

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

ORDINANCE NO.

Bill No. 10 of 2021

Introduced to Council July 14, 2021

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, ORDINANCE NO. 4964, ADOPTED APRIL 13, 2005, AND AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 5086, PASSED, JUNE 22, 2011; ORDINANCE NO. 5119, PASSED JANUARY 23, 2013; ORDINANCE NO. 5139, PASSED NOVEMBER 27, 2013; ORDINANCE NO. 5191, PASSED, DECEMBER 9, 2015; ORDINANCE NO. 5256, PASSED JULY 11, 2018; ORDINANCE NO. 5309, PASSED JANUARY 13, 2021; AND ORDINANCE NO. 5314 PASSED JUNE 9, 2021 BY AMENDING ARTICLE VII – SIGNS AMENDING THE TYPES AND SIZES OF SIGNS PERMITTED IN THE VARIOUS ZONING DISTRICTS.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Johnstown Department of community and economic development has received several requests from the community to amend Article VII of the City Zoning ordinance: and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the City Council of the City of Johnstown, Cambria County, and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, that Article VII of the City Zoning ordinance be amended to reflex the following changes:

1260.101 SIGNS IN S, R1 AND R2 DISTRICTS.

In the S Conservancy District, the R1 One-Family Residence District and the R2 Two- Family Residence District, only the following exterior signs shall be permitted:

- (a) Signs permitted under Section 1260.108;
  - (b) A sign not exceeding one and one-half square feet in area, used to display and identify only the name of the individual, profession, organization, or institution occupying the premises;
  - (c) A bulletin board for each street frontage, not exceeding 30 square feet in area, indicating the services of a church or institution, including the church or institution name, if desired; and
  - (d) A sign, not exceeding 12 square feet in area, unlighted, pertaining only to the rental, lease or sale of the property on which it is displayed.
- (Ord. 5139. Passed 11-27-13.)

1260.102 SIGNS IN R3 DISTRICTS.

In the R3 Multiple-Family Residence District, only the following exterior signs shall be permitted:

- (a) Signs permitted in S, R1, and R2 Districts; and
- (b) A sign for each street frontage, not exceeding 12 square feet in area, in connection with a multi-family dwelling, a hospital or sanitarium, a funeral home or a tourist home, used to identify only the name of the structure.

1260.103 SIGNS IN TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICTS ~~AND HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICTS.~~

In the Traditional Neighborhood District ~~and the Historic Overlay District~~, only the following exterior signs shall be permitted:

- (a) Signs permitted in S, R1, R2, and R3 Districts;
- (b) A sign which directs attention to a permitted business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered upon the premises, as follows:
  - (1) Attached to the main wall of a main building, projecting not more than 18 inches therefrom, and with no portion less than ten feet above the grade level. If not projecting more than three inches from a wall of a building, the sign need not conform to the height limit. The sign (or if more than one, the total) shall not exceed 16 square feet in area.
    - A. Canopy and awning signs attached to and projecting from and supported from the exterior wall of a building must meet the required square footage permitted for the District.
  - (2) Not attached to a building, but within the buildable area of the lot (except that it may be in the front yard or a side yard abutting a street), erected with no portion less than ten feet or more than 20 feet above the ground. The sign (or if more than one, the total) shall not exceed 20 square feet in area.
  - (3) A monument sign not attached to a building or pole structure that is no more than 35 square feet.
  - (4) Perpendicular signage as defined and permitted under Section ~~1260.106~~ 1260.108.

#### 1260.104 HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICTS.

In the Historic Overlay District, only the following exterior signs shall be permitted:

- (a) Signs permitted in S and R Districts;
- (b) A sign which directs attention to a permitted business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered upon the premises, as follows:
  - (1) Attached to the main wall of a main building, projecting not more than 18 inches therefrom, and with no portion less than ten feet above the grade level. If not projecting more than three inches from a wall of a building, the sign need not conform to the height limit. The sign (or if more than one, the total) shall not exceed 16 square feet in area.
    - A. Canopy and awning signs attached to and projecting from and supported from the exterior wall of a building must meet the required square footage permitted for the District.
  - (2) Not attached to a building, but within the buildable area of the lot (except that it may be in the front yard or a side yard abutting a street), erected with no portion less than ten feet or more than 20 feet above the ground. The sign (or if more than one, the total) shall not exceed 20 square feet in area.
  - (3) A monument sign not attached to a building or pole structure that is no more than 35 square feet.
  - (4) Perpendicular signage as defined and permitted under Section 1260.108.

#### ~~1260.104~~ 1260.105 SIGNS IN H AND C1 DISTRICTS.

In the H Health Service and Medical Center District and the C1 Neighborhood Shopping District, only the following exterior signs shall be permitted:

- (a) Signs permitted in S and R Districts;
- (b) A sign which directs attention to a permitted business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered upon the premises, as follows:

(1) Attached to the main wall of a main building projecting not more than 18 inches therefrom, and with no portion less than ten feet above the grade level. If not projecting more than three inches from a wall of a building, the sign need not conform to the height limit. The sign (or if more than one, the total) shall not exceed 30 square feet in area.

(2) Canopy and awning signs attached to and projecting from and supported from the exterior wall of a building must meet required square footage permitted for the District.

(3) A pole sign not attached to a building, but within the buildable area of the lot (except that it may be in the front yard or a side yard abutting a street in a C1 District), erected with no portion less than ten feet or more than 20 feet above the ground. The sign (or if more than one, the total) shall not exceed 60 square feet in area.

(4) A ground sign, either supported by a pole or poles close to the ground with a message area not exceeding 16 square feet may be permitted, providing size and placement is such as to provide no hazard to traffic and proper sightlines. Maximum height of any pole structure shall be no more than five feet from ground level.

(5) Monument signs, which are principally supported by a structure affixed to the ground and not supported by a building or pole structure, with a message area not to exceed 35 square feet may be permitted, providing size and placement is such as to provide no hazard to traffic and proper sightlines.

#### ~~1260.105~~ 1260.106 SIGNS IN C2, C3 AND M DISTRICTS.

In the C2 Community Business District, the C3 Central Business District, only the following exterior signs shall be permitted:

(a) Signs permitted in the S, R1, R2, R3, H, and C1 Districts.

(b) An off-site sign, also known as a billboard, displaying information, advertising, or otherwise directing public attention to a business, commodity, service, industry, product, profession, or similar related concept of endeavor conducted for public use or consumption, whether for profit or not for profit, that is not located and/or offered on the premises where the sign is erected and/or displayed, of 700 square feet.

(1) The maximum height permitted will be 30 feet from the ground, including the base apron, supports, other structural members and the sign face itself. A minimum ten foot clearance below the bottom of the sign is required.

(2) The sign is a minimum distance of 300 foot diameter/radius from the nearest residentially zoned district, church, publicly-owned park, school-owned building, or Nationally Registered Historic District.

(3) The sign is a minimum distance of 400 feet from the centerline of any expressway or limited access highway if the face of the sign is visible there from.

(4) The sign is at least 1,000 feet diameter/radius from the nearest existing or proposed billboard.

(c) The total square footage of all signs on a wall may not exceed whichever is less of 5% of the surface area of the wall or 400 square feet

(d) Electronic Message Displays and Projected Light Displays

~~(e) A sign erected or placed on a property and/or building exceeding 60 lineal feet in frontage, but less than 80 feet, may be enlarged to not more than 45 square feet for the sign or signs proposed.~~

~~(d) A sign erected or placed on a property and/or building with a lineal frontage of 80 feet or more may be enlarged to 75 square feet for the sign or signs proposed.~~

(e) Allowed within the C3 – Central Business District, Perpendicular Signage as defined and permitted under Section ~~1260.106~~ 1260.108.

(f) Allowed within the C3 – Central Business District, Projecting Sign as defined and permitted under Section ~~1260.106~~ 1260.108.

#### 1260.107 M DISTRICTS.

In the M1 Light Industrial District, the M2 Industrial Service and Distribution District and the M3 Heavy Industrial District, only the following exterior signs shall be permitted:

(a) Signs permitted in the S, R, H, C1, C2, and C3 Districts.

(b) An off-site sign, also known as a billboard, displaying information, advertising, or otherwise directing public attention to a business, commodity, service, industry, product, profession, or similar related concept of endeavor conducted for public use or consumption, whether for profit or not for profit, that is not located and/or offered on the premises where the sign is erected and/or displayed, of 700 square feet.

(1) The maximum height permitted will be 30 feet from the ground, including the base apron, supports, other structural members and the sign face itself. A minimum ten foot clearance below the bottom of the sign is required.

(2) The sign is a minimum distance of 300 foot diameter/radius from the nearest residentially zoned district, church, publicly-owned park, school-owned building, or Nationally Registered Historic District.

(3) The sign is a minimum distance of 400 feet from the centerline of any expressway or limited access highway if the face of the sign is visible there from.

(4) The sign is at least 1,000 feet diameter/radius from the nearest existing or proposed billboard.

(c) The total square footage of all signs on a wall may not exceed 10% of the surface area of the wall.

(d) Electronic Message Displays and Projected Light Displays

(e) Allowed within the C3 – Central Business District, Perpendicular Signage as defined and permitted under Section 1260.108.

(f) Allowed within the C3 – Central Business District, Projecting Sign as defined and permitted under Section 1260.108.

#### ~~1260.106~~ 1260.108 SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS.

(a) A permit shall be secured for the establishment, major alteration or moving of any sign (except real estate signs) one and one-half square feet or more in area.

(b) No sign established before the effective date of this Zoning Code shall be, except when ordered by an authorized public officer as a safety measure, altered in any major respect or moved, unless it is made to conform to this Zoning Code.

(c) In any district, signs used to indicate the location or direction of a real estate development, limited to a maximum of 50 square feet in area, and not more than one such sign on each 500 feet of street frontage, may be erected for a period of six months upon the approval of the Building Code Official.

(d) Temporary signs of mechanics, painters and other artisans, not exceeding 12 square feet in area, may be erected and maintained during the period such persons are performing work on the premises on which such signs are erected, but shall be removed promptly upon completion of the work.

(e) Where a sign is permitted by any provision of this subchapter, such provision shall be construed to permit a double-face sign. Each face of a double-face sign may equal the maximum size for the particular type of sign permitted in this subchapter.

(f) No sign in an S, R, or H District shall be on the roof of a building, and no sign attached to the wall of a building shall extend above the roofline or project horizontally more than 12 inches from the building wall.

(g) The City Manager may authorize reasonable signs to be erected on public streets to aid motorists and pedestrians in locating such facilities as hospitals, schools, libraries, stadiums, information centers, and other public facilities. (Ord. 4807. Passed 7-22-98)

(h) Abandoned Signs. If a conforming use has been discontinued for a total of 12 months, then all signs that are related to that use-as well as any structures that support these signs-shall be known as “abandoned signs.” Likewise, if a nonconforming use has been abandoned as described then all signs that are related to that use, as well as any structures that support these signs, shall be known as “abandoned signs.” All abandoned signs shall be removed at the expense of the owner. If such a sign is not removed, the Building Code Official shall enforce the requirements of this section via the procedure given.

(i) Signs That are Exempt from the Requirements of this Subchapter. The following kinds of signs are exempt from the requirements of this subchapter:

(1) Any public notice or warning required by a valid and applicable Federal, State, or local law, regulation, or ordinance;

(2) Any sign that is inside a building, not attached to a window or door, or not legible from a distance of more than three feet beyond the lot line of the involved lot or parcel;

(3) Works of art that do not include a commercial message;

(4) Signs on the scoreboard or outfield fence of an athletic field, within the structure;

(5) Holiday lights and decorations with no commercial message;

(6) Traffic control signs on private property such as “STOP,” “YIELD,” and similar signs, the face of which meet the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation standards and which contain no commercial message of any sort;

(7) Project identification signs are exempted from the requirements of this subchapter for the duration of the work for which permits have been issued if they comply with the following:

A. The sign shall not exceed four feet by eight feet in size.

B. The sign shall be secured so that it is not a hazard.

C. There shall be one such sign per project (any subsequent project signs must comply with all provisions of this subchapter).

(j) Prohibited Signs. All signs that are not expressly permitted under this chapter or exempted from its regulations by subsection (i) above, are prohibited by the City of Johnstown. Such signs include but are not limited to; electronic message display boards, beacons, pennants, strings of lights that are not permanently mounted to a rigid background, inflatable signs, and tethered balloons, and sexually suggestive signs containing advertisements. Merchandise displays, signs, or any other exhibit depicting adult entertainment activities or sexually oriented businesses placed within the interior of buildings or premises shall be arranged and screened to prevent

public viewing from outside such buildings or premises. No sexually suggestive signs shall contain photographs, silhouettes, drawings or pictorial representations of any kind.

(k) Temporary Signs. Product signs of a temporary or portable nature shall only be permitted in a Commercial, Hospital, or Manufacturing District upon the granting of a permit. Such signs are allowed for a maximum of 30 consecutive days in any calendar year and are not to exceed ~~32~~ 50 square feet in size.

(l) Perpendicular Signage. Signs which are installed perpendicular to the facade of a building which are an integral part of the architectural design of the building. The signs may project over and into public ways though must be erected as secured in such a manner as to preclude their becoming a safety hazard to the public.

(1) Minimum clearance for projecting signs (ground to bottom of sign) shall be seven feet;

(2) The standard maximum area for projecting signs shall take any shape within a 864 square inches or a three-foot by two-foot area;

(3) The maximum sign area shall not include the space taken by any supporting brackets (which shall have no text, graphics, or images).

(m) Electronic Message Display (EMD) Center/Screen. A electronic message display sign, as described within Section 1260.011 , shall comply with the following regulations:

(1) An electronic message display shall be allowed as a permitted sign within C1, C2, M1, M2, and M3 Districts.

(2) An electronic message display shall be prohibited at any location/site within the registered National Historic District(s).

(3) An electronic message display may only be used to advertise goods and/or services sold on the premises, public service announcements, meeting or event information, or the time, date, and temperature. A EMD shall not be permitted to display or promote “off-premise” advertisements.

(4) The addition of an electronic message display to any nonconforming sign is prohibited.

(5) It shall not-contain animation or any flashing, scrolling, or moving lights, text, graphics, any type of video, or visual dissolve or fading in/out.

(6) Each message displayed must be static or depicted for a minimum of eight seconds.

(7) Each complete message must fit onto one screen, i.e., no scrolling or incomplete messages shall be permitted.

(8) All electronic message display screens are required to have automatic brightness controls keyed to ambient light levels. The maximum luminance brightness limits are 5,000 nits during daytime and 500 at night.

(9) An electronic message display shall comply with all other applicable signage regulations and requirements applicable to the Zoning District it is located within.

(n) Projecting Sign. A projecting sign shall be allowed within the C3 – Central Business District and is installed perpendicular to the façade of a building which is an integral part of the historical and/or architectural design of the building. The signs may project over and into public right-of-ways though must be erected as secured in such a manner as to preclude their becoming a safety hazard to the public.

(1) Minimum clearance for the sign over a public right-of-way shall have a vertical clearance of ten feet above ground level, and it shall not be nearer than four feet measured in horizontal distance from the curb line of the street.

(2) The sign may not extend above the top of the wall to which it is attached.

(3) The sign shall not exceed ~~30 square feet and/or~~ the maximum signage weight load as determined by either a professional structural engineer or City of Johnstown 3rd Party Building Code Inspection Agency.

(o) Projected Light Displays. A projected light display is any display that uses light to project any text, graphic, or image onto any surface of a property in a manner that would display a commercial message.

(1) projected light displays shall be allowed as a permitted sign within C1, C2, C3, M1, M2, and M3 Districts as a permitted sign.

(2) projected light displays shall be prohibited at any location/site within the registered National Historic District(s).

(3) projected light displays may only be used to advertise goods and/or services sold on the premises, public service announcements, meeting or event information, or the time, date, and temperature. projected light displays shall not be permitted to display or promote “off-premise” advertisements.

(4) The addition of a projected light displays to any nonconforming sign is prohibited.

(5) It shall not contain animation or any flashing, scrolling, or moving lights, text, graphics, any type of video, or visual dissolve or fading in/out.

(6) Each message displayed must be static or depicted for a minimum of eight seconds.

(7) Each complete message must fit onto one screen, i.e., no scrolling or incomplete messages shall be permitted.

(8) All electronic message display screens are required to have automatic brightness controls keyed to ambient light levels. The maximum luminance brightness limits are 5,000 nits during daytime and 500 at night.

(9) An electronic message display shall comply with all other applicable signage regulations and requirements applicable to the Zoning District it is located within.

ADOPTED:

By the following vote:

Yeas:

Nays:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Frank J. Janakovic, Mayor  
Marie Mock, Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

I do hereby certify the forgoing is true and correct copy of Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ as the same adopted by City Council of the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy J. Cushing, City Clerk