

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT



RE: Proposed Revisions to the North Augusta
Development Code: Article 13, Signs

Date: May 2, 2019

Status: For Public Release and Review

Issued By: Libby Hodges, Planning and Development Director

Background

In response to issues with interpretation, court rulings, unclear text, and discussions with the Planning Commission, the Planning and Development Department has completed a review of the sign regulations in North Augusta.

Several revisions to the code have been made to simplify, clarify, allow for new types of signage, and allow for more diverse signage types in Downtown. Generally, the square footage for signage has remained the same or similar for most commercial and residential signage. These changes are outlined in the "Itemized Changes" below. A full draft is attached for review. In the attached draft, items in **blue** are relocated. Items in **red** are new. **Purple** text is relocated from the overlay district standards.

Public Comments: Comments are welcome and encouraged.

A "Sign Revision Preview" meeting will be held Tuesday, May 7 from 5:30 to 6:30pm in the Palmetto Room, on 4th floor of the Municipal Building at 100 Georgia Avenue, North Augusta.

Due to a publication error, the Planning Commission public hearing originally scheduled for May 16, 2019 has been rescheduled for the June 20, 2019 Regular Meeting. The meeting will begin at 7pm in the Council Chambers, 3rd floor of the Municipal Building at 100 Georgia Avenue, North Augusta.

Comments may be submitted in writing at the Planning and Development office in the Municipal Center, via email at planning@northaugusta.net, or in person at any public hearing. Public hearings will be held with the Planning Commission and City Council prior to the adoption of any text changes.

Itemized Changes

Please note: Items are grouped under headings as final formatting and numbering is not complete.

Applicability

- added section clarifying what sign types require permits
- added section requiring repair and replacement of dilapidated signs
- clarified non-conforming signage
- added severability clause

Variations and Appeals

- Added provision to allow staff to authorize 10% variance under specific circumstances
- Clarified the BZA can allow variances
- Clarified appeals to administrative decisions

Definitions

- Added several definitions based on new sign types and requirements
- Relocated definitions from the text of the Article to the definitions section

General Requirements

- Reformatted to clarify measurements and other requirements for all signs
- Added requirement for “Master Signage Plans” on large developments. The Committee felt that large developments may compete for space or try to put too many construction signs at the main entrance of a subdivision or large development. Additionally, if there are multiple ground signs or wall signs at a location, developers and owners would need to coordinate the amount of signage to clarify and ease permitting and maintain a consistent plan throughout a development.
- Signs on Public Property and Public Right-of-Way
- Added provisions to clarify these signs include those held by people

Signage Allowed

- Reformatted to separate residential, non-residential, and downtown signage requirements
- Reformatted charts to include new signage types
- Added “Construction Signage” for all districts
- Added restrictions on menu boards
- Revised electronic readerboard language to remove color restrictions on text
- Downtown allowances for temporary signs, iconic signs, murals and public art
- Incorporated Georgia Avenue Overlay standards into Downtown sign standards
- Revised to change percent of window signage allowed

Prohibited Signage

- Moved definitions into definition section, prohibitions have generally remained the same

Comprehensive Plan Goals/Priorities:

- Core Principle: 7, A Vibrant Downtown & Riverfront
- Key Initiatives: 1, Develop and Implement a Downtown Master Plan
- Goals and Strategies: 8.1.1 Introduce Public Art into neighborhoods, public open space, parks, the Greenway and downtown.

Areas Impacted by Proposed Changes: All property within the City of North Augusta.

Financial Impact to City: None anticipated.

Resources for Additional Information: Planning and Development Department, www.northaugusta.net, planning@northaugusta.net or (803) 441-4221.