

ORDINANCE # 2014-32
INTRODUCED BY Alexis
DATE INTRODUCED 10/7/14
ITEM NUMBER 2014-10-04
PUBLIC HEARING 11/18/14
ADOPTED/ABEED 11/18/14 (as amended)
EFFECTIVE 3/25/14
BOOK # 3 PAGE # 14
RECORDATION # _____
AMENDED BY ORDINANCE # _____
DATE AMENDED _____

ADOPTION

INTRODUCTION

AMENDED
CITY OF COVINGTON
STATE OF LOUISIANA

ORDINANCE NUMBER 2014-32

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF COVINGTON
AMENDING THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS OF THE
COVINGTON CODE OF ORDINANCES: APPENDIX B,
COMPREHENSIVE ZONING ORDINANCE OF 2010,
PART 6. COVINGTON SIGN REGULATIONS
(ZONING CASE NO. 14-11-08TXT)

WHEREAS, certain amendments have been suggested to the sections of the Code addressing the sign regulations for the City of Covington; and

WHEREAS, the Covington City Council deems these amendments appropriate to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Covington; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has held its public hearing in accordance with law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Covington, at its regular session convened, that Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 6. Covington Sign Regulations, shall be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 6.103. Definitions.

Expressive sign. Any sign which states an opinion or preference, makes a social or religious statement, urges the election or defeat of any candidate seeking any political office, urges the passage or defeat of any ballot measure or is otherwise protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. This does not include any billboard owned or maintained by a commercial firm or advertising company when leased and used as an expressive sign. An expressive sign shall not be obscene, contain any profanity, or lead to social unrest or disturbance of the peace.

~~*Free-expression sign.* A sign, the illumination of which is not kept constant in intensity or color at all times when in use, and which exhibits marked changes in lighting effects. Illuminated signs that necessarily function to display only the time, temperature, or date, not more frequently than once per minute, shall not be considered as animated flashing signs.~~

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

1 *Right-of-way, future.* Proposed or potential rights-of-way that need protection from
2 future development so as to allow the widening of a road without destroying the
3 principle principal building or use of the property. Either the transportation plan or
4 an approved right-of-way plan shall determine the widths of such future rights-of-
5 way.

6 *Time, and temperature and date sign.* A device sign which functions only to
7 display the current time, and temperature and date at intervals no more frequently
8 than once per minute and which contains no other messages. Time, and
9 temperature and date signs are regulated and permitted within the zoning districts
10 in which they are allowed and shall not be considered as animated flashing signs.

11
12 *Sec. 6.104. Prohibited signs.* The following devices and locations shall be
13 specifically prohibited:

- 14 1. Abandoned signs;
- 15 2. Animated signs;
- 16 3. Audible signs;
- 17 4. Billboards or outdoor general advertising signs (including billboard signs on
18 vehicles);
- 19 5. Signs attached or affixed to bus shelters or bus benches, with the exception
20 of adopt-a-stop signs that are two square feet or less in size that function solely to
21 identify the sponsor of a bus stop or shelter;
- 22 6. Signs imitating traffic control devices or emergency signals;
- 23 7. Flashing signs including those which utilize intense flashing strobe-type
24 lights, spot lights, floodlights, flashing or blinking lights, beacons, lasers, or any
25 type of pulsating or moving light;
- 26 8. Signs preventing free ingress or egress to or from any door, window, or fire
27 escape;
- 28 9. Off-site signs;
- 29 10. Parapet signs;
- 30 11. Pennants, banners and streamers, except when they are used for a temporary
31 occasion and permitted as set forth herein;
- 32 12. Signs other than public directional signs, public service signs, public
33 informational signs or official notices which encroach into or over the public right-
34 of-way;
- 35 13. Roof signs;
- 36 14. Snipe signs (bandit signs) on public property;
- 37 15. Signs attached to trees, shrubs or any vegetative matter on public property;
- 38 16. Signs requiring removal of trees from the public right-of-way;
- 39 17. Vehicle or trailer signs, excluding commercial business logo;
- 40 18. Signs without permission of property owner: Any sign placed or erected on
41 property without permission of the owner of the property.

42
43 *Sec. 6.106. Temporary signs; additional requirements for erection or display*
44 *without necessity of permit.*

45 6. ~~Temporary personal~~ Personal convenience signs. In order to ensure fairness
46 to property owners and to allow reasonable exposure to the public, the following
47 signs are allowed without permit. In all instances these signs are restricted to
48 placement on private property, with permission from the property owner or lessee
49 of the property, and are not allowed on public streets, rights-of-way, sidewalks and

1 other public areas. Also, in all cases these signs are limited to a maximum of four
2 square feet in area and a maximum height of four feet. They shall not be erected in
3 a dangerous manner, in a manner to interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic or
4 in a manner which impedes the effectiveness of vehicular traffic signs or electric
5 signs. One sign is allowed per street frontage and can be placed free-standing,
6 placed on poles, fences or similar standards. Signs may also be placed on provided
7 public or private bulletin boards with consent of the owner.

8 a. Warning or caution signs such as "No Trespassing," "Condemned Building,"
9 etc.

10 b. Signs that announce or advertise temporary public, civic, charitable,
11 educational, home instruction, nonprofit, philanthropic or religious events or
12 functions in pursuit of their purpose. Placement of such event signs should be for a
13 maximum 14-day period and allowed twice per year.

14 c. Flag signs of noncommercial or nonadvertising display to include, but not
15 limited to, flags, emblems or insignias of any nation, state or political subdivision,
16 religious, charitable, political, social or fraternal organization or similar.

17 d. Lost/found pet signs. Placement of such signs should be for a maximum
18 period of 30 days.

19 e. Special event signs. Placement of such signs should be for a maximum
20 period of 14 days prior to the event and removed immediately after the event.

21 f. Directional signs with the purpose of directing guests, members of
22 organizations or other persons to a spot or location where a permitted special event
23 will be held. Such signs shall be removed within three days after the event for
24 which the signs pertain.

25 g. Expressive signs in connection with an organized campaign in support of or
26 opposition to any candidacy, political slate or ticket, or ballot proposal. Expressive
27 signs measuring 32 square feet are allowed in CR (regional commercial) and ML
28 (light industrial/manufacturing) zoning districts only. For complete definition, see
29 Sec. 6.103.

30
31 *Sec. 6.109. Temporary signs; additional requirements for erection or display on*
32 *public property with a permit.*

33 ~~3. Temporary election signs. Any person desiring to distribute or display~~
34 ~~political signs in connection with an organized campaign in support of or~~
35 ~~opposition to and candidacy, political slate or ticket, or ballot proposal shall first~~
36 ~~make application to the city planner or code enforcement official or their designee~~
37 ~~for the issuance of a temporary sign permit. Such application shall include the~~
38 ~~name, address and telephone number of the applicant. The applicant for the permit~~
39 ~~shall provide the city planner or code enforcement official or their designee with~~
40 ~~specimen copies of all signs to be distributed or displayed under the permit.~~

41 ~~a. The city planner or code enforcement official or their designee shall issue~~
42 ~~the requested permit upon receipt of the following:~~

43 ~~i. An application with all requested information supplied; and~~

44 ~~ii. Surety bond redeemable by the City of Covington if any sign permitted~~
45 ~~hereby remains on any property for more than ten days following the election for~~
46 ~~which it was permitted. (See chapter 83, Fees)~~

47 ~~b. Such permit shall be issued for a period not to exceed 90 consecutive days;~~
48 ~~however, in the event the signs are erected by or on behalf of a candidate or~~
49 ~~regarding a ballot issue which shall involve more than one election, the permit~~
50 ~~shall be automatically extended to the tenth day following the date of the general~~
51 ~~election to which the sign pertains.~~

1 e. ~~On parcels that are in residential use, the election sign shall not exceed four~~
2 ~~square feet in sign area; and, if the election sign is displayed as a freestanding sign~~
3 ~~on the parcel, the election sign shall not exceed four feet in height.~~

4 d. ~~On parcels that are in nonresidential use, the election sign shall not exceed~~
5 ~~16 square feet in sign area. If the election sign is displayed as a freestanding sign~~
6 ~~on the parcel, the election sign shall be set back at least five feet from all property~~
7 ~~lines, and shall not exceed eight feet in height.~~

8
9 *Sec. 6.113. Procedures; application and fees for sign permits on public property.*

10 1. Requirement to obtain a sign permit. It shall be unlawful to construct, erect,
11 alter, relocate, or display any sign on public property without first obtaining a sign
12 permit from the building official, city planner or code enforcement official and
13 paying the fee required, unless specifically excluded from the requirement of a
14 permit by section 6.105 provided that no permit shall be required for either the
15 repair of a sign, or a change in addition of tenants, occupants, activities, or
16 messages.

17 3. Required fees for sign permits. The schedule of fees shall be established by
18 the city council pursuant to section sections 1.501 and 83-1 of this ordinance. code.
19 This schedule of fees shall be available from the City of Covington Planning
20 Department and may be altered or amended only by the city council.

21
22 *Sec. 6.114. Enforcement of the provisions of the sign code and penalty for*
23 *violation.*

24 ~~4.3.~~ 4. Abandoned or obsolete signs. Any sign that no longer advertises or
25 identifies use on the property on which said sign is erected must have the sign
26 covered or removed within 30 days after written notice from the building official
27 or code enforcement official; and upon failure to comply with such notice, the
28 building official or code enforcement official is hereby authorized to cause
29 removal of said sign, and any expense thereto shall be paid by the owner of the
30 building, structure or ground on which the sign is located.

31 ~~5.4.~~ 5. Violation.

32 a. In case any sign structure or sign is erected or structurally altered or
33 maintained or used in violation of the provisions of this article, any city official
34 may institute any appropriate action or proceedings to prevent such unlawful act or
35 to prevent any illegal act, conduct or use in or about or concerning any such sign,
36 sign structure or premises. Each day any such violation continues shall constitute a
37 separate violation of this article. The city planner, building official or code
38 enforcement official may call upon the police to furnish necessary personnel to
39 carry out his orders.

40 b. Any resident of the community who believes that a violation of any of the
41 provisions of this article is occurring may file a written complaint with the building
42 official or code enforcement official. Such complaint shall fully set forth the acts
43 or omissions constituting the alleged violation and the site or sites at which such
44 violation or violations are alleged to be occurring. The building official or code
45 enforcement official shall record properly such complaint, investigate the
46 allegations underlying said complaint, and take action on such complaint and
47 investigation as provided by this article [part].

48 ~~6.5.~~ 6. Penalty. Any person violating any provision of this article [part] shall be
49 guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be punished as provided in
50 section 1-8 of this Code.

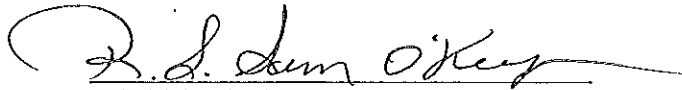
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BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all other sections of Appendix B, Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance of 2010, Part 6. Covington Sign Regulations, shall remain the same and in full force.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision of this ordinance shall be held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions herein which can be given effect without the invalid provision and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable.

WHEREUPON, this ordinance having been submitted in writing, having been read by title and adopted at a public meeting of the City Council of the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole, the vote thereon being as follows:

MOVED FOR ADOPTION ^{as amended} by ROLLING, seconded by CONER.
YEAS: 7 **ABSENT:** 0
NAYS: 0 **ABSTAIN:** 0
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 18th day of Nov., 2014.


R.S. "SAM" O'KEEFE
COUNCIL PRESIDENT


BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Presented to the Mayor this 20th day of Nov., 2014, at 9:30 o'clock A.M.


BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Approved or Vetoed by the Mayor on this 20th day of November, 2014.


MICHAEL B. COOPER
MAYOR

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Received from the Mayor on the 20th day of November, 2014, at 10:35
o'clock A.M.

Bonnie D. Champagne
BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL