

November 18, 2013

**Joint Commission/Planning Board
Workshop Meeting
5:00 P.M.**

**Commission Chamber
City Hall
Port St. Joe, Florida**



City of Port St. Joe

Mel Magidson, Mayor-Commissioner
William Thursbay, Commissioner, Group I
Bo Patterson, Commissioner, Group II
Phil McCroan, Commissioner, Group III
Rex Buzzett, Commissioner, Group IV

[All persons are invited to attend these meetings. Any person who decides to appeal any decision made by the Commission with respect to any matter considered at said meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. The Board of City Commission of the City of Port St. Joe, Florida will not provide a verbatim record of this meeting.]

BOARD OF CITY COMMISSION

Joint Commission/Planning Board Workshop Meeting

5:00 P.M.

Commission Chamber, City Hall

Monday 18, 2013

Call to Order

Agenda

Sign Ordinance

Citizens to be Heard

Discussion Items by Commissioners

Motion to Adjourn

ARTICLE VI. SIGN REGULATIONS

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- 6.3.1 Event Signs
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6.0 General Provisions

6.0.1 Purpose

1. To promote and protect the public health, safety, and general welfare.
2. To enable the identification of places or residences and businesses.
3. To balance the rights of individuals to convey their messages through their signs and the right of the public to be protected from the unrestricted proliferation of signs.
4. To enhance the economy and the business and industry of the city by promoting the reasonable, orderly and effective display of signs, including the public being able to locate goods, services, and facilities in the city.
5. To maintain and enhance the aesthetics of the city by restricting signs and lights that increase clutter.
6. To maintain and improve traffic safety by preventing and restricting signs that, due to their placement or appearance, increase the probability of traffic accidents by obstructing vision or confusing motorists.
7. To promote signs that are compatible with their surroundings and minimize potential adverse effect of signs on nearby property.
8. To ensure proper maintenance of signs for safety and structural soundness as well as the appearance of signs.
9. To ensure the fair and consistent enforcement of sign regulations.
10. To insure that these sign regulations continue to take into account developments in the law.

6.0.2 General Requirements

1. Any sign erected, placed, reconstructed, expanded or relocated on any property within the City shall conform to the provisions of this Article. The number, location, and size of signs allowed per each property or business is limited by this Article.
2. No signs shall be located, erected, placed, constructed, reconstructed, expanded, altered, or relocated except as provided in this ordinance without securing a permit from the City of Port St. Joe.
3. It is the responsibility of the owner/developer to ensure proper compliance and to repair and maintain the signs.
4. It is the responsibility of the land owner to remove signs from unoccupied spaces and/or buildings, or when the permit has expired.
5. Signs not repaired or maintained, as determined by the City or its designated agent, and duly cited for posing a public safety hazard will be declared derelict and will be removed at owner's expense.
6. Private signs on public property or public right-of-way may be removed by the City or its agents without notice to the sign owner.

6.0.3 Prohibited Signs

1. Bench Signs.
2. Non-Conforming Signs except those that were in existence before October 1, 2013. Non-conforming signs shall be subject to the requirements of Section 6.7.
3. ~~Off-Premises Signs: Off-premises signs pertain to any sign on any property other than that on which the business is located, including but not limited to billboards, sandwich boards, "A" frame, "T" frame, step signs, "yard" signs, menu signs, "on duty" signs, snipe signs, portable signs, trailer signs, vehicle signs.~~
4. Advertising Signs on Towers: Advertising signs on any type of water tower, aerial tower or other tower.
5. Signs on Public Right of Way: Signs on public rights-of-way, public property including but not limited to streets, sidewalks, parks, street lights and poles, bridges, in or upon any river, bay, lake, or other body of water, except signs erected, approved or required by law or by public governmental entities or signs erected pursuant to section 6.4.9.
6. Temporary or mobile Changeable Message Signs (except portable menu signs, & signs owned by public entities)
7. Pavement Markings, except official traffic control markings and street addresses.
8. Roof Signs.
9. Piers or Seawalls: Signs attached to or painted on piers or sea walls, other than official regulatory or warning signs.
10. Emissions: Signs that emit sound, vapor, smoke, odor, particles, or gaseous matter.

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11. Unshielded Illumination: Signs that have unshielded illuminating devices or which reflect lighting onto public rights-of-way, thereby creating a potential traffic or pedestrian hazard.
12. Moving Signs: Signs that move, revolve, twirl, rotate, flash, including animated signs, multi-prism signs, floodlights and beacon lights, except when required by the Federal Aviation Agency or other governmental agency.
13. Obstructions: Signs that obstruct, conceal, hide, or otherwise obscure from view any official traffic, government sign, signal, or device, or presents a potential traffic or pedestrian hazard, including signs which obstruct visibility.
14. Three-Dimensional Objects: Three-dimensional objects that are used as signs, carried, waved, or otherwise displayed by persons either on public rights-of-way or in a manner visible from public rights-of-way, intended to draw vehicular and pedestrian attention for a commercial purpose (not intended to limit the display of placards, banners, flags, or other signage by persons participating in demonstrations, political rallies and similar events that have been properly permitted).
15. Signs Omitted from the Code: Any sign that is not specifically described or enumerated as permitted within the zoning district classifications in the land development code.
16. Flags and Banners as permanent signage.

6.0.4 Enforcement of Prohibited Signs

1. Any sign that is installed, erected, altered, moved or replaced in violation of this Article is prohibited. The enforcement of sign regulations will be performed by the Code Enforcement Inspector (CEI), the City Manager, or his designee. The owner or person or firm maintaining the sign shall, upon notice either written or verbal from the City Manager, CEI, or his designee, shall remove prohibited signs. Any such sign not removed or properly altered within the time period allotted from 15 days of the date of the notice, may be removed by the City and all costs charged to the property owner, agent, or person having beneficial interest in the sign itself.

2. Derelict Signs

Should any sign become insecure or in danger of falling or otherwise unsafe in the opinion of the City Manager or his designee, the owner or person or firm maintaining the sign shall, upon written nor verbal notice from said enforcement officer, forthwith in the case of immediate danger and in any case within (48 hours), remove such sign or secure it in a manner approved by the enforcement officer. Any such sign not removed or properly secured within the time period allotted from the notice, may be removed by the City and all costs charged to the property owner, agent, or person having beneficial interest in the sign itself.

3. Temporary Signs

Pennants, streamers, banners, wind-blown devices, real estate signs, real estate directional signs, semi-public-use directional signs, signs in the right-of-way, and construction signs that do not conform to the provisions of this Article upon its adoption or amendment shall be removed within ten (10) days.

4. Nonconforming Signs and a new business

A nonconforming freestanding or building sign shall not be reused for a new business or establishment and shall be removed within thirty (30) days after the business or establishment to which the sign initially pertained ceases to operate at the subject location. This includes the replacement of a sign face module for a new business on a sign or sign structure that exceeds the maximum area or height requirements established by this Article.

5. Change or Removal of Discontinued Signs

When a property owner has a lawful and conforming freestanding or building sign that no longer is used by a business or establishment, and the owner desires to retain said sign, this section shall apply in order to retain said freestanding sign as a lawful sign. If the discontinued freestanding sign or building sign contains a sign face that is in the form of a removable sign face module, the removable sign face module containing advertising shall be removed and replaced with a panel of like or similar appearance without advertising until another use is lawfully established. If a discontinued freestanding sign or building sign contains a sign copy area that is not removable, the said sign shall be removed or the copy area shall be painted over to conceal the advertising.

6.0.5 Prohibited Sign Locations

1. No sign shall be placed or located in a manner inconsistent with this Section.
2. Location in right-of-way prohibited. No part of any sign shall be located in, over, or project into a public right-of-way except for awning signs, canopy signs, or projecting signs in the commercial district.
3. Obstructions of buildings and roadways prohibited. No sign shall be erected, located, or maintained in such a manner as to interfere with safe and free ingress and egress of any door, emergency exit, driveway, street, or roadway.
4. Obstruction of utilities prohibited. No sign shall interfere with such utilities as water mains and hydrants, sanitary sewerage, gas, electricity, and communications equipment or lines, and shall not interfere with natural or man-made storm-water drainage facilities.
5. Obstructions of views and confusion with traffic controls. No sign shall be erected or maintained where, by reason of its position, wording, illumination, size, shape or color, it may obstruct the view of oncoming vehicles or impair, obscure, interfere with the view of, or be confused with any authorized traffic control sign, signal, or device. No sign shall contain or be in imitation of an official governmental traffic control sign, signal, or emergency vehicle device.

