



Memorandum

TO: Knoxville-Knox County Planning Commission
FROM: Amy Brooks, AICP, Planning Services Manager
DATE: May 7, 2020
SUBJECT: 5-B-20-OA

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the City of Knoxville's Plans Review & Inspection Division's request for minor amendments to Article 13 of the City of Knoxville Zoning Ordinance.

ATTACHMENTS

- A: City of Knoxville Plans Review & Inspections Division memo
- B: Proposed language for Article 13

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: April 30, 2020
TO: Planning Staff
FROM: Peter Ahrens
Director of Plans Review & Building Inspections
RE: Clarification to Zoning Code
Article 13

Background The Plans Review and Inspections Department requests two minor clarifications to the newly-adopted Zoning Code of the City of Knoxville. The following are minor clarifications to the title bars and introductory language in two sections of Article 13, "Signs."

- Article 13.3 is entitled *Signs Exempt from Sign Regulations*. The proposal is to change the title bar and introductory wording to "signs **and other items**" to clarify that all items in the list are exempt (example: holiday decorations with no advertising under part O).
- Article 13.8 is entitled *Signs Permitted in All Districts*. Staff proposes the same clarification to the title bar and introductory wording to cover all items in this list.

The Department of Plans Review and Building Inspections recommends the adoption of these clarifications to Article 13 of new Zoning Code, as indicated in the attachments.

Attachments

- 1) Proposed Language for Article 13

Sincerely,

Peter Ahrens
Director of Plans Review & Building Inspections
865-215-3938

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

ARTICLE 13. SIGNS

[...]

Section 13.3 – Signs Exempt from Sign Regulations

Section 13.8 – Signs Permitted in All Districts

[...]

NOTE to be removed later and not codified: see change to title bar below, to clarify application to items including the following:

F. legal notices and official instruments

N. Works of art bearing no advertising

O. Holiday lights and decorations with no advertising

etc.

13.3 SIGNS AND OTHER ITEMS EXEMPT FROM SIGN REGULATIONS

The following signs **and other items**, unless prohibited elsewhere in these regulations, are exempt from the regulations of this Article, but may be subject to other applicable laws and regulations:

- A. Signs conforming to the "Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices" and bearing no commercial message.
- B. Signs required by federal, state, or local statute.
- C. Signs installed by the City, Knox County, a state or federal agency, or employees and officials of these entities in the course of their governmental duties and bearing no commercial message.
- D. Signs necessary to promote health, safety, and welfare, and other regulatory, statutory, traffic control, or directional signs erected on public property with permission as appropriate from the City, Knox County, State of Tennessee, or the United States of America.
- E. Signs required by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.
- F. Legal notices and official instruments.
- G. Signs installed by public utilities in their rights-of-way or on their facilities and bearing no commercial message other than such message as necessary to identify the public utility and the use.
- H. Signs installed by a transit company with a franchise or other right to operate in the city, where such signs are installed along its routes and relate to schedules or other information about the transit route.
- I. Signs approved as part of the City's adopted wayfinding program.
- J. Signs carried by a person.
- K. Signs incorporated into machinery or equipment by a manufacturer or distributor.
- L. Signs located within a building or enclosed space that are not visible or legible from the public right-of-way or from private property or public property other than the property on which it is located.
- M. Memorial signs with a maximum sign area of six square feet.
- N. Works of art bearing no advertising.
- O. Holiday lights and decorations with no advertising.
- P. Scoreboards and off-premise signs located on athletic fields if oriented toward the field of play.
- Q. Restaurant menuboards located on the premises of the restaurant when oriented toward a drive-through lane, with a maximum sign area of 60 square feet and maximum height of ten feet.

R. Restaurant menu displays located within ten feet of a primary restaurant entrance provided the display area does not exceed four square feet.

S. Official fraternal, religious, or civic flags when mounted on permanent poles attached to the ground or building when located on the same site as the fraternal, religious or civic organization, institution, or building.

T. Official governmental flags, of which the following governmental entities are the only official governmental flags recognized as such by the City:

1. The United States of America
2. Any state, territory, or possession of the United States of America
3. Any official flag adopted as such by the City and the County
4. Any official flag adopted by a member state of the United Nations

U. Decorative flags and bunting for a celebration, convention or commemoration, subject to installation no sooner than 14 days before the event and removal within seven days following the event.

V. In residential districts, any sign of a type described below which does not exceed two square feet in area:

1. A sign giving a property identification name or number or name(s) of occupant, one sign per dwelling.
2. A mailbox sign (one sign per dwelling unit)
3. A sign(s) posted on property relating to private parking, trespassing or dangerous animals, which are limited to four signs per lot if the lot is less than one acre in size, and limited to two additional signs per each additional acre for lots larger than one acre in size.

W. Temporary signs for political purposes; provided that each sign cannot exceed 32 square feet in area, cannot be displayed for more than 30 days prior to the start of the earliest voting period for the candidate or issue, and must be removed within five days following the end of the final voting period for the candidate or issue.

X. Temporary merchandise displays and signs behind storefront windows which are not affixed permanently to the glass, nor intended for permanent display.

Y. Temporary or permanent signs identifying traffic-control measures on private property, such as "stop," "yield," and similar signs, the face of which meet the standards of the "Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices" and which contain no logo or commercial message of any sort and which do not exceed six square feet in area per sign.

Z. Temporary signs for announcements by public or nonprofit organizations of special events or activities of interest to the general public, provided such signs are less than 32 square feet in area, are limited to one sign per site of such events, are erected no sooner than 14 days before the event, and are removed within three days after the event.

AA. Temporary signs on vehicles displaying terms of sale.

BB. Umbrella signs.

CC. Signs contained on or affixed to vendor push carts.

DD. Window signs.

NOTE to be removed later and not codified: see change to title bar below

13.8 SIGNS AND OTHER ITEMS PERMITTED IN ALL DISTRICTS

The following signs and other items are **allowable permitted** in all districts:

- A.** One nameplate per building with a maximum sign area of two square feet for any residential building and six square feet for any nonresidential building.
- B.** One bulletin board or identification sign for public recreation uses, community facilities, hospitals, and clinics with a maximum sign area of 32 square feet and a maximum height of eight feet. These signs may be allowed in addition to the maximum sign area as calculated by the controlling zonedistrict.
- C.** Directional signs within a parking lot to designate entrances and exits with a maximum sign area of nine square feet and a maximum sign height of 42 inches. One sign may be located at each entrance and exit.
- D.** One informational sign within a parking lot identifying or designating the conditions of uses of such parking area with a maximum sign area of 12 square feet and a maximum height of eightfeet.