

**CITY OF ST. AUGUSTA  
STEARNS COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
ORDINANCE NO. 2013-06**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.02 AND SECTION 31 OF THE CITY OF ST.  
AUGUSTA'S ZONING CODE PERTAINING TO SIGNS**

---

**THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ST. AUGUSTA ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section One. Ordinance Amendment.** Section 2.02 and Section 31 of the City of St. Augusta's City Zoning Code pertaining to signs and definitions of various signs are hereby amended as follows. The double underlined text shows the additions and the ~~strike through text~~ shows the deletions. Renumbering and formatting will be updated accordingly as a result of the insertions and deletions.

**2.02 DEFINITIONS:** The following words and terms, whenever they occur in this Ordinance, are defined as follows:

Sign Related:

2. Advertising Sign: Any permanent non-governmental sign advertising products, services, commodities, entertainment or other activity not offered at the location of the sign or not exclusively related to the premises on which the sign is located. Billboards are a form of advertising sign.
  
20. Electronic Graphic Display Sign: A sign or portion thereof that displays electronic, static images, static graphics, or static pictures, with or without text information, defined by a small number of matrix elements using different combinations of light emitting diodes (LEDs), fiber optics, light bulbs, or other illumination devices within the display area where the message change sequence is accomplished immediately or by means of fading, re-pixelization, or dissolve modes. Electronic Graphic Display Signs include computer programmable, microprocessor controlled electronic or digital displays.
  
- ~~36-37.~~ Motion Sign: ~~Any sign which revolves, rotates, has moving parts, or gives illusion of motion. This includes any rotating, revolving, moving, flashing, blinking, or animated display and any display that incorporates rotating panels.~~
  
50. Pyrotechnics: Fireworks or similar devices used to ignite a combustible substance or produce an explosion.
  
65. Video Display Sign: A sign that changes its message or background in a manner or method of display characterized by motion or pictorial imagery, which may or may not include text, and depicts action or a special effect to imitate movement, the presentation of pictorials or graphics displayed in a progression of frames which give the illusion of motion, including but not limited to the illusion of moving objects, moving patterns or bands of light, or expanding

or contracting shapes. ~~Video display signs do not include electronic graphic display signs.~~ Video display signs **do not** include images or messages with these characteristics projected onto buildings or other objects.

### 31.03 EXEMPT AND PROHIBITED SIGNS:

B. Prohibited Signs: The following signs are prohibited:

1. Motion Signs and Flashing Signs: This includes any rotating, revolving, moving, flashing, blinking, or **animated display and** any display that incorporates rotating panels. ~~Except time and temperature signs depicting a constant message as contrasted to a moving message.~~
2. No private sign shall be erected that resembles any official marker or sign erected of a governmental agency or shall display such words as “stop” or “danger” unless so specified by this Ordinance or other City regulations.
3. Projecting Signs.
4. Roof Signs.
5. Expired Business Signs: Those signs which advertise an activity, business, product or service no longer produced or conducted on the premises upon which the sign is located shall be removed immediately upon termination of use. Where the owner or lessor of the premises is seeking a new tenant, such sign may remain in place for not more than thirty (30) days from the date of vacancy.
6. Advertising or Business Signs: Such signs on or attached to equipment such as semi-truck trailers where signing is a principal use of the equipment on either a temporary or permanent basis.
7. Signs containing audio speakers or any form of pyrotechnics.
8. ~~Video Display Signs.~~

### 31.05 GENERAL DISTRICT REGULATIONS:

C. Commercial/Business and Industrial Zoning Districts as defined by Section 50 of this Ordinance:

7. Message Signs: ~~Temporary message signs, not exceeding thirty two (32) square feet on each side may be allowed by temporary permit under the following provisions:~~
  - a. Temporary Message Signs. Temporary message signs, not exceeding thirty-two (32) square feet on each side may be allowed by temporary permit under the following provisions:
    - a: (1) Temporary Message signs may be illuminated, but flashing signs are prohibited.
    - b: (2) Temporary Electronic ~~changing message/reader boards~~ graphic display signs are prohibited.
    - e: (3) A temporary message sign permit shall be valid for a period of ten (10) days and no more than three (3) permits per property shall be granted during any twelve (12) month period.

~~(4)~~ In the case of a business center where two (2) or more uses are located within the same structure or upon the same parcel of land, that center shall be considered one property.

b. Electronic Graphic Display and Video Display Signs. Electronic graphic display and video display signs subject to the following provisions:

(1) Electronic graphic display and video display signs may occupy no more than thirty-five percent (35%) of the actual copy and graphic area of the sign as allowed and outlined in the Commercial/Business and Industrial Zoning Districts. The remainder of the sign must not have the capability to have dynamic displays or video displays even if not used. Only one contiguous electronic graphic display or video display area is allowed on a sign face.

(2) No part of the matrix elements of the display shall change more than once every ten (10) seconds, except one for which changes are necessary to correct hour and minute, date, or temperature information. Time, date, or temperature information is considered one dynamic display and may not be included as a component of any other dynamic display. A display of time, date, or temperature must remain for at least ten (10) seconds before changing to a different display, but the time, date, or temperature information itself may change no more often than once every three (3) seconds.

(3) Electronic graphic display signs shall have messages that change instantaneously, and do not fade, dissolve, blink, or appear to simulate motion in any way.

(4) The message displayed must be complete in themselves, without continuation in content to the next image or message or to any other sign.

(5) The matrix elements of the display shall be monochromatic in color.

(6) Each sign shall be located at least one hundred-fifty (150) feet from any other electronic graphic or video display sign as measured in a straight line from the base of the sign to the base of any other electronic graphic or video display sign.

(7) The sign must be designed and equipped to freeze the display in one position if a malfunction occurs. The displays must also be equipped with a means to immediately discontinue the display if it malfunctions, and the sign owner must immediately stop the display when notified by the city that it is not complying with the standards of this ordinance.

(8) Audio speakers or any form of pyrotechnics are prohibited in association with and electronic graphic display sign.

(9) No portion of any electronic graphic display sign may fluctuate in light intensity or use intermittent, strobe or moving light or light that changes in intensity in sudden transitory bursts, flashes, streams, zooms, twinkles, or sparkles, or in any manner that creates the illusion of movement.

**Section Two. Findings.** In amending Section 2.02 relating to definitions of signs and Section 31 relating to signs of the City Zoning Code to allow electronic graphic display signs in the Commercial/Business and Industrial Zoning Districts, the City Council of the City of St. Augusta has found that the amendment is required for a public good, is in the interest of public health, safety and welfare, and is compatible with the City's Comprehensive Plan.

**Section Three. Effective Date.** This Ordinance amendment shall be in full force and effect upon its publication as provided by law.

Passed by the City Council of the City of St. Augusta October 1, 2013.

CITY OF ST. AUGUSTA

By: \_\_\_\_\_

BJ Kroll, Mayor

Attest:

By: \_\_\_\_\_

William R. McCabe, Clerk/Administrator