

AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL

FOR THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA TO AMEND

Part II – Code, Appendix B-Zoning Ordinance, Article 21.-Signs

WHEREAS, § 15.2-2280 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, grants the local governing body the authority to classify the territory under its jurisdiction or any substantial portion thereof into districts of such number, shape and size as it may deem best suited to carry out the purposes of this article and in each district it may regulate, restrict, permit, prohibit, and determine the use of land, buildings, structures and other premises for agricultural, business, industrial, residential, flood plain and other specific uses; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Abingdon's current Code, Part II, Appendix B-Zoning Ordinance, Article 21.-Signs; the Council for the Town of Abingdon has found it in the best interest to amend the body of its ordinance;

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Planning Commission, the Council for the Town of Abingdon has found it in the best interest of its residents to amend the Town of Abingdon's current Zoning Ordinance, Article 21. Signs, Section 21-8-1(t); and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, after notice pursuant to § 15.2-2204 of the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, and public hearing of the Planning Commission on June 22, 2020, and public hearing of the Council for the Town of Abingdon on August 3, 2020, as required by law:

1. That this ordinance shall take effect on September 8, 2020; and
2. Should any section or provision of this ordinance be decided to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section or provision of this ordinance or the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia; and
3. The Town of Abingdon's current Code, Part II, Appendix B-Zoning Ordinance, Article 21.-Signs, that are proposed for amendment currently appear as follows:

ARTICLE 21. - SIGNS

Section 21-1. - Applicability.

21-1-1. *Regulations.* The regulations set forth in this article or set forth elsewhere in this chapter and referred to in this article shall apply to all new signs, replacement signs and their modification(s) established after the effective date of the ordinance, which date is May 7, 2007.

After such date notice shall be given to owners of all existing signs which become nonconforming uses as a result of these regulations as to the disposition of such signs in accordance with section 21-19-2 of this ordinance, and owners of any such signs shall be given 24 months in which to comply with such regulations.

21-1-2. *Exemption for certain existing signs.* Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this chapter, no nonconforming sign is required to be removed solely by the passage of time if to so require is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law. [Adopted 2 Oct. 1989; Effective 2 Nov. 1989]

21-1-3. *Purpose and intent.*

- (a) The sign regulations are intended to define, permit, and control the use of signs which are legible from the public right-of-way. Town council has adopted these regulations in order to achieve all of the following community goals and objectives:
 - (1) Protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
 - (2) Equitably distribute the privilege of using the public environs to communicate private information.
 - (3) Safeguard the public use and nature of the streets and sidewalks.
 - (4) Protect and enhance the visual environment of the town.
 - (5) Discourage the diminishing of property values with the town.
 - (6) Minimize visual distractions to motorists using the public streets.
 - (7) Promote an aesthetically pleasing environment for the citizens of this town.
 - (8) Promote the economic growth of the town by creating a community image that is conducive to attracting new business and industrial development.
 - (9) Permit reasonable legibility and effectiveness of signs and to prevent their over-concentration, improper placement and excessive height, bulk, density, and area.
 - (10) Promote the safety of persons and property by requiring that signs not create a hazard due to collapse, fire, decay, or abandonment.
 - (11) Ensure that signs do not obstruct fire-fighting efforts, and do not create traffic hazards by confusing or distracting motorists or by impairing drivers' ability to see pedestrians, obstacles, or other vehicles or to read traffic signs.
 - (12) Provide for reasonable advertising of business and civic products and services, with recognition of the effects of signage on the character of the community.
 - (13) Control visual clutter, and encourage high professional standards in sign design and display.
- (b) The town council finds that the regulations in this article advance the significant government interests identified herein, and are the minimum amount of regulation necessary to achieve those interests.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-2. - Standards.

- (a) Any sign displayed in the Town of Abingdon, shall comply with:
 - (1) All provisions of this article;
 - (2) All applicable provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code and all amendments thereto; and
 - (3) All state and federal regulations pertaining to the display of signage.
- (b) If any two or more sections of the above referenced regulations are in conflict, the provision that provides the most restrictive standard shall apply.

21-2-1. *Interpretation—Conflicting laws or regulations.* Where this article differs in any manner from the provisions of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, the Town Code or any other ordinance or regulation of the town, the ordinance, code or regulation imposing the greatest restriction upon the use of any sign shall control.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-3. - General.

21-3-1. *General.* Sign types and the computation of sign area shall be as depicted in the International Zoning Code, as amended.

21-3-2. *Conformance to codes.* Any sign hereafter erected shall conform to the provisions of this ordinance and the provisions of the International Building Code and of any other ordinance or regulation within this jurisdiction.

21-3-3. *Signs in rights-of-way.* No sign other than an official traffic sign or similar sign shall be erected within five feet of the lines of any street, or within any public way, unless specifically authorized by other ordinances or regulations of this jurisdiction or by specific authorization of the zoning administrator.

21-3-4. *Projections over public ways.* Signs projecting over public walkways shall be permitted to do so only subject to the projection and clearance limits either defined herein or, if not so defined, at a minimum height of eight feet (2,438 mm) from grade level to the bottom of the sign. Signs, architectural projections or sign structures projecting over vehicular access areas must conform to the minimum height clearance limitations imposed by the jurisdiction for such structures.

21-3-5. *Traffic visibility.* No sign or sign structure shall be erected at the intersection of any street in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision, nor at any location where by its position, shape or color it may interfere with or obstruct the view of or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device.

21-3-6. *Animation and changeable messages.* Animated and changeable signs are permitted in commercial and industrial zones only.

21-3-7. *Maintenance, repair and removal.* Every sign permitted by this ordinance shall be kept in good condition and repair and be legible. When any sign becomes insecure, in danger of falling or is otherwise deemed unsafe by the zoning administrator, or if any sign shall be

unlawfully installed, erected or maintained in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance, the owner thereof or the person or firm using same shall, upon written notice by the zoning administrator forthwith in the case of immediate danger, and in any case within not more than ten days, make such sign conform to the provisions of this ordinance, or shall remove it. If within ten days the order is not complied with, the zoning administrator shall be permitted to remove or cause such sign to be removed at the expense of the owner and/or the user of the sign.

21-3-8. *Obsolete sign copy.* Any sign copy that no longer advertises or identifies a use conducted on the property on which said sign is erected must have the sign copy covered or removed within 30 days after written notification from the zoning administrator; and upon failure to comply with such notice, the code official is hereby authorized to cause removal of such sign copy, and any expense incident thereto shall be paid by the owner of the building, structure or ground on which the sign is located.

21-3-9. *Nonconforming signs.* Any sign legally existing at the time of the passage of this ordinance that does not conform in use, location, height or size with the regulations of the zone in which such sign is located, shall be considered a legal nonconforming use or structure and shall be permitted to continue in such status until such time as it is either abandoned or removed by its owner, subject to the following limitations:

- (1) Structural alterations, enlargement or re-erection are permissible only where such alterations will not increase the degree of nonconformity of the signs.
- (2) Any legal nonconforming sign shall be removed or rebuilt without increasing the existing height or area if it is damaged, or removed if allowed to deteriorate to the extent that the cost of repair or restoration exceeds 50 percent of the replacement cost of the sign as determined by the zoning administrator.
- (3) Signs that comply with either item (1) or (2) above need not be permitted.

21-3-10. *Maximum number of signs allowed.* Except where district regulations are more restrictive, any establishment may have no more than two signs per major street frontage and one additional sign for each additional street frontage unless stated otherwise. For purposes of calculation of the number of signs permitted per establishment, only one street frontage per establishment shall be designated as major street frontage. Signs, which are less than one square foot in area, or for which a permit is not required, shall not be counted in calculating the number of allowed signs.

21-3-11. *Height, nature of freestanding and projecting signs.*

- a. No part of any freestanding or projecting sign shall be higher than 15 feet from grade with the exception of signs within a one-quarter mile radius of Interstate Route 81, which signs shall be allowed up to 25 feet in height. No part of a roof sign shall project above the line of the roof to which it is attached.
- b. Only one sign per parcel as designated on the town real property tax maps may be freestanding or projecting except as provided in section 21-3-10.
- c. Shopping centers shall be permitted one freestanding sign per street frontage. A freestanding shopping center sign may display the shopping center name and a list of tenants. Individual shops and businesses in shopping centers may have wall signs only as provided for elsewhere in this article.

21-3-12. *Replacement or consolidation of existing signs.* When existing signs are replaced or consolidated, the maximum total sign surface area of the replacement or consolidated sign shall be:

- a. Thirty percent less than the total sign surface area of the signs being replaced or consolidated, or
- b. The area permitted by section 21-3-13, whichever is greater.

21-3-13. *Sign area calculations.* The following method shall be utilized in the calculation of sign area:

- a. All sign surfaces and faces visible from a public right-of-way or place and used for display shall be included in the calculation of sign area.
- b. Wall or roof signs:
 1. The area of a wall or roof sign where the sign is painted or affixed by letters and numerals or symbols shall be the sum total of the area of the smallest connected rectilinear geometric shape enclosing such painted or affixed letters, numbers or symbols.
 2. The area of wall or roof signs where the sign surface is hung or affixed to the structure shall be the total area of the affixed or hung surfaces.
- c. Freestanding, projecting or ground signs. The area of a freestanding, projecting or ground sign shall be the sum total of the areas of all surfaces visible from the public right-of-way or other area from which the sign is intended to be viewed.

21-3-14. *Obstructing doors, windows or fire escapes.*

- a. No sign shall be erected, replaced or relocated so as to:
 1. Prevent free ingress or egress from a required door, window or fire escape; or
 2. Obstruct the light or ventilation required by the provisions of this ordinance or other town ordinances from any window.
- b. No advertising or business sign of any kind shall be attached to a standpipe or fire escape.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-4. - Standards for marquees.

- a. Construction of all marquees shall follow requirements set forth in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, as amended.
- b. Signs on marquees for establishments other than theatres shall not exceed 20 square feet on any side or front section of the marquee. Such signs may extend above the top of the marquee provided that the vertical dimension of the structure, including both marquee and sign, shall not exceed three feet. If such signs are illuminated, exposed light sources shall not be used.
- c. Signs may be located under marquees subject to the following restrictions:
 1. There shall be only one sign for each store entrance.

2. Such signs shall not exceed 12 inches in depth with not more than an additional three inches in depth to include the supports and hangers attaching the sign to the marquee.
3. If such signs are illuminated, the illumination shall be by interior lighting only, subject to the interior lighting restrictions as set forth in this section.
- d. Theatre marquees shall not exceed five feet in the vertical dimension. The restriction on square footage as set forth in this article shall not apply to theatre marquees. Such signs may extend above the top of the marquee provided that the vertical dimension of the structure, including both marquee and sign, shall not exceed five feet. A sign or signs may also be suspended below the marquee provided that a clearance of ten feet is maintained between the bottom of the sign and the sidewalk or floor.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-5. - Exempt signs.

21-5-1. *Exempt signs.* The following signs shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter. No sign shall be exempt from section 21-3-4.

- a. Official notices authorized by a court, public body or public safety official.
- b. Directional, warning or information signs authorized by federal, state or municipal governments.
- c. Memorial plaques, building identification signs and building cornerstones when cut or carved into a masonry surface or when made of noncombustible material and made an integral part of the building or structure.
- d. The flag of a government or noncommercial institution, and any other flag of a state or nation flown for noncommercial purposes; or flags displaying purely ornamental and noncommercial information, such as graphic depictions such as flowers and the like.
- e. Signs attached to athletic field fences, for the purpose of fundraising. Such signs shall be attached with plastic ties, with excess plastic tie removed and shall be displayed only during the regular season of the individual sport.
- f. Religious symbols and seasonal decorations, both residential and commercial, within the appropriate public holiday season.
- g. Street address signs and combination nameplate and street address signs that contain no advertising copy and which do not exceed six square feet (0.56 m^2) in area.
- h. Any sign with an area of one square foot or less.
- i. Signs on the inside of store windows, except those signs specified as "Prohibited Signs" in this article.
- j. Signs displayed for the direction or convenience of the public, including signs which identify restrooms, location of public telephones, public entrances, freight entrances or the like provided such signs do not exceed a total surface area of three square feet per sign on any lot or parcel.
- k. Gasoline price signs, provided the total area of all such signs is 12 square feet or less.

- l. Signs displayed during the months of November and December for the purpose of selling holiday vegetation and accessory items.
- m. Signs displayed on a truck, bus, or other vehicle while in use in the normal conduct of business. This section shall not be interpreted to permit the parking for display purposes a vehicle to which a sign is attached or the use of such a vehicle as a portable sign.
- n. Menu/daily special signs, not exceeding four square feet in size, provided the sign is attached to a building facade.
- o. Signage for the period of the Virginia Highlands Festival pertaining to events during that period, as approved by the town manager. Also signs for other town sponsored events as approved by the town manager.
- p. Sandwich board signs provided they in no way obstruct vehicular travel, public parking and/or pedestrian movement along sidewalks.
- q. Political campaign signs or signs demonstrating the "freedom of speech", provided such signs do not advertise a product or business.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-6. - District regulations.

The following regulation shall apply in the designated district, as appropriate, to permitted uses by right and special uses as may be permitted:

21-6-1. AFOS Agricultural, forested and open space district.

- a. Home occupation and business signs of not more than 12 square feet located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.
- b. Identification signs of not more than 12 square feet located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.
- c. Directional signs.
- d. Church bulletin board. Such signs shall not exceed six feet in height and 12 square feet in area, and shall be located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.

21-6-2. R-1 Residential district.

- a. Public and semipublic identification signs of not more than 12 square feet located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.
- b. Church bulletin board. Such signs shall not exceed six feet in height and 12 square feet in area, and shall be located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.

21-6-3. R-2, R-3, and R-4 Residential districts.

- a. Public and semipublic identification signs of not more than 12 square feet located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.
- b. Home occupation and business signs of not more than four square feet located on the premises.

- c. Directional signs.
- d. Church bulletin board. Such signs shall not exceed six feet in height and 12 square feet in area, and shall be located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.

21-6-4. OI Office and institutional district.

- a. Public, semipublic and business identification signs of not more than 12 square feet located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.
- b. Home occupation and business signs of not more than four square feet located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.
- c. Directional signs.
- d. Church bulletin board. Such signs shall not exceed six feet in height and 12 square feet in area, and shall be located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.

21-6-5. B-1 Business district.

- a. The total area of all signs permitted for any business establishment shall not be greater than 30 square feet and shall be located on the premises.
- b. Home occupation and business signs of not more than four square feet located on the premises. No more than one sign per use.
- c. Directional signs.

21-6-6. B-2, B-3, and M-1 districts. The total area of all freestanding and projecting signs permitted for any business establishment shall not be greater than 60 square feet and shall be located on the premises. Other provisions of this ordinance to the contrary notwithstanding, planned commercial developments other than shopping centers which require a site plan under article 18 of this ordinance within the B-2 zoning district and located within a one-quarter mile radius of Interstate Route 81 may be allowed up to 200 square feet of aggregate sign area; the sizes and locations of such signs to be specified within the site plan of such development and approved by the zoning administrator and/or the town manager prior to finalization of such site plan.

21-6-7. OH Old and historic district. No sign shall be erected until the style, location, materials and design thereof have been awarded a certificate of appropriateness by the board of architectural review. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 21-3-11 the board may approve the attachment or suspension of a sign from an existing freestanding or projecting sign or, in the case of a building on a site with more than one street frontage or more than one principal entrance, one additional freestanding or projecting sign per additional street frontage or principal entrance, if the board determines that such an arrangement is in keeping with the architectural character of the property.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2); Ord. of 9-4-07(3))

Section 21-7. - Comprehensive signage plan.

- (a) For a proposed development subject to site plan review, and for any development that is subject to architectural review under the zoning administrator or public body may waive or

modify requirements of this division by approving a comprehensive signage plan for such development or project. Where a particular development is subject to site plan review and architectural review, the official or public body conducting the architectural review shall be the decision-maker upon a proposed comprehensive signage plan.

- (b) For the purposes of this section, the term "comprehensive signage plan" refers to a written plan detailing the type, quantity, size, shape, color, and location of all signs within the development that is the subject of the plan, where the number, characteristics and/or locations of one or more signs referenced within the plan do not comply with the requirements of this division.
- (c) The official or public body may approve a comprehensive signage plan, upon a determination that:
 - (1) There is good cause for deviating from a strict application of the requirements of this division; and
 - (2) The comprehensive signage plan, as proposed, will serve the public purposes and objectives of this division at least as well, or better, than the signage that would otherwise be permitted for the subject development.
- (d) Applications for approval of a comprehensive signage plan shall be submitted in writing to the director of neighborhood development services, and shall be accompanied by the required application fee, as set forth within the most recent zoning fee schedule approved by town council.
- (e) Each application for approval of a comprehensive signage plan shall include the following information:
 - (1) A written narrative description of the overall plan, including, without limitation: a tally of the total number of signs included within the coverage of the plan, and a summary of how the applicant believes the comprehensive signage plan will serve the objectives set forth within section 21-1-3;
 - (2) A color illustration or photograph of each sign included within the plan. For signs with multiple faces, an illustration or photograph shall be provided for each face. For monument and pole signs, an illustration or photograph of proposed landscaping shall be provided;
 - (3) A written description of the type, size (dimensions), materials, and proposed location of each sign;
 - (4) A map or other written identification and description of all existing signs on the property comprising the proposed development;
 - (5) Color illustrations or photographs of signage existing on adjacent properties;
 - (6) A written description (and illustration or photograph) of proposed lighting (for illuminated signs).
 - (7) Appeals from decisions of a town official or public body reviewing a proposed comprehensive signage plan shall be taken in the same manner as provided within this chapter with respect to other decision(s) of that official or public body.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-8. - Prohibited signs.

21-8-1. The following signs are prohibited within the town unless otherwise stated in this article:

- a. Any sign affixed to, hung, placed or painted on any other sign, fence, cliff, tree, public utility pole, radio or television or similar tower provided that this prohibition shall not affect official traffic, parking or informational signs placed on utility poles by the town government.
- b. Any sign or banner within or across a public right-of-way, unless specifically approved by the town manager, or his designee.
- c. Any sign attached to, rather than painted on, an awning which is not a marquee.
- d. Any flashing or moving sign, except those officially erected for safety purposes.
- e. Any sign which advertises any , business, product or service which is not conducted, produced or sold as a primary product under license on the premises where the sign is located. Signs relating to the activities of the previous occupant may remain in place for not more than 60 days from the date of vacancy. When a business is vacated, the sign for such terminated business shall be removed within 60 days.
- f. Any sign which the town manager determines to imitate an official traffic sign or signal or conflict with traffic safety needs due to its location, coloring, movement, shape or illumination.
- g. Reserved.
- h. Portable signs.
- i. Any sign, except an official public notice, which is nailed, tacked, posted, or in any other manner attached to any utility pole, or structure supporting wire, cable, or pipe; or to public property of any description.
- j. Signs advertising activities or products that are illegal under federal, state, town, or county law.
- k. Any electrical sign that does not display the UL, ETL, CSA, or ULC label.
- l. Any sign that due to its size, illumination, location or height obstructs the vision of motorists or pedestrians at any intersection, or similarly obstructs the vision of motorists entering a public right-of-way from private property.
- m. A sign which obstructs any window or door opening used as a means of egress, or which prevents free passage from one part of a roof to any other part thereof, and a sign which interferes with an opening required for ventilation.
- n. A sign in a public right of way except as provided in section 21-11 of this article. Any sign existing or having been allowed in a public right-of-way may be ordered removed by the administrator upon 30 days' notice if the use of that right of way is changed to

require the signs' removal, or if the public right of way is to be used for any public purposes inconsistent with the existence of the sign.

- o. A sign or illumination that causes any glare into or upon any building or land other than the building and land to which the sign is accessory or due to illumination presents a hazard to pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic on any public and/or private right-of-way.
- p. A sign that violates any provision of any federal or state law relative to outdoor advertising.
- q. Signs with moving components.
- r. Pennants, streamers, except as provided in section 21-9(g).
- s. Large floating or stationary balloons.
- t. Signs attached, painted, or mounted to unlicensed and inoperative or generally stationary vehicles.
- u. Any sign representing or depicting specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas or sexually oriented goods. Any sign containing obscene text or pictures as defined by the Virginia Code.
- v. Off-premises signs. No off-premises signs are permitted in the Town of Abingdon, except location signs which may be located off-premises.
- w. Billboards, except those existing at the adoption of this ordinance (June 4, 2007). Repair of existing billboards is allowed, however, replacement is not.
- x. Signs placed in the right-of-way of any street.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-9. - Temporary signs.

- (a) Temporary signs are permitted provided they meet the standards of this section. The area of any temporary sign maintained per this section shall not count for the allowable permanent sign area for any lot or structure.
- (b) A "temporary sign" is a sign that is not permanently mounted to a building or into the ground. Signs attached by rope, string, chain, tape, paste, and similar mechanisms; signs not rigidly attached to a supporting structure; signs made of paper, cardboard, cloth, and similar materials; and signs that are pushed, hammered or similarly put into the ground are considered temporary signs.

Examples of temporary signs include, but are not limited to, garage or yard sale signs, political campaign signs, real estate signs, construction signs, menu/daily special signs.

- (c) Each temporary sign shall be maintained in good, safe condition, securely affixed to a building or the ground.
- (d) Temporary sign area per lot shall not exceed 32 square feet.
- (e) Any temporary sign pertaining to an event must be removed within ten days after the event. For example, garage or yard sale signs, political campaign signs, and real estate signs are

subject to this provision. For all other temporary signs, a maximum posting period of 14 consecutive calendar days is permitted, up to five times per calendar year. Such signs shall not be attached in any way to utility poles, meter posts, or trees within any public street right-of-way. No person shall put up any notice upon any building, wall, fence or other property of another person without having first obtained the consent of the owner of such property.

- (f) A temporary sign shall not be illuminated.
- (g) Pennants and streamers, without advertising, may be displayed simultaneously with temporary grand opening signs, but at no other time.
 - (1) Each sign is 32 square feet or less in area;
 - (2) Each sign is on-premises and attached to the structure or a permanent sign;
 - (3) Such signs are displayed no more than 14 consecutive days.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-10. - Signs for which permit not required.

21-10-1. No permit shall be required for the following signs, if they are installed in compliance with the provisions of this article. Signs approved in accordance with article 18, site plan review, shall be in compliance with the site plan as approved by the planning commission. All of the following signs may be erected in any of the town zoning districts:

- a. Real estate signs not exceeding six square feet in area which advertise for sale or rental the land or building upon which such signs are located. Such signs shall not be illuminated and shall not be more than four feet in height. Such signs may be erected up to the property line.
- b. Professional name plates not exceeding one square foot in area when placed upon the wall of the building.
- c. Monumental inscriptions, memorial signs or tablets containing names of persons or buildings or dates of erection, and similar information, when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other noncombustible material.
- d. Signs denoting the architect, engineer or contractor when placed at the construction site. Such signs shall not be illuminated and no such signs shall exceed an area of 32 square feet, nor shall they remain standing after construction has been completed.
- e. Traffic, municipal, legal notice, directional or informational sign; railroad crossing signs, danger, safety, temporary or emergency signs and holiday decorations across a public right-of-way when authorized by the town manager, or his designee.
- f. Temporary directional, political or informational signs not over six square feet in area provided that the activity which the sign promotes is one permitted under the use regulations applicable to the district where the sign is located. Signs for temporary events, sales or special promotions may be erected not more than one month before the event or activity and shall be removed within one week of its conclusion. In no case shall any such temporary sign be displayed for a period longer than two months in any calendar year. There shall be no more than two such temporary signs per establishment at any time.

Although no permit is required for temporary signs, the owner or lessee shall notify the administrator prior to displaying to give notice of the intent and period during which the sign will be displayed. The administrator will issue a dated certificate, indicating the time period for which the banner will be displayed. If said banner is not removed at the end of the allowed period, the administrator has the authority to cause removal of such sign.

- g. Signs designating entrances, exits or conditions of use for parking lots. Such signs shall not exceed six square feet in area.
- h. Subdivision or housing development signs. Such signs shall not exceed six feet in height, 25 square feet in area, and shall include only the name of the subdivision, housing development, multiple-family dwelling complex or townhouse development.
- i. Signs showing the name and address of the resident, but not to include any commercial advertising and not more than one square foot in area.
- j. Signs regulating on-premise traffic, parking or indicating other functional information such as lavatory facilities or telephone and signs denoting functions of other sections of a building such as "fabrication", or "office", when less than six square feet in area and bearing no commercial advertising.
- k. Signs identifying the home occupation or office of the resident, of not more than one square foot in area, and attached to the wall of the building or other existing permanent structure.
- l. "No Trespassing" signs of not more than one square foot in area.
- m. Historic markers of area less than 15 square feet when approved by the board of architectural review.
- n. Signs on the inside of store windows.
- o. Signs not over 25 feet in area identifying municipal or governmental buildings and offices or buildings used for religious purposes, when erected upon the building or land upon which such building is located.
- p. Flags flying from a flagpole, where no more than three flags are displayed at any one time, no individual flag exceeding 50 square feet in area.
- q. Signs indicating the hours of operation for a business (other than a home occupation), where located in the window of a business and not in excess of two square feet.
- r. Signs containing the words "private drive," not exceeding two square feet, limited to one sign per entrance drive.
- s. Official notices or advertisements posted according to statutory notice or other advertising requirements imposed by law by any public, local or state official, or court officer or any trustees under deeds of trust or other similar instruments.
- t. No more than two "entrance" or "exit" signs at each vehicular entrance to and exit from a parking lot, not to exceed two square feet each. Signs specifying parking restrictions, not to exceed three square feet each, may be affixed to a wall and located no less than 25 feet apart. The signs may be freestanding if no larger than two square feet, located on the

perimeter of a parking lot no less than 25 feet apart, and at a height no greater than four feet.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-11. - Signs placed by public authority.

The town manager or his designee may place or cause to be placed signs in the public right-of-way and in or upon any public property.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-12. - Public liability insurance.

- (a) A person shall not erect, install, alter, modify, reface, re-hang or replace over public property any sign for which a permit is required under the provisions of this article until the sign owner presents satisfactory evidence that a public liability insurance policy with a minimum of \$300,000.00 single limit coverage is in force during the term of this permit.
- (b) Such insurance policy shall protect and save the jurisdiction members from any and all claims or demands for damages by reason of any negligence of the sign hanger, contractor or agents, or by any reason of defects in the construction or damages resulting from the collapse, failure or combustion of the parts thereof.
- (c) The obligation herein specified shall remain in force and effect during the life of every sign and shall not be cancelled by the principal or surety until after a 30-day notice to the zoning administrator, after which time the sign must be immediately removed.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-13. - Building code compliance.

The structural components of a sign (including, without limitation, lighting fixtures) shall be constructed, installed and maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-14. - Illumination.

21-14-1. All applicants for a sign permit or Entrance Corridor Overlay Certificate of Appropriateness must present a lighting plan for the proposed signage.

- (a) Signs may be illuminated either through the use of backlighting or direct lighting provided the following standards are met:
 - (1) Information on any illumination proposed as part of a sign must be provided by the applicant on the sign permit application.
 - (2) No light from any illuminated sign shall cause direct glare into or upon any building other than the building to which the sign is related.
 - (3) No light from any illuminated sign shall cause direct glare on to any adjoining piece of property, or any adjoining right-of-way.
- (b) Any sign containing electrical components shall conform to current UL, ETL, CSA, or ULC standards and display a label from one of these recognized testing labs.
- (c) Animated/electronic signs of red/opaque/amber or intermittent colored shall be allowed, one, double-sided, 15 sq. ft. sign, per establishment, upon proper permitting, as long as the animation does not flash, scroll or any other movement which is deemed dangerous to traffic. Such signs may be illuminated during business hours only.
- (d) Signs may fade animation or copy a minimum of every 15 seconds or an amount greater if needed.
- (e) The intensity of light allowed of all animated/electronic signs will be 85 percent by day and 50 percent at night.
- (f) Such animated signs are only allowed in B-2 and M-1 districts, within the Entrance Corridor Overlay District, as defined by this ordinance.
- (g) The town manager, upon finding that an animated or electronic sign is negatively effecting the health, safety and welfare of the public, may cause the removal of such sign, or prevent the installation thereof.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2)) Section 21-15. - Uniform sign regulations for all zoning districts.

- (a) Historic site signs, up to a maximum of one for each site, structure, or landmark registered with the Virginia Landmarks Register or the National Historic Register are permitted in all zoning districts. The maximum size sign permitted is 12 square feet, with a maximum height of nine feet.

- (b) Historic district signs, containing information relating to the historic, architectural, cultural, or archeological significance of the district. The maximum size sign permitted is 12 square feet, with a maximum height of nine feet. The sign plan for historic district signs must be submitted with the rezoning application for the historic district.
- (c) Location sign: Such signs may be freestanding and may be located within the public right-of-way, provided written permission is obtained from the administrator. Only one location sign per establishment is permitted.
- (d) Neighborhood identification signs, meeting the requirements of this subsection, may be located in any zoning district.
 - (1) A neighborhood identification sign shall be a monument style sign with a permanent base, not to exceed four feet from the grade in height.
 - (2) The maximum sign area shall be eight square feet.
 - (3) The sign shall not be illuminated.
 - (4) A neighborhood identification sign shall be located in the public right-of-way, or where insufficient right-of-way exists, within five feet of the right-of-way. A neighborhood identification sign may be located within a median if approved by the director of public works or his designee.
 - (5) A maximum of four neighborhood identification signs is permitted for any single neighborhood planning area, as designated by the department of planning.
 - (6) Every application for a neighborhood identification sign shall be referred to the board of architectural review.
 - (7) In areas of public recreation such as public parks, a governmental entity may erect up to three freestanding monument signs with a combined area of 60 square feet. No individual sign shall exceed 35 square feet.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-16. - Permitted special uses.

A signage plan shall be submitted as part of any application for a special use permit as authorized elsewhere in this ordinance. The signage plan shall be of sufficient detail to allow the zoning administrator, town manager and town council to judge the compatibility of the proposed signage with the character of the special use and the surrounding neighborhood. At a minimum, all signage plans shall provide information on the general size, location, style, color, and materials of all signs proposed. In evaluating the special use permit application, the commission and council shall consider the appropriateness of the proposed signage plan in relation to the character of the proposed development, and the surrounding area.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2); Ord. of 9-4-07(3))

Section 21-17. - Banners over the public right-of-way.

- (a) Banners may be displayed over a right-of-way or within the median of a right-of-way for two consecutive weeks provided approval is granted by town council. Town council may attach conditions in the display of these banners.
 - (1) In determining whether to grant or deny the request to display a banner, the council shall be guided by the following standard: the event or cause for which the banner is to be displayed shall be of a town-wide, public nature. In this regard, the council finds that the town does not, and has not, designated the air space over the public streets or the medians of public rights-of-way as a public forum or a limited public forum, and it is reasonable to restrict messages there to those of a town-wide, public nature.
- (b) Banners shall meet the following criteria:
 - (1) Banners over a right-of-way shall not exceed 120 square feet in area and shall have a minimum street clearance of 17 feet over grade.
 - (2) The person granted permission to display a banner over the public right-of-way or in a public median shall reimburse the town for town's reasonable and customary cost for town's erection and removal of the banner and shall deposit with the town an amount equal to that cost prior to the erection of the banner. The town manager shall determine the cost to erect and remove the banner, using the cost of labor, materials, and equipment. Only town forces shall erect and remove banners.
 - (3) Banners shall have reinforced eyelets in each corner and a continuous reinforced border around the perimeter of the banner.
 - (4) Air vents shall be provided in each banner to allow air to pass through the banner.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2)) Section 21-18. - Identification signs at entrances to town.

Freestanding group identification signs announcing the names of churches, social organizations, and the time and place of meetings of civic clubs shall be permitted at the major entrances of Abingdon. Additionally, freestanding identification signs announcing the name of the Town of Abingdon, or governmental purpose, may also be permitted at the major entrances of the town. Such freestanding monument signs shall not exceed 20 feet in height or 50 square feet in area. Any such sign shall require a sign permit. Groupings of signs along the major entrance routes to the town shall be designed as an integrated unit, where possible, and shall be landscaped. These signs may be located within a public right-of-way provided approval is granted by the administrator and the director of public works.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

Section 21-19. - Procedures.

21-19-1. Application and permit.

- (a) No person shall erect, install, alter, modify, reface, re-hang or replace any sign within the town, without obtaining a permit pursuant to this article, a business license from the town and provided that a permit shall not be required for the performance of regular maintenance.

- (b) An application for such a permit shall specify the type of sign to be constructed and the zoning district in which this sign is to be located and shall be accompanied with plans including a sketch of the property indicating the lot frontage. The application shall also indicate the square footage and location of all existing signs on the property, and the area, size, structure, design, location, lighting, and materials for the sign. Also, the application shall contain photographs and sizes of all existing signs on the building or parcel and the written consent of the owner or lessee of the land or building upon which the sign is to be erected.
- (c) Applications for sign permits shall be submitted to the administrator, and shall be accompanied by the required application fee, as set forth within the most recent zoning fee schedule approved by town council.
 - (1) For new construction within any of the town's Old and Historic and Entrance Corridor districts, such permit shall take the form of a certificate of appropriateness issued by the board of architectural review or the zoning administrator and/or town manager, respectively.
 - (2) Within all other districts, the required permit shall be issued by the zoning administrator. No permit shall be issued by the zoning administrator except upon a determination that a proposed sign is in conformity with the requirements of this article and, where applicable, in conformity with the requirements of an approved site plan for the property upon which the sign is to be placed. Appeals from decisions of the administrator shall be taken to the town's board of zoning appeals.
- (d) A nonrefundable sign permit fee is due and payable with the filing of a sign permit application. More than one sign on one building or group of buildings located on the same parcel of land may be included on one application provided that all such signs be applied for at one time.
- (e) After the issuance of an approved sign permit, the applicant may install and display any such sign or signs approved. Once installed, the administrator may inspect the sign(s) for conformance with the approved sign permit and this ordinance.
- (f) Any sign permit issued shall be null and void if any sign for which the permit was issued is not installed in accordance with the permit within six months of the date the permit was approved.
- (g) A sign permit shall become null and void if the use to which it pertains is not commenced within six months after the date the sign permit is issued. Upon written request and for good cause shown, the zoning administrator may grant one six-month extension.

The zoning administrator shall revoke a sign permit if the sign does not comply with applicable regulations of this article.

21-19-2. *Fee.* A fee of \$1.00 per square foot of sign area shall accompany each application for sign permit and shall be payable to the town treasurer.

21-19-3. *Maintenance.* The owner of any sign shall be required to keep such sign properly maintained at all times in accordance with the following standards:

- a. All materials used in the sign shall be kept in good condition, free of holes, rotting, peeling paint and other forms of decay.
- b. If the sign is illuminated, all lighting shall be maintained in working order and meet the standards set forth in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, as amended.

21-19-4. *Removal of signs.* Any sign that is hereafter unlawfully installed or maintained, presents a hazard to the public and any nonconforming sign (other than billboards) associated with premises that have been vacant for two years or more, shall be taken down and removed by the owner, owner's agent or other person having the beneficial use of the premises upon which such sign is found, within 30 days after written notification to do so from the zoning administrator. Upon failure to comply with such notice within the time specified, the zoning administrator may cause the removal of such sign; thereafter, any expenses incident to such removal shall be paid by the owner, owner's agent or other person having the beneficial use of the premises from which the sign was removed.

- (a) The zoning administrator shall have the authority to order the removal, without compensation, of any sign or sign structure that due to neglect or damage poses a clear danger to the health, safety and welfare of the public.
- (b) In lieu of removal, the zoning administrator may require the immediate repair of any sign or sign structure which has been damaged or which has deteriorated so as to become a public hazard.

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2); Ord. of 9-4-07(3)) Section 21-20. - Definitions.

The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

ABANDONED SIGN. A sign structure that has ceased to be used, and the owner intends no longer to have used, for the display of sign copy, or as otherwise defined by state law.

ANIMATED SIGN. A sign employing actual motion or the illusion of motion. Animated signs, which are differentiated from changeable signs as defined and regulated by this code, include the following types:

Electrically activated. Animated signs producing the illusion of movement by means of electronic, electrical or electro-mechanical input and/or illumination capable of simulating movement through employment of the characteristics of one or both of the classifications noted below:

1. *Flashing.* Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by a repetitive cycle in which the period of illumination is either the same as or less than the period of non-illumination. For the purposes of this ordinance, flashing will not be defined as occurring if the cyclical period between on-off phases of illumination exceeds four seconds.
2. *Patterned illusionary movement.* Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by simulated movement through alternate or sequential activation of various illuminated elements for the purpose of producing repetitive light patterns designed to appear in some form of constant motion.

Environmentally activated. Animated signs or devices motivated by wind, thermal changes or other natural environmental input. Includes spinners, pinwheels, pennant strings, and/or other devices or displays that respond to naturally occurring external motivation.

Mechanically activated. Animated signs characterized by repetitive motion and/or rotation activated by a mechanical system powered by electric motors or other mechanically induced means.

ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTION. Any projection that is not intended for occupancy and that extends beyond the face of an exterior wall of a building, but that does not include signs as defined herein. See also "Awning"; "Backlit awning"; and "Canopy, attached and freestanding."

AWNING. An architectural projection or shelter projecting from and supported by the exterior wall of a building and composed of a covering of rigid or non-rigid materials and/or fabric on a supporting framework that may be either permanent or retractable, including such structures that are internally illuminated by fluorescent or other light sources.

AWNING SIGN. A sign displayed on or attached flat against the surface or surfaces of an awning. See also "Wall or fascia sign."

BACKLIT AWNING. An awning with a translucent covering material and a source of illumination contained within its framework.

BANNER. A flexible substrate on which copy or graphics may be displayed.

BANNER SIGN. A sign utilizing a banner as its display surface.

BILLBOARD. An off-premises sign or sign structure with display space available for lease and designed so that the copy or poster on the sign can be changed frequently.

BUILDING ELEVATION. The entire side of a building, from ground level to the roofline, as viewed perpendicular to the walls on that side of the building.

CANOPY (attached). A multisided overhead structure or architectural projection supported by attachments to a building on one or more sides and either cantilevered from such building or also supported by columns at additional points. The surface(s) and/or soffit of an attached canopy may be illuminated by means of internal or external sources of light. See also "Marquee."

CANOPY (free-standing). A multisided overhead structure supported by columns, but not enclosed by walls. The surface(s) and/or soffit of a free-standing canopy may be illuminated by means of internal or external sources of light.

CANOPY SIGN. A sign affixed to the visible surface(s) of an attached or free-standing canopy.

CHANGEABLE SIGN. A sign with the capability of content change by means of manual or remote input, including signs which are:

Electrically activated. Changeable sign whose message copy or content can be changed by means of remote electrically energized on-off switching combinations of alphabetic or pictographic components arranged on a display surface. Illumination may be integral to the components, such as characterized by lamps or other light-emitting devices; or it may be from an external light source designed to reflect off the changeable component display. See also "Electronic message sign or center."

Manually activated. Changeable sign whose message copy or content can be changed manually.

COMBINATION SIGN. A sign that is supported partly by a pole and partly by a building structure.

COPY. Those letters, numerals, figures, symbols, logos and graphic elements comprising the content or message of a sign, excluding numerals identifying a street address only.

DEVELOPMENT COMPLEX SIGN. A free-standing sign identifying a multiple-occupancy development, such as a shopping center or planned industrial park, which is controlled by a single owner or landlord.

DIRECTIONAL SIGN. Any sign that is designed and erected for the purpose of providing direction and/or orientation for pedestrian or vehicular traffic.

DOUBLE-FACED SIGN. A sign with two faces, back to back.

ELECTRIC SIGN. Any sign activated or illuminated by means of electrical energy.

ELECTRONIC MESSAGE SIGN or *CENTER.* An electrically activated changeable sign whose variable message capability can be electronically programmed.

EXTERIOR SIGN. Any sign placed outside a building.

FASCIA SIGN. See "Wall or fascia sign."

FLASHING SIGN. See "Animated sign, electrically activated."

FREE-STANDING SIGN. A sign principally supported by a structure affixed to the ground, and not supported by a building, including signs supported by one or more columns, poles or braces placed in or upon the ground. For visual reference.

FRONTAGE (building). The length of an exterior building wall or structure of a single premise orientated to the public way or other properties that it faces.

FRONTAGE (property). The length of the property line(s) of any single premise along either a public way or other properties on which it borders.

GROUND SIGN. See "Free-standing sign."

ILLUMINATED SIGN. A sign characterized by the use of artificial light, either projecting through its surface(s) (internally illuminated); or reflecting off its surface(s) (externally illuminated).

INTERIOR SIGN. Any sign placed within a building, but not including "window signs" as defined by this ordinance. Interior signs, with the exception of window signs as defined, are not regulated by this chapter.

MANSARD. An inclined decorative roof-like projection that is attached to an exterior building facade.

MARQUEE. See "Canopy (attached)."

MARQUEE SIGN. See "Canopy sign."

MENU BOARD. A free-standing sign orientated to the drive-through lane for a restaurant that advertises the menu items available from the drive-through window, and which has no more than 20 percent of the total area for such a sign utilized for business identification.

MULTIPLE-FACED SIGN. A sign containing three or more faces.

OFF-PREMISE SIGN. See "Outdoor advertising sign."

ON-PREMISE SIGN. A sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of messages appurtenant to the use of, products sold on, or the sale or lease of, the property on which it is displayed.

OUTDOOR ADVERTISING SIGN. A permanent sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of commercial or noncommercial messages not appurtenant to the use of, products sold on, or the sale or lease of, the property on which it is displayed.

PARAPET. The extension of a building facade above the line of the structural roof.

POLE SIGN. See "Free-standing sign."

POLITICAL SIGN. A temporary sign intended to advance a political statement, cause or candidate for office. A legally permitted outdoor advertising sign shall not be considered to be a political sign.

PORTABLE SIGN. Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or to a building or building surface.

PROJECTING SIGN. A sign other than a wall sign that is attached to or projects more than 15 inches (457 mm) from a building face or wall or from a structure whose primary purpose is other than the support of a sign.

REAL ESTATE SIGN. A temporary sign advertising the sale, lease or rental of the property or premises upon which it is located.

REVOLVING SIGN. A sign that revolves 360 degrees about an axis. See also "Animated sign, mechanically activated."

ROOF LINE. The top edge of a peaked roof or, in the case of an extended facade or parapet, the uppermost point of said facade or parapet.

ROOF SIGN. A sign mounted on, and supported by, the main roof portion of a building, or above the uppermost edge of a parapet wall of a building and which is wholly or partially supported by such a building. Signs mounted on mansard facades, pent eaves and architectural projections such as canopies or marquees shall not be considered to be roof signs. For a visual reference, and a comparison of differences between roof and fascia signs.

SIGN. Any device visible from a public place that displays either commercial or noncommercial messages by means of graphic presentation of alphabetic or pictorial symbols or representations. Noncommercial flags or any flags displayed from flagpoles or staffs will not be considered to be signs.

SIGN AREA. The area of the smallest geometric figure, or the sum of the combination of regular geometric figures, which comprise the sign face. The area of any double-sided or shaped sign shall be the area of the largest single face only. The area of a sphere shall be computed as

the area of a circle. The area of all other multiple-sided signs shall be computed as 50 percent of the sum of the area of all faces of the sign.

SIGN COPY. Those letters, numerals, figures, symbols, logos and graphic elements comprising the content or message of a sign, exclusive of numerals identifying a street address only.

SIGN FACE. The surface upon, against or through which the sign copy is displayed or illustrated, not including structural supports, architectural features of a building or sign structure, nonstructural or decorative trim, or any areas that are separated from the background surface upon which the sign copy is displayed by a distinct delineation, such as a reveal or border.

1. In the case of panel or cabinet type signs, the sign face shall include the entire area of the sign panel, cabinet or face substrate upon which the sign copy is displayed or illustrated, but not open space between separate panels or cabinets.
2. In the case of sign structures with routed areas of sign copy, the sign face shall include the entire area of the surface that is routed, except where interrupted by a reveal, border, or a contrasting surface or color.
3. In the case of signs painted on a building, or individual letters or graphic elements affixed to a building or structure, the sign face shall comprise the sum of the geometric figures or combination of regular geometric figures drawn closest to the edge of the letters or separate graphic elements comprising the sign copy, but not the open space between separate groupings of sign copy on the same building or structure.
4. In the case of sign copy enclosed within a painted or illuminated border, or displayed on a background contrasting in color with the color of the building or structure, the sign face shall comprise the area within the contrasting background, or within the painted or illuminated border.

SIGN STRUCTURE. Any structure supporting a sign.

TEMPORARY SIGN. A sign intended to display either commercial or noncommercial messages of a transitory or temporary nature. Portable signs or any sign not permanently embedded in the ground, or not permanently affixed to a building or sign structure that is permanently embedded in the ground, are considered temporary signs.

UNDER CANOPY SIGN or *UNDER MARQUEE SIGN.* A sign attached to the underside of a canopy or marquee.

V SIGN. Signs containing two faces of approximately equal size, erected upon common or separate structures, positioned in a "V" shape with an interior angle between faces of not more than 90 degrees with the distance between the sign faces not exceeding five feet (1,524 mm) at their closest point.

WALL or *FASCIA SIGN.* A sign that is in any manner affixed to any exterior wall of a building or structure and that projects not more than 15 inches (457 mm) from the building or structure wall, including signs affixed to architectural projections from a building provided the copy area of such signs remains on a parallel plane to the face of the building facade or to the face or faces of the architectural projection to which it is affixed. For a visual reference and a comparison of differences between wall or fascia signs and roof signs.

WINDOW SIGN. A sign affixed to the surface of a window with its message intended to be visible to and readable from the public way or from adjacent property; and

(Ord. of 6-4-07(2))

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, that upon the recommendation, Part II – Code, Appendix B-Zoning Ordinance, Article 21.-Signs, be amended as follows:

Article 21. Signs

Section 21-1 Purpose and Intent

- (a) These sign regulations are intended to define, permit, and control the size, material, location, and condition of signs in a manner that as its first priority protects those who travel in and through the town. Town council has adopted these regulations in order to achieve the following community goals and objectives:
 - 1. Protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
 - 2. Equitably distribute the privilege of using the public environs to communicate private information.
 - 3. Safeguard the public use and nature of the streets and sidewalks.
 - 4. Protect and enhance the visual environment of the town.
 - 5. Discourage the diminishing of property values in the town.
 - 6. Minimize visual distractions to motorists using the public streets.
 - 7. Promote the economic growth of the town by creating a community image that is conducive to attracting new business and industrial development.
 - 8. Permit reasonable effectiveness of signs and to prevent their over-concentration, improper placement and excessive height, bulk, density, and area.
 - 9. Promote the safety of persons and property by requiring that signs not create a hazard due to collapse, fire, decay, or abandonment.
 - 10. Ensure that signs do not obstruct fire-fighting efforts or create traffic hazards by confusing or distracting motorists or by impairing drivers' ability to see pedestrians, obstacles, other vehicles, or traffic signs.
 - 11. Promote commerce and trade, with recognition of the effects of signage on the character of the community.
- (b) The town council finds that the regulations in this article advance the significant government interests identified herein and are the minimum amount of regulation necessary to achieve those interests.

Section 21-2 Administration

21-2-1. Interpretation, conflict, and severability.

- (a) The regulations set forth in this article shall apply to all new signs, replacement signs, and their modification(s) established after the effective date of the ordinance.
- (b) Signs not expressly permitted are prohibited.
- (c) Signs containing noncommercial speech are permitted anywhere that advertising or business signs are permitted, subject to the same regulations of such signs.
- (d) This article shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the First Amendment guarantee of free speech.

- (e) Where this article differs in any manner from the provisions of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, the Town Code, or any other ordinance or regulation of the town, the ordinance, code, or regulation imposing the greatest restriction upon the use of any sign shall control.
- (f) Should any article, section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance, for any reason, be held unconstitutional or invalid, such decision or holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions hereof. It being the intent of the Town of Abingdon to enact each section and portion thereof, individually, and each such section shall stand alone, if necessary, and be in force regardless of the determined invalidity of any other section or provision.

21-2-2. Application and permit

(a) Sign Permit Required

1. No sign shall be erected, installed, altered, modified, refaced, re-hung, or replaced, without obtaining a permit pursuant to this article, except as otherwise provided in this article.
2. Signs within the town's Old and Historic district shall conform to the requirements of such district and require a certificate of appropriateness issued by the Board of Architectural Review.
3. For signs within the town's Entrance Corridor, such permit shall conform to the requirements of such district and require a permit issued by the zoning administrator and/or town manager.
4. No permit shall be issued by the zoning administrator except upon a determination that a proposed sign is in conformity with the requirements of this article and, where applicable, in conformity with the requirements of an approved site plan for the property upon which the sign is to be placed. Appeals from decisions of the administrator shall be taken to the town's board of zoning appeals.
5. More than one sign on one building or group of buildings located on the same parcel of land may be included on one application provided that all such signs are applied for at one time.
6. After the issuance of an approved sign permit, the applicant may install and display the approved sign(s). Once installed, the administrator may inspect the sign(s) for conformance with the approved sign permit and this ordinance.

(b) An application for such a permit shall:

1. Specify the type of sign to be constructed and the zoning district in which this sign is to be located.
2. Be accompanied with plans including a sketch of the property indicating the lot frontage.
3. Indicate the square footage and location of all existing signs on the property.
4. The area, size, structure, design, location, lighting, and materials for the sign.
5. Contain written consent of the owner or lessee of the land or building upon which the sign is to be erected.

(c) Fee Required

1. Applications for sign permits shall be submitted to the administrator, and shall be accompanied by the required fee, as set forth within the uncoded fee schedule adopted by town council.

(d) Duration and Revocation of Permit

1. Any sign permit shall be null and void if any sign for which the permit was issued is not installed in accordance with the permit within six months of the date of approval.
2. A sign permit shall become null and void if the use to which it pertains is not commenced within six months after the date the sign permit is issued. Upon written request and for good cause shown, the zoning administrator may grant one six-month extension.
3. Whenever the use of a building or land is discontinued by the specific business, the sign permit shall expire and all signs pertaining to that business shall be removed by the property owner within 30 calendar days of the discontinuance.
4. The zoning administrator shall revoke a sign permit if the sign does not comply with applicable regulations of this article, building code, or other applicable law, regulation, or ordinance.

21-2-3. Special Exceptions.

(a) Comprehensive Sign Plan

1. Special exceptions to this article may be granted in B, M, and PTD districts as a comprehensive sign plan approved by special use permit. Special exceptions to the maximum height requirements in this article shall not be permitted.
2. The Comprehensive Sign Plan is intended to promote consistency among signs within a development and enhance the compatibility of signs with the architectural and site design features within a development.

(b) Contents of Plan

1. A Comprehensive Sign Plan, which may be a written document or drawings adequate to depict the proposed signs, shall include:
 - i. The proposed general locations for freestanding signs on a lot as well as the proposed location(s) for building signs on a building façade.
 - ii. Types of signs proposed.
 - iii. A listing of materials proposed for all sign structures and sign surfaces.
 - iv. The maximum number and maximum size of proposed signs.
 - v. The type of illumination, if any, proposed for all signs, including whether internally illuminated or external illuminated and describing the type of light fixture proposed.
 - vi. A description of any ornamental structure upon which a sign face is proposed to be placed.

(c) Amendment of Plan

1. A Comprehensive Sign Plan may be amended by submitting a revised Comprehensive Sign Plan for consideration and determination through the special use permit process. Upon approval, the amended plan shall have the same force and effect as an approved Comprehensive Sign Plan.

Section 21-3 Exemptions

Section 21-3-1. Signs not requiring permit.

- (a) The following signs are allowed and do not require a permit:

1. Signs erected by a governmental body or required by law, including official traffic signs or sign structures and provisional warning signs or sign structures, and temporary signs indicating danger.
2. The changing of message content, including message content on a changeable message sign if permitted in the district.
3. The following small signs:
 - i. Portable signs subject to the dimension requirements in this article and provided they in no way obstruct vehicular travel, public parking and/or pedestrian movement along sidewalks and are removed when the establishment is closed for business.
 - ii. Two minor signs per street frontage, each minor sign not to exceed three square feet in area.
 - iii. Temporary signs not exceeding three square feet in area and erected for not more than 30 consecutive days.
 - iv. Memorial plaques and building cornerstones not exceeding six (6) square feet in area and cut or carved into a masonry surface or other noncombustible material and made an integral part of the building or structure.
 - v. Pennants and streamers that are displayed no more than 14 consecutive days, not exceeding an aggregate 32 square feet of area, and constructed and secured to prevent fly away.
4. On a property under construction or renovation, for sale, or for rent, temporary signs not exceeding four square feet for single-family detached properties or 18 square feet for all other residential, nonresidential, or mixed-use properties.
5. Flag signs up to 16 square feet in size or up to 50 square feet in non-residential districts, and up to three (3) per parcel, provided that the minimum setback for a flag pole is the longest dimension of the pole, in order to prevent the flag or pole falling into the property of another or into a public street, trail, or sidewalk.
6. Window signs.
7. Signs displayed on an operable truck, bus, or other vehicle while in use in the normal conduct of business. This section shall not be interpreted to permit the parking for display purposes a vehicle to which a sign is attached or the use of such a vehicle as a portable sign.
8. Noncommercial signs on private property, subject to dimension requirements in this article.
9. Signs affixed to the interior of a permanent fence of a recreational or sports facility. Such signs shall be displayed only during the regular season of the individual sport.

Section 21-4 Prohibited

Section 21-4-1. Prohibited signs.

- (a) Any sign affixed to, hung, placed, or painted on any other sign, fence, cliff, rock, tree, natural feature, public utility pole or structure supporting wire, cable, or pipe, or radio,

television, or similar tower provided that this prohibition shall not affect official traffic, parking, or informational signs placed on utility poles by the town government.

- (b) Any sign or banner within or across a public right-of-way, unless specifically approved by the town manager, or his designee.
- (c) Any sign that, due to its size, illumination, location, or height, obstructs the vision of motorists or pedestrians at any intersection, or similarly obstructs the vision of motorists entering a public right-of-way from private property.
- (d) Signs simulating, or which are likely to be confused with, a traffic control sign or any other sign displayed by a public authority. Any such sign is subject to immediate removal and disposal by an authorized Town official as a nuisance.
- (e) Signs which obstructs any window or door opening used as a means of egress, prevents free passage from one part of a roof to any other part thereof, or interferes with an opening required for ventilation.
- (f) Signs attached, painted, or mounted to unlicensed, inoperative, or generally stationary vehicles. Vehicles and trailers shall not be used primarily as static displays, advertising a business, product or service, nor utilized as storage, shelter, or distribution points for commercial products or services for the general public.
- (g) Signs on the roof surface or extending above the roofline of a structure, building, or parapet wall.
- (h) Off-site signs, unless specifically permitted by this chapter.
- (i) Any flashing sign, except those officially erected for safety purposes.
- (j) Signs that emit sound, smoke, flame, scent, mist, aerosol, liquid, or gas.
- (k) Signs that violate any provision of any federal or state law relative to outdoor advertising.
- (l) Any sign representing or depicting specified sexual activities or specified anatomical areas or sexually oriented goods. Any sign containing obscene text or pictures as defined by the Virginia Code.

Section 21-5 General

21-5-1. Standards.

- (a) Any sign displayed in the Town of Abingdon, shall comply with:
 - 1. All provisions of this article;
 - 2. All applicable provisions of the Uniform Statewide Building Code and all amendments thereto; and,
 - 3. All state and federal regulations pertaining to the display of signage.

21-5-2. Sign area calculations.

- (a) The following method shall be utilized in the calculations of sign area:
 - 1. The sign area permitted under this article is determined by measuring the entire face of the sign including any wall work incidental to its decoration but excluding support elements for the sole purpose of supporting the sign.
 - 2. For signs that are regular polygons or circles, the area shall be calculated by the mathematical formula for that polygon or circle. For signs that are not regular polygons or circles, the sign area shall be calculated using the area within up to three rectangles that enclose the sign face.
 - 3. The surface area of any sign made up only of individual letters or figures shall include the space between such letters or figures.

4. Whenever one sign contains information on both sides, sign area shall be calculated based on the largest sign face. Sides are not totaled.

21-5-3. Minimum setback.

The minimum setback from any right-of-way, unless otherwise specified, is half (1/2) the height of the sign.

21-5-4. Illumination

- (a) All permitted signs may be indirectly lighted. Non-residential signs within a residential district may be illuminated as outlined in section 21-6. Signs within a Business or Industrial district may be internally lighted, unless such lighting is specifically prohibited in this article.
- (b) No sign shall be illuminated in such a way that light may shine into on-coming traffic, affect highway safety, or shine directly into a residential dwelling unit zoned.
- (c) Any electrical sign shall display the required UL, ETL, CSA, or ULC label.
- (d) Illumination shall be no greater than 10,000 nits or foot candles from sunrise to sunset or 700 nits or foot candles from sunset to sunrise and be equipped with automatic brightness control which can dim the display brightness when ambient conditions exist.
- (e) Electronic service lines shall be underground.

21-5-5. Changeable signs

- (a) Within any B or M district, one freestanding or wall-mounted sign per lot may be replaced with a changeable message sign subject to the following requirements:
 - a. Location, area, height, and illumination requirements shall be the same as for freestanding or wall signs.
 - b. The message shall not be changed more than once every twelve seconds, move, flash, or display animation, as prohibited in this article.
 - c. Any changeable message sign that malfunctions, fails, or ceases to operate in its usual or normal programmed manner, thereby causing motion, movement, flashing or any other similar effects, shall be repaired, covered, or disconnected by the owner or operator of such sign within 24 hours of notice of violation.

21-5-7. Projecting signs.

- (a) Signs projecting over public walkways shall be a minimum height of eight feet from grade level to the bottom of the sign.
- (b) Projecting signs shall not extend more than six feet beyond the face of the building or beyond a vertical plane two feet inside the curbline.
- (c) Signs, architectural projections, or sign structures projecting over vehicular access areas must conform to the minimum height clearance limitations imposed by the town for such areas.

21-5-8. Temporary signs.

- (a) Each temporary sign shall be maintained in good, safe condition, securely affixed to a building or the ground.
- (b) Any temporary sign pertaining to an event must be removed within ten days after the event.
- (c) A temporary sign shall not be illuminated.

Section 21-6 Districts

21-6-1. District regulations

- (a) The following requirements shall apply in the designated district, as appropriate, to permitted uses by right and special uses as may be permitted, subject to all other requirements of this ordinance.
- (b) Sign area square footage requirements are provided per sign unless specified as a total. Total area is calculated as an aggregate of all signs of that type.

1. AFOS Agricultural, forested, and open space district:

Maximum Sign Dimensions: AFOS District						
Sign Type	Residential Uses			Non-Residential Uses and Neighborhood Signs		
	Number	Area	Height	Number	Area	Height
Freestanding	1 per street frontage	12 SF	6 ft	1 per street frontage	25 SF	15 ft
Wall	1 per street frontage	12 SF	N/a	1 per street frontage	25 SF	N/a
Minor	Not limited	3 SF	N/a	Not limited	3 SF	N/a
Portable	Not permitted	N/a	N/a	1 per street frontage	6 SF	4 ft
Temporary	Not limited	32 SF total	4 ft	Not limited	32 SF total	4 ft
Internally Illuminated	Not permitted	N/a	N/a	Not permitted	N/a	N/a

2. R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 Residential districts:

Maximum Sign Dimensions: R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 Residential Districts						
Sign Type	Residential Uses			Non-Residential Uses and Neighborhood Signs		
	Number	Area	Height	Number	Area	Height
Freestanding	1 per street	12 SF	6 ft	1 per street frontage, shall be monument only	16 SF	6 ft
Wall	1 per street frontage	12 SF	N/a	1 per street frontage	16 SF	N/a
Minor	Not limited	3 SF	N/a	Not limited	3 SF	N/a
Portable	Not permitted	N/a	N/a	1 per street frontage	6 SF	4 ft
Temporary	Not limited	32 SF total	4 ft	Not limited	32 SF total	4 ft

Maximum Sign Dimensions: R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4 Residential Districts						
Sign Type	Residential Uses			Non-Residential Uses and Neighborhood Signs		
	Number	Area	Height	Number	Area	Height
Internally Illuminated	Not permitted	N/a	N/a	Not permitted, except for Churches, Residential Care Facilities, Apartment Complexes, and Townhouses *	N/a	N/a

3. B-1, B-2, B-3, M-1, OI, and PTD district

Maximum Sign Dimensions: B-1, B-2, B-3, M-1, OI, and PTD Districts			
Sign Type	Number	Area	Height
Freestanding	1 per street frontage	60 SF, except 200 SF allowed within 660 ft of I-81	15 ft, except 50 ft allowed within 660 ft of I-81
Projecting	1 per business per street frontage	12 SF	See Section 21-5-7
Wall	1 per business per street frontage	Front: 2 SF for every 1 LF of building face on which the sign is located; Side and Rear: 1 SF for every 1 LF of building face on which the sign is located	N/a
Canopy	1 per street frontage	0.5 SF per LF of canopy fascia on which the sign is mounted	Sign shall not extend above or be suspended below the horizontal plane of the canopy fascia
Portable	1 per business	12 SF	4 ft
Temporary	Not limited	32 SF total	4 ft
Minor	Not limited	3 SF	4 ft

4. OH Old and historic district.

- i. Signs within the OH district shall be subject to the Town of Abington Design Review Guidelines for the Old and Historic District, as

amended, and require a certificate of appropriateness by the Board of Architectural Review board.

- ii. The board may approve the attachment or suspension of a sign from an existing freestanding or projecting sign or, in the case of a building on a site with more than one street frontage or more than one principal entrance, one additional freestanding or projecting sign per additional street frontage or principal entrance, if the board determines that such an arrangement is in keeping with the architectural character of the property.

Section 21-7 Nonconforming Signs

Section 21-7-1. Nonconforming signs.

- (a) Any sign legally existing at the time of the passage of this ordinance that does not conform in use, location, height, or size with the regulations of the zone in which such sign is located, shall be considered legally nonconforming and shall be permitted to continue in such status until such time as it is either abandoned or removed by its owner, subject to the following limitations:

1. A nonconforming sign shall not be enlarged nor shall any feature of a nonconforming sign including, but not limited to, illumination, be increased.
2. A nonconforming sign shall not be moved for any distance on the same lot or to any other lot unless such change in location will make the sign meet all current requirements of this article.
3. A nonconforming sign that is destroyed or damaged by any casualty to an extent not exceeding 50 percent of its sign area may be restored within two years after such destruction or damage but shall not be enlarged in any manner. If such sign is destroyed or damaged to an extent exceeding 50 percent, it shall not be reconstructed but may be replaced with a sign that meets all current requirements of this article.

Section 21-7-2. Exemption for certain existing signs.

Notwithstanding any contrary provision in this chapter, no nonconforming sign is required to be removed solely by the passage of time if to do so require is otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.

Section 21-8 Enforcement

21-8-1 Maintenance, repair, and removal.

- (a) Every sign permitted by this ordinance shall be kept in good condition and repair. When any sign becomes insecure, in danger of falling or is otherwise deemed unsafe by the zoning administrator, or if any sign shall be unlawfully installed, erected, or maintained in violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance, the owner thereof or the person or firm using same shall, upon written notice by the zoning administrator forthwith in the case of immediate danger, and in any case within not more than ten days, make such sign conform to the provisions of this ordinance, or shall remove it. If within ten days the order is not complied with, the zoning administrator shall be permitted to remove or cause such sign to be removed at the expense of the owner and/or the user of the sign.

- (b) If a sign presents an imminent and immediate threat to life or property, then an authorized Town official may abate, raze, or remove it, and the Town may bring an action against the responsible party to recover the necessary costs incurred for abating, razing, or removing the sign.

21-8-2 Removal of abandoned signs.

- (a) A sign shall be removed by the owner or lessee of the premises upon which the sign is located when the business which it advertises is no longer conducted on the premises. If the owner or lessee fails to remove such sign, the Zoning Administrator shall give the owner 30 days' written notice to remove it. Upon failure to comply with this notice, the Zoning Administrator or his duly authorized representative may remove the sign at cost to the property owner.

Section 21-9 Definitions

The following words and terms shall, for the purpose of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this ordinance, have the meanings shown herein.

Abandoned Sign. A sign structure that has ceased to be used, and the owner intends no longer to have used, for the display of sign copy, or as otherwise defined by state law.

Animated Sign. A sign employing actual motion or the illusion of motion. Animated signs, which are differentiated from changeable signs as defined and regulated by this code, include the following types:

1. **Electrically Activated.** Animated signs producing the illusion of movement by means of electronic, electrical or electro-mechanical input and/or illumination capable of simulating movement through employment of the characteristics of one or both of the classifications noted below:
 - a. **Flashing.** Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by a repetitive cycle in which the period of illumination is either the same as or less than the period of non-illumination. For the purposes of this ordinance, flashing will not be defined as occurring if the cyclical period between on-off phases of illumination exceeds four seconds.
 - b. **Patterned Illusionary Movement.** Animated signs or animated portions of signs whose illumination is characterized by simulated movement through alternate or sequential activation of various illuminated elements for the purpose of producing repetitive light patterns designed to appear in some form of constant motion.
2. **Environmentally Activated.** Animated signs or devices motivated by wind, thermal changes or other natural environmental input. Includes spinners, pinwheels, and/or other devices or displays that respond to naturally occurring external motivation but excludes pennants and streamers.
3. **Mechanically Activated.** Animated signs characterized by repetitive motion and/or rotation activated by a mechanical system powered by electric motors or other mechanically induced means.

Architectural Projection. Any projection that is not intended for occupancy and that extends beyond the face of an exterior wall of a building, but that does not include signs as defined herein. See also "Awning", "Canopy (attached)", and "Canopy (freestanding)."

Awning. See "Canopy".

Awning Sign. See “Canopy Sign”.

Banner. A flexible substrate on which copy or graphics may be displayed.

Banner Sign. A sign utilizing a banner as its display surface.

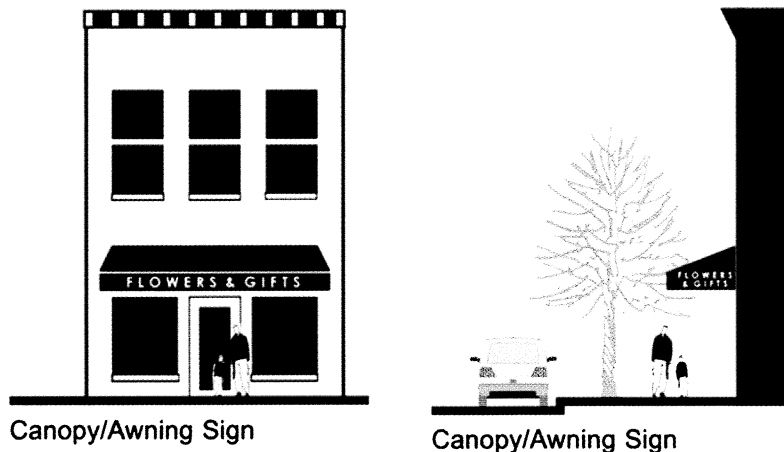
Billboard. An off-premises sign or sign structure with display space available for lease and designed so that the copy or poster on the sign can be changed frequently.

Building Elevation. The entire side of a building, from ground level to the roofline, as viewed perpendicular to the walls on that side of the building.

Canopy (attached). An architectural projection or shelter projecting from and supported by the exterior wall of a building and composed of a covering of rigid or non-rigid materials and/or fabric on a supporting framework that may be either permanent or retractable.

Canopy (freestanding). A freestanding structure composed of a covering of rigid or non-rigid materials and/or fabric on a supporting framework that may be either permanent or retractable.

Canopy Sign. A sign displayed on or attached flat against the surface or surfaces of a canopy. Illuminated canopies, if translucent, are considered part of the total canopy sign area.



Changeable Sign. A sign that includes any changing of the message either electronically or manually in which the message is stationary and does not fluctuate in size or brightness

Combination Sign. A sign that is supported by a pole and partly by a building structure.

Copy. Those letters, numerals, figures, symbols, logos and graphic elements comprising the content or message of a sign, excluding numerals identifying a street address only.

Neighborhood Sign. A sign located at the entrance to a residential development.

Double-Faced Sign. A sign with two faces, back to back.

Exterior Sign. Any sign placed outside a building.

Fascia Sign. See “Wall Sign.”

Flashing Sign. See “Animated sign, electrically activated.”

Freestanding Sign. A sign principally supported by a structure affixed to the ground, and not supported by a building, including signs supported by one or more columns, poles or braces placed in or upon the ground.

Frontage, Building. The length of an exterior building wall or structure of a single premise orientated to the public way or other properties that it faces.

Frontage, Street. The length of the property line(s) of any single premise along either a public way or other properties on which it borders.

Illuminated Sign. A sign characterized by the use of artificial light, either projecting through its surface(s) (internally illuminated); or reflecting off its surface(s) (externally illuminated).

Interior Sign. Any sign placed within a building, but not including "window signs" as defined by this ordinance. Interior signs, with the exception of window signs as defined, are not regulated by this chapter.

Mansard. An inclined decorative roof-like projection that is attached to an exterior building facade.

Marquee Sign. See "Canopy Sign".

Minor Sign. A wall or freestanding sign not exceeding three (3) square foot in area, not exceeding four feet in height, and not illuminated. Examples include not trespassing signs, displays of building address, security warning signs, parking signs, entrance/exit signs, and on-site directional signs.

Monument Sign. A "Freestanding Sign" having the appearance of a solid, rectangular or cylindrical base.

Multiple-Faced Sign. A sign containing three or more faces.

Nonconforming Sign. Any sign that was permitted under a previous regulation that presently does not conform to the requirements of this ordinance.

Off-Premise Sign. A sign which directs attention to a business, commodity, service, activity, or entertainment conducted, sold or offered on a parcel of land other than the one on which the sign is located.

On-Premise Sign. A sign erected, maintained or used in the outdoor environment for the purpose of the display of messages appurtenant to the use of, products sold on, or the sale or lease of, the property on which it is displayed.

Parapet. The extension of a building façade above the line of the structural roof.

Pennant. A sign made with flexible material, with or without lettering for design, usually suspended from one or two corners, and manufactured and placed for the purpose of attracting attention. Also referred to as a streamer.

Pole Sign. See "Freestanding sign."

Portable Sign. Any sign not permanently attached to the ground or to a building or building surface. For example an A-frame sign.

Projecting Sign. A sign other than a wall sign that is attached to or projects more than 15 inches from a building face or wall or from a structure whose primary purpose is other than the support of a sign.



Projecting/Hanging Sign

Revolving Sign. A sign that revolves 360 degrees about an axis. See also "Animated sign, mechanically activated."

Roof Line. The top edge of a peaked roof, or in the case of an extended façade or parapet, the uppermost point of said façade or parapet.

Roof Sign. A sign mounted on, and supported by, the main roof portion of a building, or above the uppermost edge of a parapet wall of a building and which is wholly or partially supported by such a building. Signs mounted on mansard facades, pent eaves and architectural projections such as canopies or marquees shall not be considered to be roof signs.



Roof Sign

Sign. Any object, device, display, or structure, or part thereof, visible from a public place, a public right-of-way, any parking area or right-of-way open to use by the general public, or any navigable body of water which is designed and used to attract attention to an institution, organization, business, product, service, event, or location by any means involving words, letters, figures, designs, symbols, fixtures, logos, colors, illumination, or projected images.

Sign Area. The entire area enclosing the extreme limits of writing, representation, pictorial elements, emblems, or a figure of similar character, together with all material, color, or lighting forming an integral part of the display or used to differentiate the Sign from the background against which it is placed.

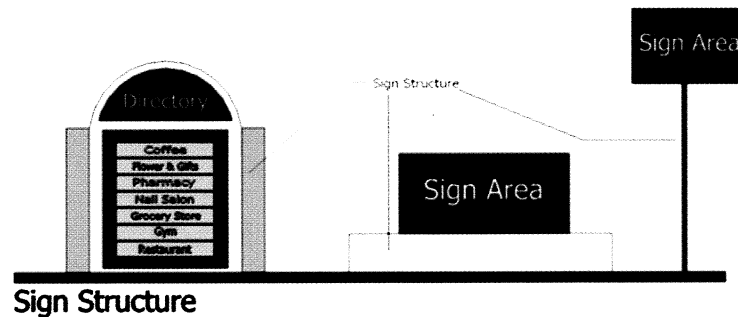
Sign Copy. Those letters, numerals, figures, symbols, logos and graphic elements comprising the content or message of a sign, exclusive of numerals identifying a street address only.

Sign Face. The particular area of the sign structure upon which a message, copy, or advertisement is displayed for viewing.

Sign Maintenance. To prevent through preservation, repair, or restoration, the development of any rust, corrosion, rot, chipping, peeling, or other deterioration in either the physical appearance or the safety of every sign.

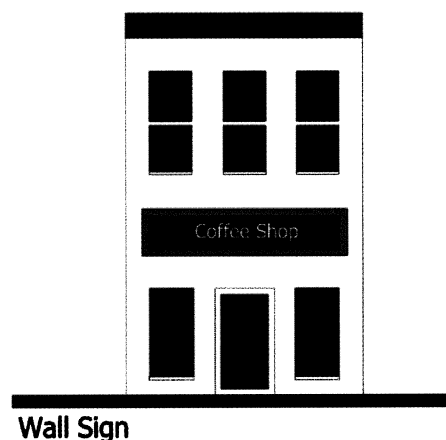
Sign Plan. A written document or drawing depicting proposed sign(s) placement, design, and quantity for the purpose of determining consistency and compatibility with the town.

Sign Structure. Any structure supporting a sign.



Temporary Sign. A sign designed or intended, based on materials and structural components, to be displayed for a specified or limited period of time, regardless of type or style of sign. Examples include real estate signs, yard sale signs, contractor's signs, and special or one-time event signs per year.

Wall Sign. A sign that is in any manner affixed to any exterior wall of a building or structure and that projects not more than 15 inches from the building or structure wall, including signs affixed to architectural projections from a building provided the copy area of such signs remains on a parallel plane to the face of the building facade or to the face or faces of the architectural projection to which it is affixed.



Window Sign. A sign affixed to the surface of a window with its message intended to be visible to and readable from the public way or from adjacent property; and

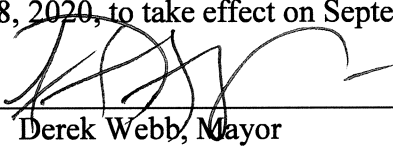
CERTIFICATE

Pursuant to Section 2-100 of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, I hereby certify that I have reviewed the foregoing proposed ordinance to amend Part II – Code, Appendix B-Zoning Ordinance, Article 21.-Signs, and find it to be in correct form, as set forth above, this ____ day of August, 2020.



Cameron Bell, Counsel

This ordinance was adopted on September 8, 2020, to take effect on September 8, 2020



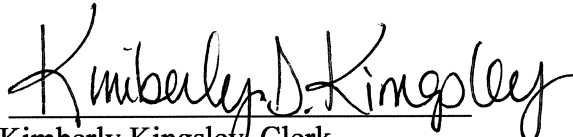
Derek Webb, Mayor

The undersigned Clerk of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia (the “Town”), hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of an ordinance duly adopted at a meeting of the Council held on September 8, 2020. I hereby certify that such meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing ordinance, a quorum was present. I further certify that the minutes of meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing ordinance, a quorum was present. I further certify that the minutes of such meeting reflect the attendance of the members and the voting on the foregoing ordinance was as follows:

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE	VOTE
Derek Webb, Mayor	Yes	Aye
Donna Quetsch, Vice Mayor	Absent	—
Amanda Pillion	Yes	Aye
James Anderson	Yes	Aye
Mike Owens	Yes	Aye

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Town of Abingdon on September 8, 2020.

(SEAL)



Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk