

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Athens, Alabama, has heretofore adopted, “The Zoning Ordinance of the City of Athens, Alabama,” and,

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Athens, Alabama, has considered and has recommended an amendment to “The Zoning Ordinance of the City of Athens, Alabama,” to provide for revisions to Article XIII, Sign Control Regulations, the City Council of the City of Athens, Alabama, finds that this portion of the regulations should be revised in their entirety for the benefit of the public welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATHENS, ALABAMA, as follows:

ARTICLE XIII.

SIGN CONTROL REGULATIONS

These Sign Control Regulations are adopted as a supplement to “The Zoning Ordinance of the City of Athens, Alabama”, under the zoning authority of the City in furtherance of the more general purposes set forth in the Zoning Ordinance.

SECTION 13-1. Purpose and Intent

The purpose of these Sign Control Regulations are: to provide guidelines for orderly and harmonious display of signs within the Corporate Limits of the City of Athens, Alabama; to encourage the effective use of signs as a means of communication while providing for the safety of the pedestrian and traveling public by limiting distraction, hazards, and obstructions; to maintain and enhance the aesthetic environment and the City’s ability to attract sources of economic development and growth; to avoid the erection of displays which produce deleterious and injurious effects to adjacent properties and to the natural beauty of the environment; and to promote the mental and physical health, safety and welfare of the public.

SECTION 13-2. Application and Enforcement

The provisions of these statutes shall be subject to such exceptions, additions, or modifications as herein provided by the following supplementary regulations:

13-2-1 Applicability

13-2-1.1 The provisions of this article shall apply to all areas within the corporate limits of the City of Athens, Alabama. It shall be unlawful for any person to construct, reconstruct, erect, place, establish, create, enlarge, alter, replace or maintain any sign or cause the same to be done within the corporate limits of the City of Athens, except in conformity with the requirements of these regulations.

13-2-1.2 Status of non-conforming signs:

- a) If at any time a non-conforming sign is *removed* for any reason, it shall not be replaced.

- b) All non-permanent signs shall comply with these sign control regulations within the period of time which they are permitted for. (For instance, temporary signs as defined by this article that are not in compliance with the provisions of this article shall be removed within two months of the date of their approval, or the adoption of this ordinance, as amended, whichever is the earlier.) Non-conforming signs that do not have a current permit shall be removed or brought into compliance and permitted within 10 business days, upon notification.
- c) All permanent signs that are not in compliance with the provisions of this article that may be able to be brought into compliance shall be brought into compliance with these regulations when such sign undergoes alteration, as defined in this article, in any way other than “sign maintenance”.

13-2-2 Business License

No person or persons or firm shall construct or alter any sign within the corporate limits of the City of Athens, Alabama, without first obtaining a business license as required by the License Code of the City of Athens. This provision shall not apply to persons employed by licensed firms, or to the owner of or employees of the owner doing the entire work of construction or erection.

13-2-3 Site Plan Approval and Building Permit Required

Except as otherwise provided for in this article, it shall be unlawful for any person to construct or alter any sign within the corporate limits of the City of Athens, or cause the same to be done without first obtaining Site Plan Approval, as described below, and a building permit from the Athens Building Department.

No building or sign permit shall be issued for an individual sign requiring a permit until a site plan for the lot or tract of land on which the sign will be erected or placed has been approved. The site plan must be submitted to the Engineering Services and Community Development Department, by the owner or the owner’s agent, and approved by the Planning Commission, or Director of Engineering Services, or designated representative, in the case of administrative site plan approval, whichever is appropriate.

- A. Proponents of attached wall accessory signs, window signs, and temporary signs may apply for administrative site plan approval by the Director of Engineering Services, or designated representative, upon the submission of all applicable documents as listed below.
- B. Signs that may qualify for administrative approval are: Detached/accessory ground signs; construction site identification signs; subdivision, condominium, townhouse and apartment signs; directional signs; business center signs; non-accessory signs; and all other detached on-premise signage. Upon submission of all applicable documents as listed below said documents shall be reviewed by the planning staff of the City of Athens. If the planning staff deems necessary, these signs shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission.
- C. Proponents of Billboard Signs should refer to Section 13-4-25.

13-2-4 Components of a Signage Site Plan:

The signage site plan shall contain the following information:

13-2-4.1 For Attached, Wall Accessory or Window Signage:

- a) Scalable measured drawings using a scalable architectural or engineering scale, or photographs, of the façade of the building in question showing the location of the proposed signage on said building;

- b) Scalable measured drawings or other graphic depictions of the signage indicating the appearance of the sign and the information to be conveyed, including drawings showing the dimensions, construction, details, supports, size, electrical wiring and components, materials of the signs and methods of attachments, lighting, and lettering or graphic style.

13-2-4.2 For Temporary Signage:

- a) The specific beginning and ending dates of the timed event that the sign(s) will be advertising;
- b) Information about the size of the sign(s) in area, with dimensional notations and information that will be displayed on the signs;
- c) An affirmative statement by the applicant that the permitted temporary sign will be erected and removed in accordance with the dates stated on the application.

13-2-4.3. For all Permanent Detached or Ground Signs the Following Site Plan Requirements Shall be Provided:

- a) An accurate and scaled plot plan, drawn by a licensed, registered or certified architect, designer, drafter, engineer, or landscape architect.
- b) Location of buildings, parking lots, driveways, and landscaped areas on such lot or tract of land, showing setback dimensions.
- c) Location of electric or telephone lines overhead or underground.
- d) Location and width of utility and drainage easements.
- e) Computations of the maximum total sign area, the maximum area for individual signs, the height of signs and the number of free-standing signs allowed on the lot included in the plan under this ordinance.
- f) An accurate indication on the plot plan of the proposed location of each present and future sign of any type, whether requiring a permit or not, and location of each sign on the buildings.
- g) Drawings showing the dimensions, construction, details, supports, size, electrical wiring and components, materials of the signs and methods of attachments, lighting, and lettering or graphic style.

13-2-5 Issuance Denial

When a permit is denied by the Planning Commission, OR the Director of Engineering Services, or designated representative, notice shall be given to the proper applicant of the denial with a written statement of reason or reasons for denial, by the Engineering Services and Community Development Department within the following seven (7) working days. In the event that administrative approval is denied, the signature of the Public Works Director shall accompany said denial.

13-2-6 Appeals of Permit Denial and Other Enforcement Actions

Upon denial of an application by the Planning Commission, Director of Engineering Services, or designated representative, in the case of administrative site plan approval, described above, appeals may be submitted to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Appeals from the Zoning Board of Adjustment shall be to the Circuit Court. It shall be unlawful for any person to continue to maintain any sign contrary to the orders of the Building official

under this section, except during the time that the order is under appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment or to the Circuit Court.

13-2-7 Permit Fees

Application for permits shall be filed with the Building Department after Site Plan Approval by the Planning Commission. The fee shall be in accordance with the Athens Building Code.

13-2-8 Inspection of Signs

All permanent ground or free standing signs shall be subject to a footing inspection, and all electrical signs to an electrical inspection, by the Building Inspector. The person constructing or altering any sign shall notify the Building Inspector upon completion for final inspection.

13-2-9 Exceptions

No permit shall be required for signs erected and maintained pursuant to and in discharge of any governmental functions, as required by law, ordinance, or governmental regulation.

13-2-10 Penalties and Injunctions

Any violation of these regulations shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$200.00 for each and every violation. Each day that a violation remains uncorrected shall be considered a separate offense.

SECTION 13-3. Definitions

For the purpose of this article, the following definitions, terms, and their application shall be used and applied:

Abandoned Signs: A sign advertising an activity, product or business no longer conducted or located on the premises upon which the sign is located.

Accessory Sign: A sign related to a business or profession conducted, or to a commodity or service sold or offered, upon the premises where the sign is located. An accessory sign may also display a non-commercial message.

Advertisement: The calling of a service, product, or activity to the attention of the public, including identifying a service, product, or activity.

Alteration: The replacement, relocation, enlargement, reduction, or reshaping of, or addition to, a sign, sign trim, frame, pole, brackets, or any supporting member. Any change in the number of poles supporting a sign; or, except as authorized under the definition of "maintenance", the replacement or modification of any words, letters, numerals, symbols, or other surface features of a sign in order to create a substantially different visual effect constitutes an alteration.

Attached or Wall Sign: A sign fastened or affixed to, mounted against, or otherwise connected to, a building or other non-sign structure, provided however, that the primary purpose of the supporting structure is not the display of the sign.

Banners, Posters, etc.: A type of temporary sign of canvas, plastic sheeting, paper, cardboard or cloth without its own supporting frame, but attached to posts, poles, or other stationary structures by cords, ropes, elastic bands (shock cords, bungee cords, etc.) or other fasteners; or affixed to a flat surface such as an exterior wall, window or mansard.

Billboard: A surface (as of a panel or panels, wall, or fence) on which bills are posted; specifically: a large panel or panels designated to carry outdoor advertising. For the purposes of this ordinance a sign shall be considered a "billboard" when its size is a minimum of 150 square

feet up to a maximum of 400 square feet in area per sign face, and having only one sign face per side.

Building Code: The International Building Code published by the International Code Council, Inc., as adopted by the City of Athens, and amended from time to time.

Business Center Sign: An on-premise detached ground sign which identifies a complex of two (2) or more occupants or tenants on the same lot or tract of land.

Changing Message Sign, Electronic Reader-Board Sign, Electronic Message Center Sign: A sign of any material, with changeable lettering that may be electronically or manually changed, which is designed to be either portable or permanently mounted, either attached to or separate from other signage structures or structures upon which signs are attached or mounted.

Construction Site Identification Sign: A temporary sign located on the site of a construction project which identifies the owners, architects, engineers, contractors, mechanics, artisans, craftsmen, financial institutions, and other individuals or firms involved with the construction, but does not include any advertisement of any product, service, or activity, except that such sign may include information regarding sale or leasing, and words announcing the name or character of the building enterprise or the purpose for which the building is intended.

Detached or Ground Sign: A sign not attached or fastened to, or mounted against, or otherwise connected in any way to, a building or other non-sign structure located on the same premises as the sign, but instead mounted on or attached to a pole or manufactured sign framework permanently embedded in the ground, whose primary purpose is to display the sign.

Directional Sign: A non-commercial sign which directs the reader to the location of a public, religious, or educational institution, or to the location of a historical structure or area, or to the location of a public park or building. Additionally, signs directing traffic on private property such as ingress and egress signs; or signs displayed for the direction and convenience of the public, including signs which identify restrooms, location of public telephones, public entrances, freight entrances, etc.. Such signs may display a business name or logo or directional information or symbols, but shall not bear nor display any advertisement.

Electric sign: A sign with electric wiring or lighting on, or within, or in conjunction with the sign, this includes use of neon, florescent tubing, or flood lights.

Frontage:

- a) For Attached accessory signage: The side of a building where the public derives its main/primary ingress and egress of the building will be considered the “front” of the building, whether or not this side of the building faces a street. If there is more than one side of a building with a “main entrance”, then that building would be considered to have more than one “front”.
- b) For Detached accessory signs, business center signs, other free-standing signs: The distance along the public road upon which the business property line lies. (See also Section 13-5-6 of this article.)

Home Occupation Sign: A sign advertising an activity conducted entirely within a residence for which a home occupation permit has been approved, and which activity is clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the residence for dwelling purposes. This type of sign is to be attached to the dwelling.

Institutional Sign: A church or school identification sign, bulletin board or directional sign.

Maintenance of Signs: Sign maintenance and repair is the normal care and minor repair necessary to maintain safe, attractive, and finished sign structure, trim, frame, poles, brackets, and

surface. This includes the replacement of any part of a sign with equivalent material for the purpose of maintenance that does not affect its design, size, structural framework, exterior dimensions, or its structural members and uprights. Replacing or updating of copy or logo on a valid non-conforming on-premise sign shall be considered maintenance only if the type, category, or nature of the activity or product or service being advertised remains the same, provided the sign is not otherwise altered. The message or copy of any off-premise or on-premise ground sign may be changed or replaced without regard to the contents thereof as a part of normal maintenance.

Marquee: A permanent roofed structure attached to and supported by a building which may project over public property or sidewalk.

Marquee Sign: A sign attached to or painted on or inscribed on, and partly or fully supported by, or made an integral part of, a marquee.

Monument Sign: A monument sign is a ground-mounted sign and may be of varying size depending on the purpose and surroundings. Normally they are constructed of masonry units, stone, or other similar substantial and permanent materials. A monument sign signals a site entrance, identifies the occupant(s) or facility name, gives the street address, and may contain site directional information.

Non-Accessory Sign: A sign unrelated to a business or profession conducted, or to a commodity or service sold or offered, upon the premises where such a sign is located.

Non-Conforming Signs: A sign that does not conform to the requirements of this regulation. Such a sign, if it conformed in all respects to the sign regulations and applicable zoning provisions in effect when it was erected, shall for the purposes of this ordinance be deemed non-conforming but not illegal.

On-Premise Sign: A sign that draws attention to or communicates information about a business, service, product, commodity, accommodation, attraction, church, school, public or charitable institution, or other enterprise or activity that exists or is being conducted, sold, offered, maintained, or provided on the premises where the sign is located.

Off-Premise Sign: A sign that draws attention to or communicates information about a business, service, product, commodity, accommodation, attraction, church, school, public or charitable institution or other enterprise or activity that exists or is being conducted, sold, offered, maintained, or provided at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located, or otherwise conveys a commercial or noncommercial message unrelated to the premises upon which the sign is located.

Portable Signs: A sign of any material, with or without changeable lettering, which is designed to be or is portable, and which is mounted on a vehicle, trailer, stand, or similar structure, with or without wheels, and is not permanently embedded in the ground. This type of sign may also be described as a trailer sign, or mobile sign.

Projecting Sign: An attached sign erected on the face or outside wall of any building, column, building post, or supporting structure and projecting outward at an angle.

Proponent (of a sign): The land owner, sign owner, or contractor that is seeking to obtain approval of, or a permit for construction or alteration of a sign.

Real Estate Sign: A temporary sign advertising the sale, rental, or lease of the premises or part of the premises on which the sign is displayed.

Roof-Mounted Sign: An attached sign which is affixed primarily and directly to a roof of any building.

Sign: A display board, screen, placard, or any other device, or any painted or pasted-on display, which is visible from any public place, street, or highway, and upon which is displayed or included any letter, word, numeral, banner, flag, emblem, logo, symbol, decoration, device, representation, or similar item used as, or which is in the nature of, an identification, announcement, direction, notice, advertisement, or other attention getting device. For the purpose of this article, this definition shall also include painted, pasted, self-supporting, and attached words, letters, numerals, symbols, emblems, and other such displays which are themselves painted, pasted, or attached directly to a structure and not mounted on any signboard, or any banner produced on cloth, paper, or fabric of any kind, either with or without a frame.

Sign Characteristics: the following definitions apply to the formatting that is displayed in Section 13-6 of this article.

- a. *Position:* The structural position of signs on a building, lot or tract of land.
- b. *Density:* The number of signs permitted per units specified.
- c. *Dimension:* The dimensional characteristics of the sign:
 1. Area: The surface area of a sign including decorative borders. The area measured within the periphery of self-supporting letters or displays. This calculation applies to one (1) sign face.
 2. Height: The vertical distance of a sign measured from the vantage point of the primary public right of way to the top of the sign, including its border.
 3. Maximum area: The total area of all permitted signs contained within the boundary of the site of display.

Sign Length: The horizontal distance of a sign measured from one end of the sign to the other, including border, trim, frame, supports, and all other structural members and appurtenances, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display.

Subdivision, Condominium, Townhouse and Apartment Identification Signs: Signs that identify the name of a residential subdivision, condominium development, townhouse or apartment complex.

Temporary Sign: Any display, informational sign, or other advertising device in any zoning district that is of a non-permanent nature and is intended to convey information about a specific, timed event rather than an ongoing occurrence.

A specific, timed event is an occasion intended to attract a large number of people and includes events that have an admission fee or free admittance to the general public, including grand openings, fairs, carnivals, circuses, festivals, animal shows, contests, races, and entertainment shows, etc.. Sales events at businesses may be included in this category as long as the signage refers to a specific, timed sales event rather than an ongoing activity. Such an event is designed, intended and expected to take place or to be completed within a reasonably short and definite time period and having a defined beginning and ending date, and the proposed temporary signage conforms to the provisions outlined for temporary signs in Section 13-4 of this article.(2003-1458)

Temporary Political Sign: Any attached or ground sign advertising a candidate, political party, or issue when the same is related to or concerning a pending election or referendum.

V-Sign: A sign with two attached sides on which the faces of the sign are not parallel and the smallest angle of the sign is not greater than thirty (30) degrees.

SECTION 13-4. General Sign Regulations

13-4-1 Public Right of Way

No sign of any type, or any part of a sign, or any foundation or support of any sign, whether requiring a permit or not, shall be erected, located or placed in or projected over any public street, alley or highway right of way, or in any utility or drainage easement, except as otherwise provided by this ordinance.

13-4-2 Power and Telephone Poles

Signs shall not be attached to, placed on or mounted on power poles and/or telephone poles, nor be maintained or erected in anyway that will interfere with power lines and/or telephone lines. Signs shall not be located closer than ten (10) feet to any existing or proposed power line, nor shall they be placed directly under the power lines.

13-4-3 Code Enforcement

All signs shall meet the standards and codes, adopted and enforced by the City of Athens.

13-4-4 Sign Appearance

Signs, and all components, supporting structures, and attachments, shall be maintained in good repair, free of rust, peeling, flaking, fading, broken or cracked panels, and broken or missing letters, presenting a clean and finished appearance, and shall be maintained in safe condition, free from damage or the results from excessive weathering. At any time the Building Official shall find that any permitted sign is in a bad state of repair, or is in danger of falling, or presents a hazard from electrical shock or fire, or at any time a permitted sign is found to be in such a bad state of repair or maintenance so as to adversely affect the property values in the surrounding neighborhood, then the Building Official shall make and enter an order directed to the owner or person in charge of the sign commanding its removal or its repair or maintenance. Any orders issued under this section shall be subject to an appeal to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

13-4-5 Sign Area Appearance

The area within ten (10) feet in all directions of any part of a detached sign shall be kept clean of debris and trash, and excessive weed or grass growth, as per the City of Athens Weed Control Ordinance.

13-4-6 Sign Backs

Exposed backs of all signs shall be painted a single color and shall present a clean and finished appearance.

13-4-7 Changing Message Signs, Electronic Reader Board Signs, Electronic Message Center Signs:

These signs will be counted as part of the total signage area permitted per frontage in any district. They shall meet the requirements specified for the type of signage it serves as: attached or detached, permanent or portable, on or off premises as well as other provisions for signage as specified in this article. They shall be subject to the same requirements as other signage including: illumination (13-4-8); flashing lights (13-4-16); “waterfall” messages, scrolling messages and other similar electronic messages shall be prohibited as set forth in section 13-4-17. These signs shall hold the information conveyed at any particular time for a period of at least ten (10) seconds before it is replaced with another message. The portability of the sign does not preclude it from the requirements of this ordinance (see Portable Signs).

13-4-8 Illuminated Signs, Flashing Signs

Illuminated signs and outside lighting devices including beacons and spotlights, shall emit only light of constant intensity. No sign shall be illuminated by, contain, or display flashing, blinking,

intermittent, rotating, moving lights or lights of changing degrees of intensity. Illuminated signs or lighting devices shall not cause glare or reflection that constitutes a traffic hazard or nuisance.

13-4-9 Revolving or Animated Signs

No sign shall revolve or be animated, or utilize movement or apparent movement in order to attract the attention of the public.

13-4-10 Electrical Lights

All signs with electrical lights and components shall conform to the codes adopted and enforced by the City of Athens.

13-4-11 Occupant Identification

One sign denoting the name and address of the occupants of the premises is permitted in any zone, in addition to those allowed by this article. These signs shall not exceed two (2) square feet in area.

13-4-12 Attached/Flush Mounted Signs

Attached flush mounted signs shall not extend more than eighteen (18) inches outside the wall surface. Such signs shall not exceed beyond the ends of the wall's surface on which they are placed and not more than eighteen (18) inches above the top of such wall.

13-4-13 Projecting Sign

No projecting sign shall be erected or maintained from the front or face of a building a distance of more than thirty-six (36) inches.

13-4-14 Roof Mounted Signs

Permanent Roof mounted signs shall not be located in any district.

13-4-15 Banners, Posters, etc.

These are considered a type of temporary, non-permanent signage as defined in Section 13-3 of this article.

These signs may be completely attached to an on-premise permanent freestanding sign, but in no case will these be wholly or partly attached to a utility pole, street light, or other municipally owned pole or object. Banners displayed off-premises are prohibited. Over-the-street banners are prohibited. These signs are also prohibited from being attached to any railroad trestle or bridge which crosses a right of way.

No more than two banners are allowed per site or per tenant in group occupancy at one time. The size of the banner shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet. These signs are required to be removed within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the event.

13-4-16 Pennants, Special Purpose Flags, and Streamers

Pennants, special purpose flags (such as flags that serve as commercial identification using a name, logo, slogan, etc.) and streamers may be used for advertising or other purposes of attraction only in the B-2 and B-3 business districts. Although permitted, these displays of pennants, special purpose flags, and streamers are discouraged. They shall not be allowed to become an eyesore due to shredded, torn, faded, or worn material that is obviously neglected for maintenance by the business displaying them. Such neglect of their appearance or the supporting ropes, cords, cables, etc., that support them such that their appearance may become unsuitable for their intended purpose may result in a removal order by the City of Athens. Other than in the foregoing guidance any use of pennants, special purpose flags, and streamers shall be short term

in nature and limited to properly permitted festivals, carnivals, or other short term public events in zones appropriate for such events. All pennants, special purpose flags, and streamers that are displayed are expected to be in a good state of repair and not through their appearance to be detrimental to the image of the City of Athens.

13-4-17 Flags

All businesses and institutions, in any zone, may display the flag of the United States of America and the Alabama State flag; however, the use of the United States flag and the Alabama flag is for patriotic and not commercial purposes. This section does not limit the number of flags that may be used in public events such as parades or festivals. Any display of the United States flag or the Alabama flag must be done with respect and in accordance with appropriate protocols and traditions of the nation and the state.

Reference for further information about the flag of the United States: United States Code, Title 36, Chapter 10.

13-4-18 Portable Signs

Portable signs shall be considered detached or ground signs, and shall meet all the requirements specified for detached signs, including total maximum area of signage. Permanent signs combined with portable signs shall not exceed the maximum number of square feet of detached or ground signage permitted per frontage in any district. Portable signs must conform to wind load and electrical requirements, as well as other applicable provisions of the codes and ordinances enforced by the City of Athens, and must be anchored or supported to guard against the affects of wind.

For the purposes of this article, signs are considered to be either permanent or temporary, as permitted. Signs exhibiting the name, logo, or other information of a business, or a service, or an event that are placed on the sides of trucks, vans, or are trailer-mounted with the intent of using them as “rolling (or stationary) advertising” vehicles will be considered based upon their use and placement as either on-site accessory signage or off-site non-accessory signage and shall apply for sign approval and permit before they may be used as such. For example, signs that are so placed on a vehicle or trailer and moved from one location to another – such as from one shopping venue to another, or on vacant property along the side of the road - and parking them in such a location for an indefinite period of time. Vehicle or trailer mounted signs, when moved to alternate locations, will be considered temporary signs and appropriate permitting must be obtained.

13-4-19a Temporary Signs

A temporary sign may not be displayed for more than two (2) months during any six (6) month period; shall not exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in size; and shall be located on-premises. In no event shall any temporary sign be permitted in violation of any provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, and must be administratively approved by the Director of Engineering Services, or designated representative.

13-4-19b Temporary Political Signs

Any attached or detached ground sign advertising a political party, issue or candidate when the same is related to or concerning a pending election to be held within the city or county. See 13-3. Any location provided that the sign placement does not violate any other provision of this ordinance. Removal of temporary political signs is required within seven (7) days after the election or referendum which they pertain to.

13-4-19c Garage or Yard Sale Sign

A temporary sign which advertises a garage or yard sale held at a residence, and shall not exceed four (4) square feet. These signs shall be removed within 24 hours following the advertised date of sale.

13-4-20 Signs Which Can Be Confused As Traffic Control Devices

Signs which may be confused with or construed as a traffic control device are prohibited.

13-4-21 Two-Sided Sign

A two-sided sign is a sign having two sign faces. These two faces are displayed opposite each other, one sign face being displayed on either side of a common supporting structure. A two-sided sign shall not have two signs in a “stacked” arrangement with one sign face above another, unless authorized to be a component of a Business Center Sign which otherwise meets the requirements of this ordinance. A two-sided sign shall be regarded as one sign so long as the two sides (faces) are not separated by a distance in excess of forty-two (42) inches and are parallel to each other. Each sign face is equal in size to the face it is opposite.

13-4-22 Window Sign

Signs fixed or mounted directly on or in windows shall not require a permit and shall not count against the signage allocation for the premises, provided that such signs do not cover more than ten (10) percent of the total window area. In such case that the window signage is greater than ten (10) percent the signage shall count against the signage allocation for the premises.

13-4-23 Public Endangerment and Nuisance

The following signs, are considered either a public endangerment or a public nuisance. Such signs are prohibited and shall not be given a non-conforming status. Any existing sign(s) found to be a public endangerment shall be removed or otherwise brought into compliance with the provisions of this article *immediately*. Any existing sign(s) found to be a public nuisance shall be removed or brought into conformance within thirty (30) days of notice of non-compliance.

Public Endangerment:

- a. **Dangerous Signs:** Signs which copy, imitate, or in any way approximate an official traffic signal or sign, flashing blue, green, red or amber lights, or containing the words “stop”, “go slow”, “caution”, “danger”, “warning”, or similar words, or device designed to cause the public to focus attention on the sign, where the ultimate purpose is to draw attention to the service or product being offered and not to warn the public of a real danger.
- b. **Public Hazards:** No sign shall be located as to cause a public hazard, obstruct or impair motorist vision, diminish safe ingress or egress to any property, or impede flow of pedestrian or vehicular circulation in parking areas, sidewalks or public roads.
- c. **Right of Way View:** Signs which interfere with the view of street traffic, or interfere with any sign displayed by public authority for the purpose of giving traffic instruction or direction or other public information, are not allowed. Signs which do not set back from the property or right of way line sufficiently to provide adequate sight distance for traffic shall not be over thirty (30) inches in height, nor less than ten (10) feet above the grade at the street or drive. The net effect being a clear view zone between 30 inches and ten feet in height.
- d. **Obstructions:** No signs, nor any means of supporting or staying such signs shall be so placed or constructed so as to obstruct or interfere with any door, window, fire escape or other means of ingress, light or ventilation.

Public Nuisance:

- a. Public Property, which includes public rights of way, utility or drainage easements: Signs on public property shall not be attached to or maintained upon trees, or painted or drawn upon rock or other natural features.
- b. Noisy Signs: Signs incorporating any noisy electronic or mechanical device(s) are prohibited.
- c. Abandoned signs as defined in section 13-3 of this article are not permitted in any district. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to remove all abandoned signs.

13-4-24 Obscene Advertising Signs

No loud, vulgar, indecent, or obscene advertising matter shall be displayed in any manner, including, but not limited to:

- a. Any signs depicting any sexual act or simulated sexual acts of any nature, or any sexual acts which are prohibited by law.
- b. Any signs whereon a nude body, or any anatomical portion of the body considered to be of the sexual areas of the body is exposed and not covered with clothing. Covering with letters or printing cannot be used in place of clothing.
- c. Scenes wherein artificial devices are employed to depict, or drawings are employed to portray any of the prohibited signs, photographs or graphic representations described above, and,
- d. Any other graphic illustration pertaining to specified sexual activities, and/or specified anatomical areas.

13-4-25 Additional Billboard Signs: (see definition of Billboard)

Additional Billboard Signs, except for directional signs as defined in section 13-3 of this article, shall not be permitted within the corporate limits of the City of Athens, Alabama. Provided, however, that Billboard signs in existence on the effective date of this subsection, which are subsequently destroyed or removed, may be replaced subject to the following conditions:

- A. If, on the date of removal or destruction, the sign did conform to the requirements in effect on the date of removal or destruction, then the sign may be replaced, provided:
 - 1) Upon first obtaining a building permit through the City of Athens Building Inspection Department, the repair or replacement shall be completed within six (6) months after the removal or destruction of the old sign, and,
 - 2) The replacement sign meets all sign and code requirements in effect when a construction permit is issued.
 - 3) The replacement sign is located at the same location as the sign it replaces.
- B. If on the date of the removal or destruction, the sign did not conform to the requirements in effect on the date of removal or destruction, then the sign may be replaced, provided:
 - 1) Upon first obtaining a building permit through the City of Athens Building Inspection Department, the repair or replacement shall be completed within six (6) months after the removal or destruction of the old sign, and,
 - 2) The replacement sign meets all requirements in effect when a construction permit is issued, and,

- 3) The site of the sign shall be reviewed by the Planning Commission, according to subsection 13-2-3 Site Plan Approval and Building Permit Required, of this article, and approval must be granted before a building permit can be issued. If said approval is not granted, no such building permit shall be issued.
- C. Responsibility for proving that the repairs in subsections A or B above are made within six months of the destruction or removal of said sign, and that the changes made bring the sign in compliance with applicable regulations is solely upon the proponent of said sign.
- D. If a sign which was removed or destroyed is not actually replaced within the six month time limit enumerated in this subsection, then the sign which was removed or destroyed may not be replaced, and the location from which the sign was removed or destroyed shall no longer be considered available for the erection of a Billboard Sign.
- E. An *existing* Billboard Sign shall be maintained, repaired, and retain a good sign appearance, as defined in subsections 13-3.
- F. All *existing* Billboard Signs must adhere to the following standards: shall not be located closer than one thousand (1,000) feet to another billboard or non-accessory ground sign on or along the same side of a street or highway; shall not be located within three hundred (300) foot radius of any other billboard or non-accessory ground sign; shall not be less than two hundred (200) feet from any residential R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 or R-5 zone as designated by the official Zoning Maps for the City of Athens; and shall not be closer than one hundred (100) feet to any existing or approved street intersection. Double-faced or V-type billboard signs shall be considered as one sign. Billboard signs shall not exceed forty (40) feet in height nor be closer to the ground than fifteen (15) feet. Billboard signs shall not be located within two-hundred (200) feet of an on-site accessory ground sign, whether on the same property or on adjacent property.

For further clarification, see Section 13-3 Definitions: Detached or Ground sign; Non-Accessory Sign; and Off-Premise Sign.

13-4-26 Exceptions and Exemptions

This ordinance shall not apply to any signs erected and maintained pursuant to and in discharge of any government function, or required by any law of governmental function.

SECTION 13-5. Computation of Sign Face Area and Height.

Sign face dimensions, height, and other characteristics of display, are addressed within the zoning ordinances for the districts in which a particular sign is proposed. Principles explained in the following subsections shall control the computation of sign area and height.

13-5-1. Computation of the Area of a Sign's Face

The area of a sign's face is expressed in square footage calculated from the total perimeter of the writing, display of color or any background material included in the sign's design, and encompasses all the sign's graphic components and symbols. The area calculation will be based on a combination of circles, rectangles, squares, triangles, etc., as appropriate. The sign's face is differentiated from the backdrop or structure to which it is fixed, and does not include the supporting framework, bracing, or wall which supports the sign face.

If individual letters are affixed to a wall of a building or a wall forming a barrier encompassing a subdivision, an institutional campus, or other similar land area, the smallest regular geometric

area that can be used to surround the lettering used, including serifs if used, shall be used to calculate the area of such a wall-mounted sign.

13-5-2 Computation of Area of Multifaced Signs

The sign area for a sign with more than one face shall be computed by adding together the area of all sign faces visible from any one point. When two identical faces are placed back to back, so that both faces cannot be viewed from any point at the same time, and when such sign faces are part of the same sign structure and are not more than forty-two (42) inches apart, the sign area shall be computed by the measurement of one of the faces.

13-5-3 Computation of Height

The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at normal grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign, including border, trim, frame, supports, and all other structural members and appurtenances. Normal grade shall be construed to be the lower of (1) existing grade prior to the construction or (2) the newly established grade after construction, exclusive of any filling, berming, mounding, or excavating solely for the purpose of locating the sign.

13-5-5 Number of Attached Signs Based on Road Frontage

One (1) sign shall be permitted on one (1) side of a building facing an adjacent public road. If the main entrance to the building is not located on the side of the building facing the road, one (1) sign may also be placed on the side of the building where the main entrance is located.

13-5-6 Number of Detached Signs Based on Road Frontage

If a business has road frontage along more than one public road, and these sign regulations permit more than one such detached sign per establishment, the sign area calculation shall be made for each sign based on the linear feet of each separate road frontage along which said sign(s) are proposed to be placed, not a combination or summation of all road frontage dimensions. Spacing between such multiple signs shall follow the existing requirements for multiple signs on the same property.

SECTION 13-6. Permitted Signs By District

The following signs and no other, shall be permitted in the districts hereinafter set forth:

13-6-1 R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 Residential Districts

a. Home Occupation Sign:

1. *Position:* Attached. Surface mounted, flat against the wall of the principal building, and not extended more than three (3) inches outside the wall surface. Non illuminated.
2. *Density:* One (1) home occupation sign.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: not exceeding two (2) square feet in area.
 - b) Height: Signs shall not extend above the roof or parapet

b. Detached Ground Sign:

Detached ground signs on premises occupied by institutions and conditional uses allowed in the residential zones. Detached home occupation signs are not permitted.

1. *Position:* Detached or Ground supported.

2. *Density*: not more than one (1) sign shall be placed on any premises, unless such premises front on more than one street in which case one sign may be erected along each frontage.
 3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area: the area on one side of any sign shall not exceed forty (40) square feet
 - b) Height: twenty (20) feet in height
- c. Real Estate Detached Signs:**
1. *Position*: Detached or ground supported.
 2. *Density*: not more than one (1) sign shall be placed on any premises, unless such premises front on more than one street in which case one sign may be erected along each frontage.
 3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area: the area on one side of any such sign shall not exceed six (6) square feet.
On unimproved property the area on one side of such signs shall not exceed forty (40) square feet.
 - b) Height: For signs on unimproved property with a maximum of forty (40) square feet sign, six (6) feet sign height.
- d. Construction Site Identification Sign:** For residential construction and non-residential conditional uses approved in residential districts
1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported
 2. *Density*: One (1) sign per contractor [the general contractor may erect one sign... Contractors working on institutional projects in a residential zone refer to stipulations in B-1 zone.
 3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area: sign area not to exceed six (6) square feet.
 - b) Height: Six (6) feet, maximum.
 - c) Maximum Area: not to exceed forty (40) square feet of total signage on property.
- e. Subdivision, Condominium, Townhouse, and Apartment Identification Signs:**
- If a developer, or the residents of a subdivision, elect to place such signs at the entrance(s) to a subdivision or complex.
1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported or attached to wall. Shall not block traffic visibility, are located on private property, and are not located within the public right of way or utility and drainage easements.
 2. *Density*: no more than two (2) such signs shall be located at each entrance
 3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area: the character and graphics shall not exceed forty (40) square feet in area
 - b) Height: Not to exceed six (6) feet in height
- f. Directional Signs:**
- Directional signs resulting from approved conditional uses in residential zones.

1. *Position:* Detached / ground supported. On-site / on premises. Must be located out of the street right of way.
2. *Density:* Not to exceed two (2) signs per site.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: may not exceed three (3) square feet in size
 - b) Height: may not exceed thirty (30) inches

g. Residential Building Identification Attached Signs:

1. *Position:* Attached/building-mounted.
2. *Density:* Any number needed to identify apartment or condominium buildings.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: Each such sign per building shall not exceed three (3) square feet.
 - b) Height: Shall not extend beyond the building roof line.

h. Occupant Identification Sign: Used to identify individual residential homes

1. *Position:* Detached / ground-supported; attached / surface-mounted
2. *Density:* one (1) per site/premises.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: shall not exceed two (2) square feet; signs giving historical identification of the premises shall not exceed three (3) square feet.
 - b) Height: Maximum of three (3) feet high

13-6-2 R-5 Residential Planned Unit Development

a. Residential Areas:

Signs in the residential areas located in the Planned Unit Development shall be regulated by Subsection 13-6-1 of this Ordinance.

b. Commercial Development:

Signs in the commercial development area in the Planned Unit Development shall be regulated by Subsection 13-6-3 of this ordinance.

13-6-3 B-1 Local Shopping District

a. Attached Accessory Signs:

1. *Position:* Attached / Surface-mounted.
2. *Density:* See Section 13-5-5 of this article.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: One (1) square foot of signage area per linear foot of building frontage, up to a maximum of one-hundred (100) square feet.
 - b) Height: Shall not extend above and beyond the building roof line or parapet.
 - c) Maximum Area: The total area of such signs for each establishment shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet per frontage.

b. Accessory Ground Sign:

1. *Position:* Detached / ground-supported.
2. *Density:* Lots or tracts of land having only one (1) occupant, tenant, commercial or business enterprise with road frontage of two hundred fifty (250) feet or less are permitted one (1) accessory ground sign.

Where an additional sign is authorized because of frontage in excess of 250 feet, the second sign shall not be placed closer than one hundred (150) feet to the other sign on the same property. A maximum of two accessory ground signs, based on frontage in excess of 250 feet, may be permitted.

3. *Dimension:*

- a) Area: Any permitted sign in this district shall not exceed thirty-five (35) square feet to the side. If another sign is permitted due to frontage in excess of 250 feet, one additional sign of no more than thirty-five (35) square feet in sign face area may be erected.

- b) Height: not to exceed thirty (30) feet in height

- c) Maximum Area: Seventy (70) feet, divided between two permitted signs for frontage in excess of 250 feet.

c. Business Center Sign: On lots or tracts of land having two or more occupants, tenants, commercial or business enterprises

1. *Position:* Detached / ground-supported.
2. *Density:* One (1) on-premise business center sign is permitted. Where a business center sign is used, no other detached, ground supported signs are authorized.

3. *Dimension:*

- a) Area: the area on one side of said sign shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet for each 250 feet of frontage or fraction thereof.

- b) Height: shall not exceed thirty (30) feet in height

d. Real Estate Signs:

1. *Position:* Detached / ground-supported.
2. *Density:* not more than one such sign shall be erected for each 250 feet of frontage or fraction thereof. One additional sign may be permitted for property with frontage in excess of 250 feet.

3. *Dimension:*

- a) Area: the area on one side of any such sign shall not exceed forty (40) square feet; on unimproved property the area on one side of such sign shall not exceed forty (40) square feet

- b) Height: no greater than eight (8) feet

- c) Maximum Area: Eighty (80) square feet per frontage for properties in excess of 250 feet of frontage.

e. Construction Site Identification Sign:

1. *Position:* Detached / ground-supported.

2. *Density*: One (1) sign per construction site for the developer OR general contractor. In addition, no more than four (4) small temporary signs (no larger than six (6) square feet in area) may be displayed on the construction site to advertise subcontractors as desired by the developer or general contractor. No other signs are authorized.
3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area: not to exceed forty (40) square feet on any one side.
 - b) Height: no greater than eight (8) feet

f. Directional Signs:

1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported. On-site / on-premises. Must be located out of the street right of way.
2. *Density*: At each entrance or exit.
3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area: not to exceed four (4) square feet in size
 - b) Height: thirty (30) inches in height

g. Window Signs: SEE 13-4-19

1. *Position*: Fixed or mounted directly on or in windows.
2. *Density*: Not to cover more than ten percent (10%) of the total window area. If window signage is greater than ten percent (10%), the signage will count against the signage allocation for the premises.
3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area: Ten percent (10%) of the window area.

13-6-4 M-1 Light Industrial District, M-2 General Industrial District, B-2 General Business District, B-3 Highway Business District:

a. Attached Accessory Signs:

1. *Position*: Attached / surface mounted
2. *Density*: See Section 13-5-5 of this article.
3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area:

For B-2 and B-3 Districts: One (1) square foot of signage area per linear foot of building frontage, up to a maximum of two-hundred (200) square feet.

For M-1 and M-2 Districts: Three (3) square feet of signage area per linear foot of building frontage, up to a maximum of three hundred (300) square feet.
 - b) Height: In no case shall an attached sign extend beyond or above a roof line or parapet.

b. Accessory Ground Sign:

1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported

2. *Density:* On lots or tracts of land having only one occupant, tenant, commercial, or business enterprise, one accessory ground sign for each 250 feet of frontage or fraction thereof.

Where additional signs are authorized because of frontage in excess of 250 feet, then said additional signs shall not be placed closer to another such sign on the same property than one hundred fifty (150) feet. A maximum of two accessory ground signs, based on frontage in excess of 250 feet, may be permitted.

3. *Dimension:*

- a) Area: a maximum of 150 square feet to the side
- b) Height: shall not exceed thirty five (35) feet in height.

c. Business Center Signs:

1. *Position:* Detached / ground supported.
2. *Density:* One business center sign shall be permitted for lots or tracts of land having two or more occupants, tenants, commercial or business enterprises.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: the area on one side of said sign does not exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet, plus one (1) square foot for each two (2) feet of frontage in excess of fifty (50) feet
 - b) Height: shall not exceed thirty five (35) feet in height plus one (1) foot in height for every sixty (60) feet of frontage in excess of 100 feet of frontage
 - c) Maximum Area: a maximum sign size of eight hundred (800) square feet.

d. Non-Accessory Ground Signs: [a.k.a.: small “outdoor advertising” signs]

1. *Position:* Detached / ground supported.
2. *Density:* Such signs shall not be located closer than one thousand (1,000) feet to another non-accessory ground sign or billboard on or along the same side of a street or highway; shall not be located within a three hundred (300) foot radius of any other non-accessory ground sign or billboard; shall not be less than two hundred (200) feet from any residential R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 or R-5 zoning district as designated by the official Zoning Map for the City of Athens; and shall not be located closer than one hundred (100) feet to any existing or approved street intersection; Non-accessory ground signs shall not be located within two hundred (200) feet of any on-site accessory ground sign, whether on the same property or any adjacent property.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: shall not exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet in area per face and shall have only one face per side.

Double-faced or V-type non-accessory ground signs shall be considered as one sign.
 - b) Height: shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height and shall not be closer to the ground than ten (10) feet in these zoning districts.

e. Marquee Signs:

1. *Position:* Attached / surface mounted. On theatres.
2. *Density:* May be in addition to other signs authorized by this section

3. *Dimension:*

a) Area: not exceeding three hundred (300) square feet

b) Height: Not less than eight (8) feet from a sidewalk or other paved walking surface to the bottom of the marquee. No more than nine (9) feet measured from the sidewalk or other paved walking surface.

f. Real Estate Signs:

1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported.

2. *Density*: Not more than one such sign shall be erected for each 250 feet of frontage or fraction thereof.

3. *Dimension:*

a) Area: the area on one side of any such sign shall not exceed forty (40) square feet; on unimproved property the area on one side of such sign shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet

b) Height: not to exceed eight (8) feet.

g. Construction Site Identification Sign:

1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported.

2. *Density*: One (1) sign per construction site for the developer OR general contractor. In addition, no more than four (4) small temporary signs (no larger than six (6) square feet in area) may be displayed on the construction site to advertise subcontractors as desired by the developer or general contractor. No other signs are authorized.

3. *Dimension*: No sign shall exceed forty (40) square feet on any one side.

h. On-site Directional Signs:

1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported. On-Site / On-premises. Must be located out of the street right of way.

2. *Density*: One on-site directional sign per ingress or egress access drive. If a single drive serves a business, one-each enter and exit sign may be permitted.

3. *Dimension:*

a) Area: not to exceed four (4) square feet

b) Height: thirty (30) inches in height

i. Off-site Directional Signs:

1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported. Off-Site / Off-premises. Must be located out of the street right of way. ONLY permitted in a situation where the business(es) being directed to is/are on a {cul-de-sac/dead-end/no-outlet} street, not a through-street, which gains its access from a major arterial highway.

2. *Density*: Individual off-site directional signs shall be permitted where the area is not served by an existing business center sign that could otherwise be used. If several individual businesses existing on the same street wish to erect an off-site directional sign, and a business center sign is not available for use, they may be allowed to erect a multi-business directional sign structure where each directional sign does not exceed the maximum area for such sign as specified under "Area" below.

3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: not to exceed four (4) square feet, per business entity.
 - b) Height: thirty (30) inches in height

j. Temporary Political Sign: Removal of signs within seven (7) days after the election or referendum is required.

k. Flags, Pennants and Streamers:

1. *Position:*

Flags: The flag of the United States of America and/or the State of Alabama flag may be displayed. Pursuant to the United States Code, Title 36, Chapter 10. The use of the flag shall be for patriotic and not commercial purposes. See Section 13-4-17 of this article for further information about flags.

Pennants and Streamers: Allowed only in the B-2 and B-3 business districts. See Section 13-4-16 of this article for further information about pennants and streamers.

2. *Density:* A U.S. flag and an Alabama flag, except as otherwise provided for in this article.

13-6-5 B-4 Central Business District

a. Attached Accessory Signs:

1. *Position:* Attached / surface-mounted. In the B-4 Central Business District only, an on-premise attached sign which extends over a public sidewalk (but not over any part of the street or street curb).
2. *Density:* See Section 13-5-5 of this article.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: One (1) square foot of signage area per linear foot of building frontage, up to a maximum of one-hundred (100) square feet.
 - b) Height: May be no higher than the roofline of the building, nor so low as to interfere with any pedestrian movement.
 - c) Maximum Area: the total area of such signs for each establishment shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet per frontage.

b. Detached Ground Sign:

1. *Position:* Detached / ground-supported.
2. *Density:* On lots or tracts of land having only one (1) occupant, tenant, or commercial or business enterprise, one (1) detached on-premise sign.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: a maximum area of thirty-five (35) square feet on a side, provided there is sufficient front or side yard so that no part of the sign hangs over the street right of way or sidewalk
 - b) Height: shall not exceed fifteen (15) feet in height.

c. Marquee Signs:

1. *Position:* Attached / surface-mounted. On theaters.

2. *Density*: May be in addition to other signs authorized by this section.
 3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area: not exceeding three hundred (300) square feet
 - b) Height: Not less than eight (8) feet from a sidewalk or other paved walking surface to the bottom of the marquee. No more than nine (9) feet measured from the sidewalk or other paved walking surface.
- d. Real Estate Sign:**
1. *Position*: Attached / surface-mounted.
 2. *Density*: One (1) real estate sign per each street frontage.
 3. *Dimension*: The total area of each sign is not to exceed twenty (20) square feet.
- e. Construction Site Identification Sign:**
1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported; Attached / surface-mounted.
 2. *Density*:

For detached signs: One (1) sign per construction site for the developer OR general contractor. In addition, no more than four (4) small temporary signs (no larger than six (6) square feet in area) may be displayed on the construction site to advertise subcontractors as desired by the developer or general contractor. No other signs are authorized.

For attached signs: One (1) sign per construction site for developer OR general contractor, plus up to four small temporary signs for subcontractors.
 3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Maximum Area: Not to exceed forty (40) square feet in total combined area of all signs.
- f. Window Signs:** SEE 13-4-22
- g. Temporary Political Window Signs:** Removal of signs within seven (7) days after the election or referendum is required.

13-6-6 MC Medical Center District

a. Attached Accessory Signs:

1. *Position*: Attached / surface-mounted.
2. *Density*: See Section 13-5-5 of this article.
3. *Dimension*: the sign shall not project more than eight (8) inches beyond the face of the building.
 - a) Area: One (1) square foot of sign area per linear foot of building front, not to exceed thirty-five (35) square feet.
 - b) Height: In no case shall an attached sign extend beyond or above the roof line or parapet.

b. Accessory Ground Sign:

1. *Position*: Detached / ground-supported.

2. *Density:* On lots or tracts of land having only one occupant, tenant, commercial or business enterprise are permitted one (1) accessory ground sign for each 250 feet of frontage or fraction thereof.

Where additional signs are authorized because of frontage in excess of 250 feet, such signs shall not be placed closer to another such sign on the same property than one hundred (150) feet.

3. *Dimension:*

- a) Area: Not to exceed a maximum of thirty-five (35) square feet to the side.
- b) Height: Not to exceed fifteen (15) feet in height

- c. **Total Sign Area for Hospital or Medical Office Building:** The total area of all permitted signage for any one such establishment shall not exceed one (1) square foot per linear foot of building frontage with the maximum size of three hundred (300) square feet.

d. On-Site Directional Signs:

1. *Position:* Detached / ground-supported. On-site / On-premises. Must be located out of the street right of way.
2. *Density:* May be located at each entrance or exit.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: not to exceed four (4) square feet
 - b) Height: not to exceed thirty (30) inches in height

e. Off-site Directional Signs:

1. *Position:* Detached / ground supported. Off-Site / Off-premises. Must be located out of the street right of way. ONLY permitted in a situation where the business(es) being directed to is/are on a {cul-de-sac/dead-end/no-outlet} street, not a through-street, which gains its access from a major arterial highway or collector street.
2. *Density:* An Individual off-site directional sign may be permitted where the area is not served by an existing business center type of sign that could otherwise be used. If several individual businesses existing on the same street wish to erect off-site directional signs, and a business center type sign is not available for use, they may be allowed to erect a multi-user directional sign structure where each directional sign does not exceed the maximum area for such sign as specified under "Area" below. However, multiple individually-placed off-site directional signs placed at the intersection of a street leading to such businesses is prohibited.
3. *Dimension:*
 - a) Area: not to exceed four (4) square feet, per business entity.
 - b) Height: thirty (30) inches in height

f. Real Estate Signs:

1. *Position:* Detached Ground Sign
2. *Density:* Not more than one (1) such sign for each 250 feet of frontage or fraction thereof.
3. *Dimension:*

- a) Area: Real estate yard signs on developed or improved property shall not exceed six (6) square feet in sign face area on one side of any such sign. Such signs may have two opposite-facing sides per sign;

On unimproved property the area on one side of such signs shall not exceed forty (40) square feet.

- b) Height: not to exceed eight (8) feet in height.

g. Medical Business Center Signs, Medical Office Building:

- 1. *Position*: Detached / ground supported.
- 2. *Density*: Not more than one (1) such sign shall be erected per street frontage on lots or tracts of land having two or more occupants, tenants, medical office building, medical-related commercial or business enterprises.
- 3. *Dimension*:
 - a) Area: The area on one side of said sign does not exceed one hundred (100) square feet.
 - b) Height: not to exceed thirty-five (35) feet in height.
 - c) Maximum Area: The total area of all permitted signage for any such establishment shall not exceed three hundred (300) square feet.

h. Window Signs: SEE 13-4-22

- 1. *Position*: In or attached to a window of a medical-related office or business.
- 3. *Dimension*:
 - c) Maximum Area: window signs shall not cover more than ten (10) percent of the total window area.

13-6-7 AG Agricultural District

- a. **Residential**: Signs on property utilized for residential uses shall be regulated by Subsection 13-6-1 of this ordinance.
- b. **Other Uses**: Signs for all other non-residential permitted uses and conditional uses shall be regulated by Subsection 13-6-3 of this ordinance.

SECTION 13-8. Severability

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be held void or invalid, it shall not affect the validity of any other section or provision thereof which is not of itself void or invalid, it being the purpose and intention of the City Council to enact each separate section and/or sub-section separately.

ADOPTED: This the 16 day of May, 2005.

/s/ Jimmy W. Gill
PRESIDENT-CITY COUNCIL,
CITY OF ATHENS, ALABAMA

APPROVED: This the 16 day of May, 2005.

/s/ Jimmy W. Gill, Acting Mayor
MAYOR-CITY OF ATHENS, ALABAMA

ATTEST:

/s/ John Hamilton
CITY CLERK-CITY OF ATHENS, ALABAMA