
TOWN OF MAURICE
ORDINANCE NO.: 24-2A
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING SIGNAGE IN THE
TOWN OF MAURICE AND REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 18-2B

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Maurice, Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of said Town do hereby enact the above ordinance regulating signage in the town of Maurice as follows and hereby repeal Ordinance No. 18-2B:

SIGN ORDINANCE

Ordinance No. 18-2B is hereby repealed.

Sec. 1 General regulations

- (a) *General provisions.* The provisions of this chapter shall govern the location, size, setback, and height of signs in order to ensure safe construction, light, air, and open space, to reduce hazards at intersections, to prevent the accumulation of trash, and to protect property values of the entire community.
- (b) *Statement of need and purpose.* The purposes of this chapter are to facilitate the location and choice of signs to ensure better communication between people and their environment and to avoid visual clutter that is potentially harmful to traffic and pedestrian safety, property values, business opportunities, and community appearance. With these purposes in mind, it is the intent of this chapter to authorize the use of signs which are compatible to the unique environment of the town, appropriate to the activity that displays them, creative and expressive of the identity of both individual activities and the community as a whole, and legible in the environment in which they are seen.
- (c) *Repair/replacement of installed signs.* Any business or outdoor advertising sign legally existing prior to the adoption of the ordinance from which this chapter is derived which does not conform to these provisions shall not be altered or changed in overall dimensions, except to conform to the provisions of this chapter. A nonconforming sign may not be replaced, reconstructed, or structurally altered unless destroyed by vandalism, fire, storm or other act of God or the public enemy, and then only when it has been damaged or destroyed by vandalism, fire, storm, or other acts of God or the public enemy. The sign thus damaged shall qualify for repair only if the cost of repair to said structure is less than 50 percent of its current fair market value. If repaired, no increase in square footage, the number of faces or the height of the sign from that which existed immediately prior to the occurrence causing the need for its repair shall be allowed. If the sign thus destroyed is not repaired within six months after the occurrence of the damage, this provision shall not apply, and no repair shall be permitted, unless a signed and notarized letter, on letterhead from the Insurer or the licensed Sign Company explaining the legitimate reason said sign has not been repaired or replaced within the 6 months, is presented to the Mayor or his/her designee. In this event, the mayor or his/her designee may grant an extension for up to an additional 60 days to complete said replacement/repair. All appeals from decisions of the mayor or his/her designee shall be forwarded to the town council via the town clerk. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent normal maintenance and repairs, repainting or posting of such signs or structures. If a billboard or off-premises sign does not qualify for repair, due to the extent of the damage, same shall be removed within six months upon demand of the mayor and town council. Any existing billboard or off-premises sign which through normal wear, decay or damage deteriorates to the point where same cannot be refurbished or repaired for a cost which is less than 50 percent of its current fair market value shall be removed within six months of demand for said removal by the mayor and town council.
- (d) *Ownership changes.* When the ownership of a property or the accompanying sign changes, the new property owner shall remove or replace the existing sign. The replacement sign must be in place within six months of the new ownership of the property in question. The new sign shall conform with all provisions of this chapter.
- (e) *Variations and appeals.* All requests for town council consideration must be submitted to the town clerk and must identify the specific variance to be addressed. The petitioner must appear in person, not by proxy, before the town council for consideration of a variance. Failure to so appear will render variance consideration null and void. When a variance is approved by the town council, that variance shall be site specific, and shall not be a waiver of any aspects of this chapter for other sites within the town.

Sec. 2 Definitions

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Abandoned on-premises sign means an on-premises sign which no longer correctly directs or exhorts any person or advertises a bona fide business where such sign is displayed.

Abandoned off-premises sign means an off-premises sign which:

- (1) No longer correctly directs or exhorts any person;
- (2) Has fallen into disrepair or otherwise deteriorated because of a lack of maintenance repair or upkeep; or
- (3) With regard to billboards, which carry no advertising message other than a message concerning its availability for lease or hire on its structure for any period of 180 consecutive days.

Activity means an economic unit designated in the classification system given in the 1987 Standard Industrial Classifications (SIC) Manual published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards.

Address sign means a sign which only conveys the numeric address of the premises on which it is located.

Architectural detail means any projection, relief, cornice, column, change of building material, window or door opening on any building.

Attached sign means any sign which is physically connected to and derives structural support from a building or building appurtenance.

Audible sign means any sign which is designed to, or which does produce sound.

Awning means a cloth, plastic, or nonstructural covering that either is permanently attached to a building or can be raised or retracted to a position against the building when not in use.

Banner means a sign composed of a logo or design on a lightweight material either enclosed or not enclosed in a rigid frame and secured or mounted to allow movement caused by the atmosphere.

Beacon means a strong or bright light focused or directed in one or more directions.

Bench sign means an advertising message on any portion of a bench or other non-mobile structure, or device intended for public seating or convenience.

Berm means a swell in the earth immediately below a monument sign. The height of the berm shall be measured from the reference surface to the highest (AMSL) point of the earth swell. The reference surface shall be the above mean sea level (AMSL) measurement of the road surface nearest to the monument sign installation.

Billboard means an off-premises sign owned by a person, corporation, or other entity that engages in the business of selling or leasing the advertising space on that sign.

Business frontage means the front side of a building housing a business.

Canopy signage (under canopy) means a sign mounted from an overhead position to a canopy of building or storefront.

Changeable message sign means a sign on which the copy, message or sign panels may be, when specifically issued a permit as a changeable message sign, changed either electronically or manually in the field through the removal, replacement, or rearrangement of letters, symbols, blocks, or panels designed for attachment to said sign.

Construction sign means a temporary sign erected and maintained by an architect, contractor, developer, financial institution, subcontractor, or materials supplier upon premises for which said person or persons is presently furnishing labor, materials, services, or capital financing.

Directory sign means an outdoor sign listing and identifying the occupants within shopping centers, industrial centers, retail centers, office centers, and other multi-use commercial or industrial sites.

Flags and seals mean mottos, emblems, designs, shapes or symbols on cloth, plastic, canvas or devices of similar type and materials intended to convey any message or to identify any person, place, idea, or thing other than duly adopted flags or seals of nations, states, parishes, or municipalities.

Flashing lights means any light or light source or reflection of light source which is intermittent in duration, color, or intensity or which creates or is designed to create an illusion of intermittency in duration, color, or intensity.

Flashing sign means a light source which, in whole or in part, physically changes in light intensity or gives the appearance of such change at intervals of less than six seconds.

Freestanding sign means a sign supported by a sign structure secured in the ground and which is wholly independent of any guy wire, support wire, building, fence, vehicle, or object other than the sign structure, for support.

Ground sign means a monument sign supported by a sign structure secured in the ground and which is wholly independent of any guy wire, support wire, building, fence, vehicle, or object other than the sign structure, for support.

Home occupation sign means any on-premises sign advertising a home occupation.

Identification sign means a sign which is limited to the name, address, and/or number of a building or institution, person, or entity which is primary to the identification of the premises and to a general statement of the activity carried on in the building or institution.

Illuminated sign means any sign which has characters, letters, figures, designs, or outlines illuminated by an interior or exterior light source which is primarily designed to illuminate such sign.

Individual letter sign means any sign made of self-contained letters that are mounted directly on the face of a building, a parapet, a roof edge of a building or on or below a marquee without being attached to a structure defined herein as a "sign face."

Inflatable sign means any sign dependent in whole or in part for its structural integrity on the infusion into said sign of compressed air or other fluids, and specifically including balloons larger than two feet in diameter or two feet square in area or other gas or liquid filled figures.

Laser means a device emitting a narrow, very intense beam of light waves that have been amplified and concentrated by stimulated atoms, or the light produced by such device.

Mansard sign means a sign attached to a roof with a double pitch on all sides, thus known as a mansard roof.

Marquee sign means any sign attached to and made part of a marquee. A marquee is defined as a permanent roof-like structure projecting beyond a building wall at an entrance to a building or extending along and projecting beyond the building's wall and generally designed and constructed to provide entrance protection against the weather. Signs painted or sewn onto awnings or canopies shall be considered marquee signs.

Monument sign means a permanent freestanding ground sign.

- (1) A monument sign shall be of monolithic construction. The sign's base or support shall be of uniform composition with the material comprising the sign face or reinforced concrete. The base or support of said sign shall be directly affixed in or to the ground. No posts or vertical supports will be visible after the monument sign is fully installed.
- (2) The sign face is that portion of the sign which includes graphics and or wording and may be encompassed on the top, sides, and bottom by a border of the same or compatible material. Any such border or column shall not be less than 12 inches wide or more than 24 inches wide.
- (3) The height of monument signs for single occupancy shall not be greater than seven feet. The combined height of monument signs plus their foundations shall not be greater than seven feet. The combined heights of single monument signs plus their foundations plus any berm supporting the monument sign shall not be greater than nine feet. For single occupancy, the area of all monument signs shall be calculated as described on page 9 (c)(2).
- (4) A double-faced monument sign shall be made of back-to-back sides unless visibility of such sign is impeded, in which case the two sides may form a "V" shape in which the interior angle does not exceed 45 degrees.
- (5) The area of a monument sign shall be calculated by multiplying the total horizontal distance (shown as the horizontal sign face, in the image found on page 9 (c)(2)) times the total vertical distance (shown as H, in the image found on page 9 (c)(2)), regardless of the portion used to advertise a product or business.
- (6) The horizontal dimension of the monument sign foundation or support shall not be greater than 115 percent of the horizontal dimension of the sign face and shall not be smaller than 85 percent of the horizontal dimension of the sign face.

Moving message or changing image sign means any sign including public service signs designed to convey sign copy which changes in form or content with greater frequency than once an hour or which otherwise includes action or motion or the illusion of action or motion within its message or sign copy.

Multi-occupancy center means a single building or group of buildings situated in close proximity to each other that house more than one tenant or owner and whose parking facilities may be in common with other tenants, owner, or buildings, except those businesses which engage in the sale of automobile fuel products and other goods and services including, but not limited to, fast food restaurants and convenience stores.

Mural means a work of art painted or otherwise applied to an exterior wall surface.

Neon sign means any white or colored tubular lighting bent or formed into a design or lettering of which the primary source of light is gaseous. Anything within the boundary of the outline of the neon will be considered a part of the sign face.

Nonconforming sign means any sign structure or sign which was lawfully erected and maintained prior to such time as it came within the purview of this code or any amendments thereto and which fails to conform to all

applicable regulations and restrictions of this Code, or a nonconforming sign for which a special permit has been issued.

Off-premises sign means a sign that directs a person to a different premises or location than that on which the sign is located; which identifies advertised goods, products, or services not available on the premises on which the sign is located; or which conveys a non-advertising idea or message; or identifies or advertises a business, person, firm or corporation not located on or occupying the premises where the sign is located; or which is not otherwise defined as an on-premises sign.

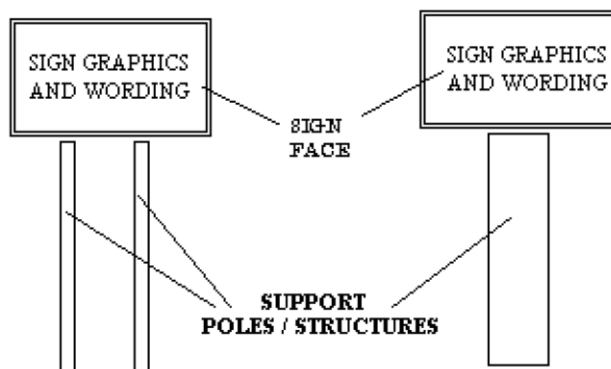
On-premises sign means a sign identifying or advertising a business, person, firm, corporation, activity, goal, product, or service located or available on the premises where the sign is installed and maintained, or which is displayed and maintained by the owner or occupant of the premises on which it is located.

Parapet sign means a sign extending above a roof line or which serves as a parapet.

Pole signs (which are prohibited) means a ground sign:

- (1) The structure of which consists of one or more vertical support poles or structures which may be partially placed in the ground or secured by a foundation for stability, and which may have a horizontal pole at or near the top of a single vertical pole and which may be joined together by a horizontal pole;
- (2) The sign face or faces of which are attached to the vertical pole/structure and/or horizontal pole and may be chained, cabled, or attached to the vertical pole; and
- (3) The sign face of which does not touch the ground and, therefore, leaves an open space between the bottom of the sign face and the ground.

Examples:



Political sign means any sign urging the election or defeat of any candidate seeking any political office or urging the passage or defeat of any ballot measure, but not including any billboard owned or maintained by a commercial firm or advertising company when leased or used as a political sign.

Portable sign means any sign other than a trailer or vehicle sign that is not permanently affixed to a building, structure or the ground or a sign designed to be moved from place to place. These signs primarily include but are not limited to: A frame or sandwich board signs, signs attached to wood or metal frames, and signs designed to be self-supporting and moveable.

Private

means an on-premises sign directing vehicular or pedestrian traffic movement into a premises or within premises.

Project sign means a temporary sign announcing a proposed land development or construction project.

Projected sign means a sign or visual image created by the projection of light onto a surface.

Projecting sign means any sign other than a wall sign affixed to any building or wall which sign has a leading edge extending 12 inches or more beyond such building or wall. Projecting signs are of two types:

- (1) *Fixed*. A sign, other than a wall sign, which extends outward 12 inches or more from the façade of any building and is rigidly affixed thereto.
- (2) *Swinging*. A sign projecting 12 inches or more from the outside wall or walls of any building which is supported by only one rigid support affixed thereto.

Public directional signs means either:

- (1) Signs permanently or temporarily erected in the public right-of-way or on public property with the approval of the town council which denote the name or route to any educational institution, public building of facility, historic place, shrine, church, synagogue, hospital, library or similar facility or institution; or
- (2) Signs permanently or temporarily erected identifying a person or entity who has undertaken to plant or maintain landscaping of that portion of the right-of-way.

Public service sign means a sign the primary purpose of which is to provide information as a service to the general public such as time, temperature or the promotion or announcement of public events, or other events of a civic, philanthropic, charitable, or religious purpose of general interest to the public.

Real estate sign means any temporary sign pertaining to the sale, lease or rental of land or buildings, which are erected or displayed on the lot or parcel to which it applies.

Resident identification sign means any on-premises sign limited in content to no more than the name of the premises, its municipal address and the names of the present occupant or occupants of the premises.

Revolving or rotating sign means any sign whose sign face is designed to move or turn on any axis.

Roof sign means any sign erected or painted upon, against or directly above a roof or on top of or above the parapet of a building.

Searchlight means a strong or bright light with a reflector in a swivel so that its beam may be sent or directed in various directions.

Sign means a medium of communication, including its structure and component parts, which is used or intended to be used to attract attention to its subject matter or location usually for advertising purposes, including paint on the surface of a building. Each distinctive message painted or placed on a building or other structure shall be considered an individual sign.

Sign area means the square foot area enclosed within the perimeter of the sign face with each face contributing to the aggregate area of any sign. With respect to signs which are composed of individual symbols, letters, figures, illustrations, messages, forms, or panels, the sign area shall be defined as that area enclosed by one continuous line connecting the extreme points or edges of the advertising message. In cases where there is no definable simple geometric shape, the simplest geometric shape or rectangle enclosing the outer edges of the advertising message shall determine the sign area. In cases of back-lighted awnings with advertising messages, the entire area of the awning shall be considered as the sign area.

Sign area means an area which is free of architectural details on the façade of a building or part of a building in which an activity is located.

Sign face means the part of the sign that is or can be used to identify, advertise, communicate, inform, or convey a visual representation which attracts the attention of the public for any purpose. The term "sign face" includes any background material, panel, trim, frame, color and direct or self-illumination that differentiates the sign from the building, structure, backdrop surface or object upon which or against which it is placed. The sign structure shall not be included as a portion of the sign face provided that no message, symbol, or any of the aforementioned sign face criteria are displayed on or designed as part of the sign structure, unless it is outlined in neon.

Sign height, for monument or

s, means the vertical distance from the finished grade to the highest point of either the sign or sign structure.

Sign message means the words or symbols on a sign face which conveys a message to those viewing the sign.

Sign owner means that person who owns a sign and/or who is responsible for a sign. In those cases, in which the sign's owner cannot be determined; the owner of the premises upon which the sign is located shall be deemed the owner of the sign.

Sign premises means the contiguous land in the same ownership which is not divided by any highway, street, alley, or right-of-way. For purposes of this section a single premises:

- (1) May include more than one lot of record when such lots are devoted to a single unity of use: or
- (2) May consist of a separate structure on the same lot of record when, in the opinion of the town, such separate structure appears to be a separate premises.

Sign structure means the supporting structure upon which a sign or sign face is fastened, attached, or displayed or is intended to be fastened, attached, or displayed; provided however, this definition shall not include a building or fence.

Snipe sign means a sign which is tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued, or otherwise attached to poles, stakes fences, or to other like objects.

Store front means the façade of a space in a building, regardless of the type of use of the space, which space must have a direct entrance, by door, from the exterior of the building through the façade, and which façade must face a street or a parking lot for the building.

Street banner sign means is any banner sign which is stretched across and hung over a public right-of-way.

String of lights means a string of electrical conductors containing two or more lights or light sockets.

Subdivision sign means a sign identifying the subdivision and denoting the entrance or exit to the subdivision.

Temporary sign means any sign, the display of which is limited by law, ordinance, or regulation and which advertises a situation or event that is designed, intended, or expected to occur and be completed within a reasonably short or definite period after the erection of such sign.

Trailer sign means any sign or sign structure attached to or composed in whole or in part of a trailer frame or chassis or skid or skid frame or body or of any materials which have ever previously constituted in whole or in part such a trailer, skid, frame, chassis, or body.

Vehicle sign means any sign displayed on or from any mode of transportation, including, but not limited to, cars, buses, trucks/trailers, trains, boats, or airplanes.

Wall sign means a sign other than a parapet sign which is painted on or which projects less than 12 inches from the wall of a building, and is painted on, attached to or erected against any exterior wall or window of a building or structure with the exposed face of the sign being in a plane parallel to the plane of said wall or window and not extending above the building.

Window sign means any sign which is painted on, applied to, attached to or projected upon the exterior or interior of a building glass area, including doors, or located within one foot of the interior of a building glass area, including doors, whose identification, message, symbol, insignia, visual representation, logo or any other form which communicates information, can be perceived from any off-premises contiguous property or public right-of-way.

Wire sign means any sign that is constructed of a paper or plastic message board mounted on a wire framework where said wire frame extends below the message board and is designed to be driven into and supported by the ground.

Sec. 3 Permits and inspections

(a) *Permits required.*

- (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, it shall be unlawful to erect, alter or relocate any sign without first obtaining a sign permit from the town. When a sign permit has been issued, it shall be unlawful to change, modify, alter, or otherwise deviate from the terms of conditions of said permit without prior approval of the mayor or his/her designee. A written record of such approval shall be entered upon the original permit application and maintained in the building permit files. The following activity shall not require a sign permit: The changing of advertising copy or message on signs which are specifically designed for the use of replaceable copy.
- (2) A state- and town-licensed electrical contractor must perform all electrical work on signs, if applicable. The name and license number of the contractor must be recorded on the permit application. Records will be checked to see if the contractor is properly licensed. Permit fees for the sign are based on the value of the sign. The fee is **\$20.00 per \$1,000.00 of value plus \$50.00** if the sign is an electrical sign. The installer must be licensed in the parish and/or state.

(b) *Application.* In order to obtain a permit to erect, alter or relocate any sign under the provisions of this section, an applicant therefore shall submit to the mayor or his/her designee, a sign permit application which shall set forth in writing a complete description of the proposed sign including:

- (1) The name, address, and telephone number of the landowner or persons entitled to possession of the sign and of the sign contractor or erector;
- (2) The location by street address and legal description of the site of the proposed sign structure;
- (3) Complete information as required on application forms provided by the mayor or his/her designee, including a site plan and elevation drawings of the proposed sign, caption of the proposed sign (for identification purposes only), and such other data as is pertinent to the application;
- (4) Two sets of plans indicating the scope and structural detail of the work to be done, including details of all connections, guy lines, supports and footings, and materials to be used; and
- (5) One site drawing which illustrates the location of the proposed sign, all side and frontage streets adjacent to the proposed site, and all buildings on the premises where the sign is proposed to be installed.

Each application shall contain an agreement to indemnify and hold the town harmless for all damages, demands or expenses or every character, which may in any manner be caused by the sign or sign structures. The mayor or his/her designee shall act upon an application for a permit with plans as filed, or as amended, without unreasonable or unnecessary delay.

(c) *Issuance of permit if application in order.* It shall be the duty of the mayor or his/her designee, upon receipt of a completed application for a sign permit, to examine such plans and specifications and other data, and, if the proposed structure is in compliance with the requirements of this section and all other applicable provisions of this Code, to within 30 days of the application submittal, issue the applicant a written permit evidencing the applicant's compliance therewith. Issuance of the permit shall in no way prevent the mayor or his/her designee from later declaring said sign to be nonconforming if, upon further review of information submitted with the application, or of newly acquired information, the sign is found not to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

(d) *Permit duration.* A sign permit shall become null and void if the sign for which the permit was issued has not been completed within a period of six months after the date of issuance.

(e) *Removal, alteration, or maintenance of signs.*

- (1) All signs and supporting structures which are no longer functional or are abandoned shall be removed, or relocated, at the property owner's expense, or returned to a condition which is in compliance within the provisions of this chapter within 90 days following dysfunction. All outdoor advertising signs and sign structures shall be kept in good repair and in proper state of preservation. A sign which is deemed to be a safety hazard as determined by the mayor or his/her designee, shall be removed immediately and at the property owner's expense.
- (2) Weeds and grass shall be kept cut in front of, behind, underneath, and around the base of the ground signs for a perimeter distance of ten feet, and no rubbish or debris that would constitute a fire or health hazard shall be permitted under or near such signs. The mayor or his/her designee is authorized to have grass cut at the property owner's expense if out of compliance.

Sec. 4 Sign standards

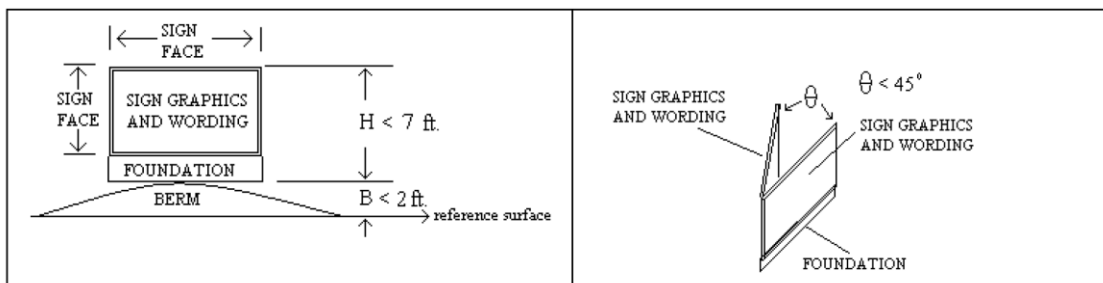
- (a) *Visual obstruction.* Signs in a sight triangle shall not obscure vision between heights of three and nine feet above grade.
- (b) *Protection of residential property.*
 - (1) Except as may otherwise be provided herein, permanent signs are prohibited in single-family residential property.
 - (2) Signs which identify or advertise commercial or industrial operations and are on a lot or property which abuts residential property shall not be located nearer than 15 feet to any residential boundary line.
 - (3) Illuminated or neon signs shall not produce a glare or reflection onto residential properties such as to be objectionable to the occupants thereof.
- (c) *Limitations.* Ground signs, wall signs, monument signs, free standing signs, marquee, and canopy signs shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - (1) Temporary signs on private single-family residential subdivision property are permitted at the property owner's discretion, provided, however, the sign shall be removed upon termination of the activity, such as garage or yard sale, political campaign, real property sale or other like activity, for which it was erected. Signs permitted hereunder shall not exceed six square feet in surface area and be in compliance with all requirements of this chapter.
 - (2) No new ground sign or monument sign shall be larger than 50 square feet.

Maximum Sizes of Ground or Monument Signs

Business Frontage (feet)*	Maximum Monument or Ground Sign Area (Square feet)
Less than 50-foot frontage	30 sq. ft.
50-foot or greater foot frontage	30 sq. ft. plus 1 sq. ft. per 2 ft. of frontage, but no larger than 50 sq. ft.

* Actual frontage measurement shall be rounded off to the nearest whole number.

Examples:



- (3) The aggregate surface area of each wall sign shall not exceed the dimensions listed in table 1 below:

Table 1

Maximum Sizes of Wall Signs Setback from Road ROW	Business Frontage (feet)	Maximum Sign Area (Square feet)
Less than 300 ft.	Less than 50	40 sq. ft.
Less than 300 ft.	50 or greater	40 sq. ft. plus 1 sq. ft. per 2 ft. of frontage over 50 ft. **
Greater than 300 ft.	Less than 50	50
Greater than 300 ft.	50 or greater	50 sq. ft. plus 1 sq. ft. per 2 ft. of frontage over 50 ft. **

* Actual frontage measurement shall be rounded off the nearest whole number.

** Not to exceed the limitations established by subsection (c)(3)a and b of this section.

- a. The maximum surface area of individual signs located in professional business area developments will not surpass 75 square feet.
 - b. The maximum surface area of signs located in all other commercial areas, including shopping areas where multiple buildings may be internal and setback from road with no roadway frontage, will not surpass 150 square feet in those cases where the commercial and/or retail building is located up to 300 feet setback from the roadway. For setbacks greater than 300 feet, any increase in sign area must be presented to and approved by the mayor or his/her designee.
- (4) Signs in multiple-occupancy non-residential buildings (which includes shopping centers): Where a single building or complex of buildings contains two or more separate activities or establishments, the individual establishment located therein shall be permitted a wall sign. Each wall sign area shall be based on the portion of building frontage used by establishment as though they were individual buildings with individual street frontage and based upon the setback distance from the road right-of-way. Such multiple occupancy buildings will be permitted one directory or one common single multiple-listing monument sign per driveway provided driveways are a minimum of 500 frontage-feet apart along the roadway. Multiple occupancy buildings with a single driveway with frontages greater than 400 feet are allowed additional ground signs based upon the table below. For multiple buildings on a property with multiple occupancy that are professional business, commercial, retail, or industrial the table below represents maximum monument or ground signs allowed along roadway frontage.

Building Roadway Frontage (feet)	Maximum Monument/Ground Signs Allowed
300	One
301-600	Two
601-900	Three
900 or more	Four

- (5) Maximum number of signs. Only one ground sign and one wall, marquee or canopy, shall be allowed for each premises; except that on corner and double frontage lots, two ground signs or two wall signs, or one ground sign plus one wall sign are allowed, provided that no two wall signs shall be installed on the same frontage and/or face of the premises for multiple occupancy non-residential buildings or shopping centers. No transfers of allowable sign area shall be made from one premises frontage to another. Individual wall signs shall not exceed those as directed in subsection (c)(3) of this section. For multiple occupancy buildings and multiple building shopping or business centers, the monument signs may consist of one of the following:
 - a. One monument sign for the purpose of providing the name of the center only; or
 - b. One multiple occupancy sign (MOS) which provides space which identifies each tenant/occupant within the center as well as the center itself. The dimensions of any MOS shall not exceed 12 square feet per tenant/occupant plus 36 square feet of space to identify the shopping center, and not to exceed an overall height of 18 feet for signs located along the roadway frontage.
- (6) For those MOS which are setback more than 300 feet, an overall height of 20 feet will be allowed.
- (7) Wall sign projection. Wall signs may not project more than 12 inches from the building to which they are attached.
- (8) Mansard signs. Unless otherwise specified, the mansard type roof portion of a structure may be used for the mounting of a sign, provided such sign shall not extend above the break point of the mansard type roof line upon which the sign is mounted.
- (9) Marquee signs. Signs or sign structures located on a marquee shall be affixed flat to the surface and shall not be greater than two feet in vertical dimension and shall not extend beyond the marquee.
- (10) One rear identification wall sign must be displayed on or at a rear door of each separate business entity for purposes of emergency access and deliveries only. Such sign shall be limited in size to the minimum size required by state fire marshal. Any door not utilized as a primary entranceway for patrons during normal business hours or not opening directly onto the patron area of any premises shall be considered a rear door. No door located on any store frontage on which there exists a door utilized as a primary entranceway for patrons during normal business hours or which opens directly onto the patron area of any premises shall be considered a rear door.
- (11) Handicapped parking and access signs are allowed and are regulated in accordance with state or federal law.
- (12) Under canopy signage specification.

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- a. The sign shall be mounted in a stationary manner with a fastening method designed to withstand 110 miles-per-hour wind load and shall not extend downward in a vertical direction, that the bottom most portion of the sign is closer than 7½ feet above walkway over which it is located.
 - b. The sign shall be placed in a location in front of the business that it is advertising. The sign can be single- or double-faced depending on the angle of sign's installation direction.
 - c. Verbiage on the sign shall be limited to the business name and any trademark identifications such as logos, registered trademarks, etc., and address identification such as suite or street number if this information is not placed in another location of the business' exterior wall areas.
 - d. The sign shall not exceed three square feet and shall be calculated based on total sign face dimensions with all borders and decorations, measuring from top and bottom most extremes and side most extremes, but does not count any mounting hardware. Square footage as listed above does not count toward maximum size of allowable signage as listed in subsection (c) of this section.
- (13) All signs which incorporate a mural must be approved by the town council.
- (d) *Subdivision signs.* One permanent subdivision sign may be located at each entrance to a subdivision provided the following requirements are met:
- (1) Such sign shall contain only the name of the subdivision and motto, if any. It shall not contain promotional material.
 - (2) The sign shall not create a physical or visual hazard for motorists entering or leaving the subdivision.
 - (3) A legal entity, such as a homeowner's association or person shall be included on the application for a sign permit to identify the responsible party to perform perpetual maintenance of the subdivision sign.
 - (4) The sign shall not exceed seven feet in height.
 - (5) The sign shall not exceed 50 square feet in area.
- (e) *Duplex, apartment, and mobile home park signs.* One wall or ground sign may be located on the site of a duplex apartment or mobile home park provided that it is not more than 32 square feet. Such sign shall not be more than seven feet in height. Where a duplex, apartment, or mobile home park is located on more than one street, one sign may be displayed on each street.
- (f) *Murals.* Murals on buildings shall not be installed without specific approval of the town council.

Sec. 5 Exempt signs

Except as otherwise provided, the following on-site signs are exempt from the provisions of this chapter and may be erected securing a permit with no charge, subject, however, to meeting all other applicable codes and regulations:

- (1) One professional nameplate for each occupant. Each professional nameplate shall not exceed six square feet in area.
 - (2) One identification sign for each premises, denoting only the name, street, number, and business of an occupant in a commercial building or public institutional building. An identification sign shall not exceed six square feet in area.
 - (3) One bulletin board or identification sign per site for public, charitable, educational, or religious institution located on the premises of said institution and not exceeding 32 square feet in area.
 - (4) Legal notices and official instruments.
 - (5) Flags or insignias of a governmental, religious, charitable, or fraternal organization mounted on a single pole. Flags or insignias shall be limited to 50 total square feet in area. U.S. flags that are in compliance with 4 U.S.C. § 1 and 4 U.S.C. § 2, shall have no limit as to actual size.
 - (6) Decorative flags, banners, snipe and bunting authorized by the mayor for special events such as town-wide celebration, conventions or commemorations.
 - (7) Holiday lights and decoration only during customary duration of holiday period.
 - (8) Memorial signs, tablets or cornerstones, names of buildings and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other noncombustible materials.
 - (9) Non-advertising (not to exceed two square feet in area) directional signs or symbols (e.g., entrance, exit, caution, slow, no trespassing) located on and pertaining to a parcel of private property.
 - (10) Identification signs at the entrance drive of residences, estates, farms, ranches, and plantations which do not exceed two square feet in area.
 - (11) One non-illuminated, double-faced, temporary, real estate for sale sign per street frontage not exceeding in face area:
 - a. On-premises residential property.
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1. Six square feet where the property being advertised has a frontage of less than 500 lineal feet.
 2. Sixteen square feet where the property being advertised has a frontage of 500 lineal feet or more.
- b. In all other on-premises property, 16 square feet where the property or structure being advertised has a frontage of less than 200 lineal feet.
 - c. In all other on-premises property, 32 square feet where the property or structure being advertised has a frontage of 200 lineal feet or more.
 - d. Multiple-listing strips and sold signs may be allowed on-premises when attached to a real estate for sale sign. Signs shall be removed immediately when ownership has changed, or the property is no longer for sale, rent, or lease. Open for inspection signs not exceeding two square feet in area may be allowed on property that is open for inspection.
 - e. Off-premises real estate for sale signs are not exempt.
- (12) Construction signs located on property where active construction is in progress and under a current building permit are allowed. All ground signs shall not exceed 32 square feet for non-residential structures and 16 square feet for residential structures and may include the names of persons and firms performing services or labor, or supply materials to the premises. Such sign must be removed before a certificate of occupancy is issued.
- (13) Signs incorporated on machinery or equipment at the manufacturer's or distributor's level, which identify or advertise only the product or service dispensed by the machine or equipment, such as signs customarily affixed to vending machines, newspaper racks, telephone booths, and gasoline pumps and do not exceed two square feet per piece of equipment.
- (14) Directional and regulatory signs erected by an agency of government or any lawfully constituted utility.
- (15) New businesses on-premises grand opening signs/streamers.
- a. Temporary exterior soft banners with eyelets not exceeding 40 square feet in conjunction with triangular plastic or nylon flags of various colors attached or sewn in succession to a cord or ribbon material to make a streamer. Streamers may be attached only to the front top corner of each end of building to ground where flags are secured. No more than three streamers on each end of building front to form a triangle from common apex at building top corner to ground, for a total of six. Banners will be secured at each corner eyelet by rope or cord of sufficient strength. A permit is required and shall be limited to 30 consecutive days post business opening.
 - b. Wire signs and the animation/changing image of a moving message sign are permitted during the grand opening period determined to be 30 consecutive days post business opening.
- (16) Vehicle signs advertising vehicle for sale, are exempt for vehicles parked on the private property owned by the vehicle owner.
- (17) Temporary church/synagogue/worship center signs.
- a. Portable signs identifying a church, synagogue or worship center operating in a temporary or portable location shall not exceed ten square feet in area. They must adhere to all setback requirements as set forth in section 4 and may only be erected and/or displayed on days when actual worship services are conducted. Signs may be erected/displayed no earlier than two hours prior to worship service(s) and must be removed within two hours after the conclusion of the worship service(s) for the day.
 - b. Such signs may consist of two directional signs depicting only directional arrows and/or the logo of the church, synagogue, or place of worship, and one identification signs limited to the name of the church, synagogue, or place of worship.

Sec. 6 Gasoline signs

- (a) *Gasoline pricing signs.* For each convenience store/service station, the following signs will be permitted:
- (1) One monument sign advertising the price of gasoline is permitted, provided that it shall not exceed an aggregate area of 36 square feet. If freestanding, the sign shall not exceed nine feet in height including an optional two-foot berm;
 - (2) Signs which are placed on gasoline pumps to provide required information to the public regarding price per gallon or liter, type of fuel and octane rating are permitted; however, such signs may not exceed three square feet per side in surface area and six square feet in total area; and
 - (3) One monument sign to identify the service station name is permitted when this monument sign meets the dimensions and parameters set forth in section 4.
- (b) *Vehicle and trailer signs.*
- (1) Vehicle and trailer signs may be displayed on any vehicle or trailer operated in the daily conduct of any business enterprise so long as such signs are:
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- a. Limited in content to a noncommercial message;
 - b. Required to be displayed by any federal, state, or local law, rule or regulation;
 - c. Limited in content to an identification of the name, address and/or telephone number, website and email address and logo of the business entity operating the vehicle or trailer or the goods, products, or services available from or provided by said business entity;
 - d. Not parked in front of or in line with any greenbelt or planting areas when on the premises of the business entity operating or advertising on such vehicle or trailer; or
 - e. On a vehicle or trailer which is operable and not parked primarily for the purpose of signage.
- (2) Vehicle and trailer signs shall not be used as off-premises signs and shall not be displayed or parked on sites other than the premises of the business entity operating such vehicle other than when the vehicle is being used in connection with the business operations of the entity operating said vehicle or trailer. Such vehicles and trailers may also be parked at the residence of its operator. Billboards may not be erected or displayed on any vehicle or trailer.
- (c) *Banners as temporary signs.*
- (1) For the purposes of this chapter, a banner as a temporary sign means a temporary sign of paper or cloth without supporting frame and affixed to vertical poles or flat surfaces such as an exterior wall, window, or mansard, or affixed to two vertical poles by tie downs.
 - (2) Banners as temporary signs are allowed upon written application for permit for a period not to exceed ten days from date specified by the permit. Not more than one banner permit shall be issued for the same property or location more frequently than twice each calendar year.
 - (3) Permits shall specify the size of banner as temporary sign and the location. Violation of the terms of the permit shall be cause to immediately revoke same.
 - (4) The measured length of permitted banners as temporary signs shall not exceed 30 feet in the horizontal plane. No banner shall extend beyond the frontage of the premises for which it is permitted. The vertical height of a permitted banner shall not exceed 40 percent of its horizontal length.
 - (5) Banners as temporary signs displayed off-premises or upon public property are prohibited; provided, however, that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the over-street banners authorized by the town for special events.
 - (6) Grand opening banners shall conform to (16) on page 13.
- (d) *Banners promoting community events (BPCE).*
- (1) BPCE banners shall be defined as banners promoting community events that are free and open to the public, or events that provide a civic purpose. BPCE banners shall be issued permits by the at no cost to the event organizer.
 - (2) BPCE banners must be located on the property of the event organizers.
 - (3) BPCE banners are allowed upon approved applications for permit, not to exceed ten days before and five days after the date specified by the permit. Organizers are limited to two banners per event. An annual permit may be issued for recurring events. Applications for annual permits shall include specific dates of the events. Annual permits shall expire on December 31 of the year of issue.
 - (4) The measured length of permitted BPCE banners shall not exceed 30 feet in the horizontal plane. No BPCE banner shall extend beyond the frontage of the premises for which it is permitted. The vertical height of a permitted BPCE banner shall not exceed 20 percent of its horizontal length.
- (a) *Generally.* The mayor and town council deem it to be in the best interest of the public to prohibit the future construction of billboards and off-premises signs in the town.
- (b) *Definitions.* The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this section, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:
- Billboard/off-premises advertising sign* means an advertising sign which directs the attention of the public to a business activity conducted, or product sold or offered for sale at a location other than the premises where such sign is located.
- (c) *Exclusions.*
- (1) An official business directional sign erected and maintained by the state department of transportation and development, or any other entity authorized by the state, which indicates to the traveling public the route and/or distance to scenic, historic, cultural, educational, recreational, or service sites or location of interest shall not be deemed to be included within the definition of billboard/off-premises sign.
 - (2) Any advertisement structure permitted, authorized or contracted for by a state, parish or municipal governing authority pursuant to R.S. 48:236 under the terms of which advertising is allowed on convenience facilities such as benches, shelters, kiosks and other items located within public rights of
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way as designated stops of a public transit system, shall not be deemed to be included within the definition of billboard/off-premises signs.

Sec. 7 Prohibited signs

- (a) Billboards and off-premises signs are hereby prohibited in the town, except as same are permitted to remain under the provisions of this chapter, and no sign permit or building permit shall be granted for the construction of a new billboard or off-premises sign.
 - (b) Prohibited signs are subject to immediate removal at the direction of the mayor or his/her designee, and upon removal become the property of the town.
 - (c) The following signs are specifically prohibited:
 - (1) Any sign erected or painted upon a sloping roof, fence, tree, standpipe, fire escape or utility pole.
 - (2) Any sign which uses the word "stop" or "danger" prominently displayed and/or which is a copy or imitation of official traffic control signs.
 - (3) Signs which flash or illuminate intermittently, and animated signs except time and temperature or public service signs.
 - (4) Signs which emit visible smoke, vapor, particles, or odor.
 - (5) Signs with any lighting or control mechanism which causes radio or television or other communication interference.
 - (6) Any sign or sign structure placed upon any street or highway right-of-way, except directional signs provided by the town.
 - (7) Any sign affixed to any fence, tree, utility pole or traffic sign standard.
 - (8) Any sign attached to or painted onto a vehicle parked adjacent to or on a public thoroughfare for the principal purpose of advertising.
 - (9) Sandwich signs.
 - (10) Snipe signs.
 - (11) Tethered inflatable signs, either on-site or off-site.
 - (12) Portable signs.
 - (13) Off-site signs.
 - (14) Streamers, with exception of those described in section 5(16).
 - (15) Revolving signs.
 - (16) Lasers.
 - (17) Moving message or changing image signs, except public service signs.
 - (18) Search lights.
 - (19) Signs, other than public directional signs, public service signs, public information signs, subdivision signs or official notices which encroach into a public right-of-way.
 - (20) Murals that serve to advertise or promote a business, service, product, activity, cause or event.
 - (21) All billboards.
 - (22) Any wire sign which is not specifically included in section 5(16)b, on public property.
 - (23) All pole signs.
 - (24) All abandoned off-premises signs.
 - (25) Vehicle signs and advertising vehicle for sale are prohibited if the vehicle is not displayed on the property owned by the owner of the vehicle.
 - (26) Any sign or sign structure installed within 130 feet of the center of a roundabout, except directional signs provided by the town.
 - (27) Any sign not specifically defined and allowed by the provisions of this chapter are hereby prohibited.
 - (d) Nonconforming signs. Any sign which violates any portion of this ordinance and that is in existence on the date of enactment of the ordinance from which this chapter is derived shall be considered a nonconforming sign and shall be subject to the following conditions:
 - (1) The following signs are to be removed or made to conform to this chapter within 90 days' notice of the violation:
 - a. All nonconforming signs made of paper, cloth, or other non-durable material.
 - b. All temporary signs other than those permitted herein.
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- c. All portable signs.
 - (2) If any nonconforming sign is removed or destroyed, any replacement sign shall be in conformity with the requirements of this chapter.
 - (3) Where a change in use, occupancy or ownership occurs which necessitates the altering of a sign in any manner, the altered or changed sign shall be in conformance with the requirements of this chapter.
 - (4) Upon failure to comply within the time specified, the mayor or his/her designee is hereby required to cause removal as provided by law of such sign and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner, agent, or lessee of said sign or of the property upon which the sign is located.
 - (6) The property owner of any nonconforming sign will be notified by certified or registered mail that said sign is not in compliance and no further sign permits will be issued while nonconforming use exists.

Sec. 8 Penalties for offenses

- (a) Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed a violation, and the violator shall be liable to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and each day that such violation continues shall constitute a separate violation.

WHEREUPON, the above Ordinance was read and submitted to a vote, the vote thereon being as follows:

YEAS: Alderman Matthew Trahan, Alderwoman Megan Landry-Lalande, Alderman Troy

Catalon, Alderman Scott Trahan

NAYS: None

ABSENT OR PRESENT AND NOT VOTING: Alderman Jonathan Schlicher

APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 21st day of February, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this ordinance was approved by the Board of Alderman of the Town of Maurice after the same ordinance as duly presented to, examined, considered, approved, and adopted in an open meeting on the 21st day of February, 2024, at the first place written above and shall become effective upon publication.

THE TOWN OF MAURICE

BY: s/Neil Arsement

MAYOR NEIL ARSEMENT

BY: s/Melanie Denais

MELANIE DENAIS, CLERK

CERTIFICATE

I, Melanie Denais, Town Clerk of the Town of Maurice, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Maurice duly assembled in Maurice, Louisiana, on the 21st day of February, 2024, at which time a quorum was present and voting.

Signed on this 27th day of February, 2024, at Maurice, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana.

TOWN OF MAURICE

By: s/Melanie Denais

Melanie Denais, Municipal Clerk