

ARTICLE 18

SIGNS AND OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

18.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT

It is the intent of this regulation to control the construction, size, and uses of signs and outdoor advertising devices to prevent the needless cluttering of the appearance of the City by unreasonable number, location, size, and illumination of signs. The purpose of this Article is to further the overall purposes of the Zoning Ordinance.

18.2 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. PERMITS - No persons shall erect, alter, construct, rebuild, remodel, relocate, or expand any sign or outdoor advertising structure in the City of Rossville without first obtaining a sign permit from the Code Enforcement Administrator in accordance with the provisions of this Article.
 - (a) No permit shall be issued by the Code Enforcement Administrator until an application has been filed showing the plans and specifications, and materials and details of conditions, locations, and method of anchoring the proposed sign.
 - (b) All proposed signs and outdoor advertising shall conform with the provisions of the Uniform Building Code and the National Electrical Code. Additional permits may be required, as dictated by state or federal agencies, to ensure compliance with said codes.
 - (c) Permit Fees. In addition to fees for electrical and other permits, any person, firm or corporation desiring a sign permit which is required under the provisions of this Article shall at the time of receiving such permit pay to the City a fee as follows:
 - (i) For all signs having a valuation from One Dollar (\$1.00) to One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), the fee shall be Five Dollars (\$5.00).
 - (ii) For all signs which exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) in valuation, the fee shall be computed on the basis of Five Dollars (\$5.00) for the first One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and Twenty Cents (\$0.20) per One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of cost or fraction thereof for the remainder.

(iii) For additional inspections or reinspections the fee shall be Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$7.50) per inspection.

All such fees shall be received by the City Clerk and credited to the general operating fund of the City.

2. SIGNS ON PREMISES - Except as provided within the provisions of the respective zoning districts, and unless otherwise expressly provided in this Article, no signs shall be permitted which are not used exclusively to advertise the ownership, sale, or lease or property upon which said sign is placed, or to advertise a business conducted, services rendered, or goods produced or sold upon such premises, or to advertise or identify any other lawful activity conducted upon such premises.
3. MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR - Every sign erected in Rossville shall be maintained in a safe, presentable, and good structural condition at all times, including the replacement of defective parts, painting, or repainting, cleaning, and other acts required for the maintenance of said sign. The Code Enforcement Administrator shall require compliance with all standards of this Article. If sign is not made to comply with adequate safety standards, the Code Enforcement Administrator shall require its removal in accordance with this Section.
4. METAL SIGNS - Signs constructed of metal and illuminated by any means and requiring electrical service shall maintain a free clearance to grade of ten (10) feet. Accessory lighting fixtures attached to a non-metal frame sign shall maintain a clearance of ten (10) feet to ground.

18.3 LOCATION STANDARDS

All signs and outdoor advertising structures shall comply with the following location requirements:

1. FIRE ESCAPES, ETC. - No sign shall be erected in such a manner that any portion of the sign or its support will interfere with the use of any fire escape, exit, or standpipe, or obstruct any required stairway, door, ventilator, or window.
2. TRAFFIC - No free-standing or projecting signs shall be erected at any intersection improved for vehicular traffic within the vision clearance area (see definition in Article 17.14) unless same in its entirety is less than two (2) feet or more than ten (10) feet above the curb grade and no part of its means of support shall have a single or joined horizontal dimension exceeding twelve (12) inches.

3. UTILITY LINES - No sign shall be erected or maintained which has less horizontal or vertical clearance from communication lines and energized electrical power lines than that prescribed by the laws of the State of Kansas or rules and regulations duly promulgated by agencies thereof.
4. TREES AND POLES - No sign shall be attached to a tree or utility pole whether on public or private property.

18.4 EXCEPTIONS

The following signs shall be exempt from the requirements of this Article:

1. The display of official notices used by any court, or public body or official, or the posting of notices by any public officer in the performance of a duty, or by any person giving legal notice.
2. Any official flag, pennant, or insignia of any nation, state, city, or other political unit, civic, educational, or religious organization.
3. Barber poles not to exceed three (3) feet in height located on private property and bearing no advertising copy or message.
4. Any sign of a noncommercial nature when used to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the general public.
5. Directional, warning, or information signs of a public or semi-public nature, directed and maintained by an official body or public utility. (e.g. railroad crossing, no dumping, no parking, etc.)
6. Small signs, not exceeding five (5) square feet each in area, displayed on private property for the convenience of the public, including signs to identify entrance and exit drives, parking areas, one-way drives, restrooms, freight entrances, and the like.
7. Farm signs or signboards relating to farm produce grown or produced on property within the "A-1" Agricultural District, provided such signs or signboards are located on the premises of the owner of the farm.
8. Political or campaign signs on behalf of candidates for public office or measures on election ballots provided that said signs are subject to the following regulations:
 - (a) Said signs may be erected not earlier than sixty (60) days prior to said election and shall be removed within ten (10) days following said election.

- (b) No sign shall be located within or over the public right-of-way.
9. Address numerals and other signs required to be maintained by law or governmental order, rule, or regulation, provided that the content and size of the signs do not exceed the requirements of such law, order, rule, or regulation.
10. Scoreboards in athletic stadiums.

18.5 SPECIAL PURPOSE SIGNS

In addition to any other permitted sign or signs, signs for special purposes set forth in this section shall be permitted as provided herein.

1. For Sale, Rent, or Lease Signs - In all zoning districts, signs may be erected to advertise the sale, rent, or lease of property upon which said signs are placed. Said signs shall be limited to one (1) sign per street face, unless otherwise provided by the zoning provisions, and shall not exceed an area of six (6) square feet in residential zones or twenty-four (24) square feet in non-residential zoning districts. Said signs shall be exempt from site plan approval.
2. Building Directory Signs - In all districts where group occupancies in office building, commercial buildings, or industrial buildings are permitted, directory signs may be erected displaying the names of occupants of a building who are engaged in a particular profession, business, or industrial pursuit. Said sign shall be situated at least two (2) feet inside the property line and shall not exceed eight (8) feet in height. Said sign shall not exceed an area of sixty (60) square feet and shall not be placed within the clear-vision area of a corner lot as set forth in this Zoning Regulation.
3. Construction Project Signs - Signs may be erected in conjunction with construction projects and used for the purpose of publicizing the future occupants of the building, the architects, the engineers, and construction organizations participating in the project, and such other information as may be approved by the Code Enforcement Administrator. In residential districts no such signs shall exceed thirty-two (32) square feet in area. In other districts no such sign shall exceed an area of sixty (60) square feet and no free standing signs shall exceed ten (10) feet in height. All such signs shall be removed before a final inspection is granted by the Code Enforcement Administrator.

4. On-Off Site Directional Signs - Directional signs may be erected for the purpose of facilitating or controlling the efficient or safe movement of pedestrians or vehicles on or into private property, and shall be located on the properties to which they pertain. No such sign shall be used for advertising purposes and shall not exceed six (6) square feet.
5. Open House Signs - Open house signs advertising real estate open for inspection for a prospective sale may be placed on private property in all districts with the consent of the owners, lessee, or occupant. Such signs may state the name of the person or firm sponsoring the open house. Such signs shall not exceed six (6) square feet in area and shall be exempt from the Site Plan Approval.
6. Church, Quasi-Public Organizations, and Apartment House Identification Signs - In all districts a church or quasi-public organization may erect one (1) sign on the premises to identify the name of the organization and announce activities thereof. Apartment houses of five (5) or more dwelling units may erect one (1) sign on the premises to identify only the name of the apartment complex and to indicate a vacancy. Said sign shall comply with the following:
 - (a) Wall signs shall not exceed an area of thirty-two (32) square feet. Said wall signs may be mounted upon a freestanding ornamental masonry wall.
7. Development Promotional And Directional Signs - In all residential zones one development promotional sign may be placed on the premises of each subdivision or planned development having five (5) or more lots or approved dwelling unit sites. Said promotional sign may have an area of sixty (60) square feet, plus five (5) additional square feet for each lot or dwelling unit in said development in excess of five (5), up to a maximum area of one hundred (100) square feet.

In addition, two directional signs may be located off-site to contain only the name and direction of any subdivision or planned development. Said signs may have a maximum area of six (6) square feet each and shall not be located in the right-of-way of any public street.

All of the above signs shall be removed no later than fifteen (15) days following the initial sale of all lots or dwelling units in said development, and a bond or other surety of removal shall be posted with the City in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each promotional sign and One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for each directional sign which shall be released by the City upon removal of said signs, or shall be forfeited in the

event said signs are not removed in conformance with these provisions.

18.6 SIGNS PROHIBITED

The following signs shall be strictly prohibited in all districts:

1. Animated And Intensely Lighted Signs - No signs shall be erected within the City which are so designed and operated to have rotating parts, flashing or sequence lighting, or create an illusion of movement, that they will materially or practically tend to create a traffic hazard.
2. Sound - No signs shall be designed for the purpose of emitting sound.
3. Abandoned Signs - Signs which are no longer used such as business signs or other signs that advertise an activity, business, product, or service no longer conducted or available on the premises on which the sign is located shall be prohibited.
4. Swinging Or Twirling Signs - Swinging or twirling signs are prohibited in all zoning districts of the City.
5. Billboards - Billboards are prohibited in all zoning districts.
6. Others - The following signs are also prohibited which:
 - (a) Emit an odor or audible sound.
 - (b) Affect traffic safety in any manner.
 - (c) Are attached to a tree or utility pole.
 - (d) Have visible moving parts or any portion of which moves or gives the illusion of motion.

18.7 NONCONFORMING SIGNS

1. No nonconforming signs shall be in any manner enlarged, altered, reconstructed, or moved without being made to comply in all respects with the provisions of this Article provided, however, that nothing herein shall prohibit the normal maintenance and repair, painting or repairing of the face, or the replacement of a removable face of said nonconforming sign.