attached to or painted on the sides or rear of buildings shall not exceed fifteen (15) percent of the area of each exterior wall and in no case shall exceed three hundred (300) square feet.

Insert: b) The total area of signs attached to or painted on the sides or rear of buildings shall not exceed fifteen (15) percent of the area of each exterior wall and in no case shall exceed the three hundred (300) square feet of sign area allowed per individual business.

Article III, Section 5: Temporary Signs

Add: f) Signs advertising the sale or lease of property upon which they are located.

Article III

Add: Article III, Section 8: Special Provisions

a) The Building Official or his duly authorized agent shall have the authority to remove all signs, without notice to the owners thereof, placed within any street or highway right-of-way, signs attached to trees, fence post, telephone and utility poles, or other natural features, signs erected without a sign permit, and to impound them for a period of ten (10) days.

- b) The owners of signs impounded may recover same upon the payment of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each sign, prior to the expiration of the ten day impoundment period; in the event not claimed within ten days, Building Official shall have authority to dispose of at the County Landfill.
- c) The Building Official and duly authorized staff shall have the authority to attach a sign violation notice to non-conforming signs.
- d) Shopping Centers and Shopping Malls shall be allowed to have freestanding directory signs for the individual businesses. The directory signs shall meet the requirements of Article III Section 3, paragraphs (c), (e), and (g).
- e) The owner of an on-premise sign shall be allowed to advertise another business on the same sign if the following conditions are met:
  - 1) The total area of the sign does not exceed the allowable 300 square feet.
  - 2) The owner of the on-premise sign is the primary owner of the other business advertised.

Article IV, Section 2: Signs exempt from Permit Procedure

- Add: 1) One non-illuminated sign for work under construction pertaining to owners, architects, engineers, contractors, development agencies, financial institutions, and the like, not exceeding six (6) square feet in area.

Article IV, Section 3: Application for Permit

- Add: b)
- 6) Location for new freestanding sign shall be clearly identified on the ground by a white stake visible above ground line, the sign shall not be erected until the permit for said sign has been received.
  - 7) All permits issued for the erection of a sign shall become invalid unless the work authorized by it shall have been commenced within six (6) months after its issuance.

Article IV, Section 4: Fees

Delete: In order to defray some of the administrative costs associated with processing permit applications and inspection of signs, a fee of \$4.00 shall be paid by the applicant at the time application for a permit is made. (Additional electrical permit fees will be charged for illuminated signs as specified under the National Electrical Code)

When reinspection is required, a reinspection fee of \$3.00 will be charged.

- Add:
- a) In order to defray some of the administrative costs associated with processing permit applications and inspections of signs, a fee of \$10.00 shall be paid by the applicant at the time the permit is issued. (Additional electrical permit fees will be charged for illuminated signs as specified under the National Electrical Code).
  - b) The free standing temporary sign permit fee shall be \$5.00 for each permit
  - c) When reinspection is required, a reinspection fee of \$5.00 will be charged.

Article IV, Section 5: Display of Permit

Delete: All permits issued for the erection of a sign shall be displayed on the sign and readily visible.

- Add:
- a) All permit tags issued for the erection of a sign shall be displayed on the sign and be readily visible.
  - b) Under no circumstance may the permit tag be moved from one sign to another nor may the sign to which it is attached be relocated to another location.
  - c) In the event signs are dismantled, removed, ownership transferred the permit tags shall be removed, returned to the Department of Inspections and a new application made as appropriate.
  - d) If a permit tag is lost, defaced, destroyed, or otherwise becomes illegible through normal wear or an act of vandalism a new application shall be made to the Department of Inspections.

Article V, Section 4: Appeals

Delete: Any person who may have a substantial interest in any decision of the Building Official concerning this ordinance may appeal such decision first to the Beaufort County Building Code Board of Appeals. Such an appeal shall be filed with the Board of Appeals within twenty (20) days of a decision by the Building Official and heard at the next ensuing scheduled meeting of the Board of Appeals.

Thereafter, an aggrieved party may appeal a decision of the Board of Appeals through petition to a court of appropriate jurisdiction in Beaufort County.

- Add:
- a) Any person who may have a substantial interest in any decision of the Building Official concerning this ordinance may appeal such decision first to the Beaufort County Board of Adjustments and Appeals. Such an appeal shall be filed in writing with the Board of Appeals within twenty (20) days of a decision by the Building Official and heard at the next ensuing scheduled meeting of the Board of Appeals.
  - b) A fee of \$10.00 shall be paid for each appeal filed. The fee shall be returned if variance is granted.

- c) Where the provisions of this Ordinance would cause an exceptional hardship, the Board of Adjustment and Appeals may grant a variance accordingly.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON THIRD AND FINAL READING THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF February 1978.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BEAUFORT COUNTY

  
By Arthur Horne, Chairman

ATTEST:

Mary A. Richardson  
Clerk to Council

1st Reading: 1/23/78  
2nd Reading: 2/13/78  
3rd Reading: 2/28/78

REVISED  
OFF-PREMISE DIRECTIONAL SIGNS SPECIFICATIONS

01220

For the purpose of giving direction only and in the interest of public service and safety, the Beaufort County Council hereby authorizes, approves and establishes the following design for the directional sign authorized under Article III, Section 4, paragraph " b " of the Beaufort County Sign Ordinance adopted 28th day of March 1977.

The sign panel size shall be four feet in width and range in height from three feet to eight feet in height, and shall be made of 3/4" exterior plywood.

The panel face shall be of Manor Brown finish or a total equal, the edges and back of the sign painted to match the panel face.

The lettering shall be Helvetica Medium, all capital letters 6 inches in height; and be of white reflective material. The directional arrows shall be of corresponding size and the same material.

The sign panel shall be mounted on 4" by 4" ticote anchored in concrete and painted with exterior white enamel.

The bottom of the sign panel shall be three feet from the ground contour at the location of the sign.

There shall be no more than one sign as described above at any given intersection without the expressed consent and approval of the County Council of Beaufort County.

1/23/78