

**ARTICLE 20**  
**SIGNS**

**7 TCC 1-20 (a) Purpose.** The purpose of the article is to provide regulation and control of the location, size, content and placement of signs throughout the County in order to promote signs which are safe and compatible with their surroundings. This article also recognizes the need to minimize the possible adverse effect of signs on nearby public and private property.

**7 TCC 1-20 (b) Definitions.** The following definitions, when used in this Section shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

**SIGHT TRIANGLE:** The area of the corner lot closest to the intersection which is kept free of visual impairment to allow full view of both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

**SIGN, AREA:** The entire area of all sign faces, cumulatively, including sign faces on which no copy is currently displayed.

**SIGN, BILLBOARD:** A sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located.

**SIGN, CANOPY/AWNING:** Any sign which is affixed to, painted on or suspended from a canopy or awning.

**SIGN, CHANGEABLE COPY:** A sign on which copy is changed manually in the field or a sign which is electronically or electrically controlled where different copy changes are shown on the same lamp bank.

**SIGN, DIRECTIONAL:** A sign designed and erected solely for the purpose of directing or guiding automotive or pedestrian traffic or parking and containing no advertising matter.

**SIGN, FACE:** That part of the sign which is or can be used to identify, to advertise, to communicate information, or for visual representation which attracts the attention of the public for any purpose. This shall include any background material, panel, trim, color, and direct or self-illumination that differentiates the sign from the building, structure, backdrop surface, or object upon or against which it is placed. This shall not include any portion of the support structure for the sign, provided that no message, symbol, or any of the aforementioned sign face criteria is placed on or designed as part of the support structure. A two sided sign shall be considered to have two sign faces. (Amendment #21 – 10/05)

**SIGN, FLASHING:** Any sign, which, by method or manner of illumination, flashes on or off, or blinks with varying light intensity, shows motion, or creates the illusion of motion or revolves in a manner to create the illusion of being on or off.

**SIGN, FREE STANDING:** A sign supported by one or more upright poles, columns, or braces placed in or on the ground and not attached to any building or structure.

**SIGN, HEIGHT:** The vertical distance measured from the natural grade at the base of the sign support to the highest point of the sign.

**SIGN, IDENTIFICATION:** A sign which states the name of the business or establishment, including either the national company or local proprietor, and/or the address of a building.

**SIGN, ILLUMINATED:** A sign lighted by or exposed to artificial lighting either by lights on or in the sign or directed towards the sign.

**SIGN, MUNICIPAL/COMMUNITY ENTRANCE:** A sign erected by a government or public body and located near the edge of a community, township or political subdivision and for the primary purpose of identifying and describing such municipality or community. (Amendment #21 – 10/05)

**SIGN, NAMEPLATE:** A sign which displays only the name and address of the occupant and is unlighted.

**SIGN, NON-CONFORMING:** A sign lawfully erected and maintained prior to the effective date of the adoption of this ordinance which does not conform to the provisions of this ordinance.

**SIGN, OFF PREMISES:** A sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located.

**SIGN, ON PREMISES:** Any sign that identifies a business, person, activity, goods, products, services of facilities that is located on the same premises as the sign itself.

**SIGN, PORTABLE:** Any sign that is not permanently attached to the ground, a structure, or a building and which is designed to be transported to another location.

**SIGN, PROJECTING:** Any sign other than a wall sign that is attached to and projects from the wall of a building or structure.

**SIGN, TEMPORARY:** Any sign which contains information which is not permanent in character. Such signs include, but are not limited to, political campaign signs, garage sale signs and real estate signs.

**SIGN, WALL:** Any sign, attached or erected against a wall or building or structure parallel to the face of a building and supported throughout its length by such building.

**7 TCC 1-20 (c) Application and Fees.** An application for a sign shall comply with Article 31 (Building Permit) and Article 33 (Fee Schedule).

**7 TCC 1-20 (d) Permitted Signs.** The following signs are allowed in all districts, subject to any requirements specified herein and shall not be required to obtain a sign permit.

- (1) For sale, for rent, and real estate signs erected to announce the sale or rent of property provided such signs are not more than 32 square feet in area. These signs shall be removed thirty (30) days following the sale or lease of the property in question. Real Estate signs shall be allowed until the sale of the final lot in the subdivision. Such signs shall be located five (5) feet from the right-of-way property line and not to exceed fifteen (15) feet in height.

- (2) Street and traffic control signs. Signs erected by a jurisdiction for street direction and traffic control such as, but not limited to, no parking, stop, speed limit, railroad crossing, and other such signs required for the safe and efficient flow of traffic throughout Tazewell County.
- (3) Agricultural produce signs. Signs erected in zoning districts where agricultural uses are permitted, which advertise the sale of farm products provided that such signs shall not be more than twelve (12) square feet in area; any illumination shall be non-flashing, uncolored, and confined to the face of the sign. Such sign shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height.
- (4) Crop identification signs. Signs erected in zoning districts where agricultural uses are permitted, which do not exceed six (6) square feet per sign shall be permitted without limit to number provided such signs are placed at least one (1) foot from any public right-of-way.
- (5) Directional and information signs. Signs erected for a public or essentially public purpose not to exceed eight (8) square feet in area and shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height unless otherwise specifically stated, and shall not contain any advertising matter whatsoever. Such signs may be illuminated, shall be non-flashing and illumination shall be confined to the face of the sign. Such signs may be of a beaded reflector type. Such signs shall be used for the following purposes only:
  - i. Signs directing and guiding automobile or pedestrian traffic on private property including signs which identify restrooms, public telephones, walkways and similar features and facilities.
  - ii. Signs which identify the name or location of a town or village, medical facilities, community center, school, college, or place of worship.
  - iii. Signs which identify the name or place of a meeting of an official or civic body such as Chambers of Commerce, Rotary or Kiwanis Club.
  - iv. Temporary signs indicating a public event such as a State or County Fair, public or general election, etc., provided that such sign shall not interfere with the full view of traffic in all directions. Such signs shall be removed within seven (7) days after the event.
  - v. Entrance and exit signs designating the entrances and exits to and from parking area provided that such signs shall not exceed thirty (30) inches in height, nor four (4) square feet in area. Such signs shall be placed outside the public right-of-way and there shall be no more than two (2) signs for each entrance and exit.
- (6) Political Signs. Temporary political signs shall be located at least one foot from a public right-of-way, and shall be removed within seven (7) days following an election.
- (7) Memorial Signs. Sign-age including names of buildings, date of erection, etc.

- (8) Temporary Subdivision Informational Signs. Signs not to exceed 32 square feet in area and fifteen (15) feet in height, shall be allowed to announce the opening and sale of lots within a new subdivision. Such signs shall be located on private property within the new subdivision and not in any right-of-way or road easement. Such signs shall be removed within thirty (30) days of the sale of the last lot within the subdivision. One (1) sign shall be allowed at each entrance to the subdivision, however, no more than two such signs shall be allowed per subdivision.
- (9) No Trespassing signs, warning signs (such as “Beware of Dog”), such sign shall not be larger than four (4) square feet.
- (10) Municipal/Community Entrance Signs. Such signs shall not be more than 32 square feet in sign area. Said signs shall not contain any advertising matter whatsoever, except for emblems or logos of supporting or local civic groups. Such signs shall not be illuminated but may contain reflective display. Such signs shall be located on private property or within Public Right-of-Way upon approval of the appropriate Road Official and/or Illinois Department of Transportation. (Amendment #21-10/05)

**7 TCC 1-20 (e) Prohibited Signs.** Except as specifically provided otherwise in this Article, the following signs shall be prohibited in all districts:

- (1) Portable Signs, except as provided on a temporary basis in 7TCC1-20(f) and 7TCC1-20 (g)(2).
- (2) Signs which project onto the right-of-way;
- (3) Signs which interfere with traffic signals;
- (4) Any sign which is installed, erected, or maintained in violation of any of the provisions of this Article;
- (5) Any sign erected, constructed, maintained, tacked, pasted, typed, painted or other wise affixed to poles, posts, fences, trees, rocks or other structures or natural features, which displays advertising matter, and is located wholly or partially within the right-of-way of any public road or highway. This shall not apply to official highway markers or other authorized traffic control devices;
- (6) Abandoned signs that advertise or identify an activity, business product or service that is no longer conducted or available on the premises where such sign is located. The property owner shall remove said sign within sixty (60) days of notification by the Community Development Administrator; or
- (7) Off-premise signs, including but not limited to billboards, in all districts except as may be permitted by a Special Use.

**7 TCC 1-20 (f) Signs Permitted in the Agriculture and Residential Districts.** In addition to those signs identified in 7TCC1-20(d), Permitted Signs, only the following signs shall be allowed in the agriculture and residential district, with a permit, in accordance to the requirements of the section:

- (1) Multi-family identification signs.
  - i. In any multi-family dwelling in which a rental office is permitted, one (1) identification sign shall be allowed at each vehicular entrance from a public right-of-way and at each major public entrance to the dwelling for all offices in the dwelling.
  - ii. The identification sign shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet.
  - iii. Identification signs shall be located at least five (5) feet from any property line, and the sign shall not be located in the sight triangle or otherwise impair the visibility of the vehicle from a road or driveway.
  - iv. The identification sign shall indicate only the name, address, telephone number and rental information.
- (2) Subdivision identification signs.
  - i. In any subdivision one (1) sign shall be permitted for each separate street frontage occupied by the subdivision and/or for each means of entrance to or exit from the subdivision.
  - ii. Signs shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet.
  - iii. Identification signs shall be located at the least five (5) feet from any property line, and the sign shall not be located in the sight triangle or otherwise impair the visibility of a vehicle from a road or driveway.
- (3) Home Occupation Sign. One sign for a home occupation shall be permitted. Such sign shall not exceed two (2) square feet and a height of six (6) feet.
- (4) Portable Signs and Sandwich Boards are permitted for grand openings, sales and other similar special events on a temporary basis, for no more than thirty (30) days at a time, and no more than two (2) times per year. (Added Amendment #19 – 1/05)
- (5) On-Premise Signs.
  - i. On-premise signs shall not exceed 32 square feet per sign face. (Added Amendment #19 – 1/05)

**7 TCC 1-20 (g) On-Premise Signs Permitted in the Commercial and Industrial Districts.**

- (1) In addition to those signs identified in 7TCC1-20(d), Permitted Signs, free standing and identification signs and wall signs shall be allowed in the commercial and industrial districts with a permit, subject to the requirements of this section and to the following size requirements:
  - i. No sign face shall exceed one (1) square foot for each lineal foot of street frontage, up to a maximum of seventy (70) square feet of total sign face, and a height of twenty-five (25) feet, except as provided in 7TCC1-20(g)(1) iii.
  - ii. Free standing identification signs on an individual lot shall be separated by a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) feet as measured along the road frontage.

- iii. If a development fronts more than one (1) street, signs may be placed on each road frontage, so long as they meet the one hundred fifty (150) foot spacing requirements. However, the sign face area that is oriented toward each street may not exceed the proportion of the total lot frontage of that street. One (1) corner sign may be substituted for the sign-age allowed on the two (2) connecting road frontages, provided that the sign face of the corner sign does not exceed one hundred (100) square feet.
  - iv. For commercial retail establishments or nonresidential planned unit developments that are comprised of more than one (1) store and that exceeds 50,000 square feet an additional identification sign for the entire establishment or planned unit development that does not exceed one hundred (100) square feet shall be permitted.
  - v. Wall signs may not cover more than twenty percent (20%) of the facade of the building,
- (2) Portable signs and sandwich boards are permitted for grand openings, sales and other similar special events on a temporary basis, for no more than thirty (30) days at a time, and no more than two (2) times per year.

**7 TCC 1-20 (h) Locational Restrictions.**

- (1) No sign shall be erected so as to prevent free ingress and egress from any door or window.
- (2) No sign shall be attached to a public utility pole, fence, gutter drain or fire escape, other than warning signs issued by government officials or public utilities, “no trespassing signs”, notification signs for emergency personal, or other such signs, so long as these signs are not larger than four (4) square feet.
- (3) No sign shall be erected so as to impair access to a roof or prevent free ingress or access from any door, window, fire escape, driveway or utility line.
- (4) If a sign which is located such that a major portion of the sign face will directly face structures in any Residential District, then the illumination of such signage shall be directed at the sign face, shaded and so limited that there will not be any glare to the occupants of property in the Residential District. In no event shall a sign have flashing, rotating, or moving intermittent lights.
- (5) No sign shall be permitted within a sight triangle, except for safety-related signs.

**7 TCC 1-20 (i) Setbacks.**

- (1) The minimum setback for any sign from the right-of-way property line shall be ten (10) feet.
- (2) The minimum setback from any rear or interior side property line shall be five (5) feet.

**7 TCC 1-20 (j) Height.** The maximum height of any sign shall be fifteen (15) feet unless other specifically provided.

**7TCC 1-20 (k) Illumination Standards.** Internally or externally illuminated signs shall meet the following requirements:

- (1) Signs shall be illuminated only by steady, stationary, shielded, or shaded light sources directed solely at the sign, or internal to it so the light intensity or brightness does not create either a nuisance to adjacent property or a traffic hazard for motorist or pedestrians. No sign shall be illuminated at a light level that exceeds 2,500 Lambert.
- (2) Except where a combination of individual exposed bulbs displays information, such as time, temperature or date illuminated signs, no exposed reflective-type bulb and no strobe light or unshielded incandescent lamp shall be used on the exterior surface of any sign.

**7 TCC 1-20 (l) Off Premises Signs.** Off-premises signs, such as but not limited to billboards, may be permitted as special uses in the C-2 zoning district along state, U.S. designated highways, and interstate highways, and the I-1, and I-2 zoning districts in accordance with the procedures and standards as set forth in Article 25 (Special Uses), provided the following requirements are also met:

- (1) Signs shall be constructed of steel with mono-pole and shall not be stacked;
- (2) Signs shall not exceed three hundred (300) square feet per sign face;
- (3) No sign shall exceed thirty (30) feet in height;
- (4) Signs shall be separated by one-quarter (1/4) mile along the same road frontage; and
- (5) Wherever applicable, signs shall comply with the standards of the Illinois Outdoor Advertising Control Act of 1971, as amended (225 ILCS 440/1 et.seq.).

**7 TCC 1-20 (m) Non-Conforming Signs.** A sign lawfully established before the effective date of this ordinance but not conforming with the regulations of this section may remain. Any non-conforming sign shall comply with the regulations in Article 35 (Non-Conformities).