

**CITY OF NORTHVILLE
ZONING ORDINANCE
ORDINANCE NO. _____**

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NORTHVILLE TO PROHIBIT ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE COPY SIGNS IN THE CITY.

Section 1. The City of Northville Ordains

Chapter 58-1 “Zoning” in the Code of Ordinances of the City of Northville is hereby amended by adding the following described text revisions.

Section 2. Modify the following articles (**additions are underlined, deletions are ~~struck-thru~~**).

[Modify Article 21 SIGNS]

SECTION 21.01 SIGN REGULATIONS

b. Definitions.

The following words and phrases shall have the meaning set forth in this section when they are used in this Chapter. Graphic examples of selected signs and regulations are attached as an appendix.

(9) Electronic Changeable Copy Sign or Digital Message Center. A sign or portion thereof that displays changeable, electronic alphanumeric characters, graphics, or symbols using light emitting diodes (LEDs), fiber optics, light bulbs or other illumination devices within the display area. Electronic changeable copy/digital message centers include computer programmable, microprocessor controlled electronic displays. Electronic changeable copy signs/digital message centers include projected images or messages with these characteristics onto buildings or objects.

~~1314~~ Sign - A name, identification, description, display, light, balloon, banner, photo or illustration which is affixed to, or painted, or otherwise located or set upon or in a building, structure or piece of land and which directs attention to an object, product, place, activity, person, institution, organization or business and which, is visible from any public streets, sidewalk, alley, park or public property. The definition includes interior and exterior signs but not signs primarily directed at persons within the premises of the sign owners. The definition does not include goods displayed in a business window. The definition does not include religious symbols or paintings which do not display lettering and do not advertise a business, product or service. (Rev. 7/09)

- (a) Freestanding Sign – A sign which is attached to or part of a completely self-supporting structure. The supporting structure shall be placed on or below the ground surface and not attached to any building or any other structure whether portable or stationary.
- (b) Internally Illuminated Sign – A sign that provides artificial light directly on the interior of or through any transparent or translucent material from a source of light connected with or integral to such sign. Examples of internally illuminated signs for purposes of this ordinance include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1. Static L.E.D. (Light Emitting Diode) signs and displays that do not have a changeable copy display, such as an “open” sign.
 - ~~2. Electronic changeable copy signs and digital message centers~~
 - ~~3~~1. Signs made up of a frame fitted with translucent panels and a light source that shines from inside the frame through the panels.
 - ~~4~~2. Channel letters (generally mounted on a flat surface) that are illuminated from behind the letters so that the light either shines through translucent letters or creates a halo around the letters on the mounting surface. (Rev. 9/14)

d. General Conditions.

2) Illumination.

- (a) It is strongly recommended that all signs with internal illumination, including manual changeable message signs, provide a dark background with lighter colored message units. An internally lit sign with white background will generally exceed the maximum allowable brightness. (Rev. 7/09)
- (b) Internal illumination shall not be permitted for any sign located within the Historic District except window signs indicating the “open” status of the business as allowed within this Ordinance. (Rev. 9/14)
- (c) No sign shall be illuminated by other than electrical means and all wiring shall satisfy City Electrical Codes.
- (d) The light from illuminated signs shall be shielded at its source in a manner that will not shine light on adjacent properties or onto abutting public streets.

- (e) Flashing, rotating, intermittent or moving lights shall be prohibited, ~~except for time and temperature signs.~~
 - (f) No portion of the sign ~~or changeable message sign~~ shall have a luminance greater than fifteen (15) foot candles measured at four (4) feet perpendicular to any surface. (Rev.7/09)
 - (g) All non-security oriented sign illumination shall be turned off by 10:00 PM or at the close of business, whichever is later.
 - (h) All lighting fixtures or light sources for lighted signs including lighted awnings and canopies shall be positioned and/or shaded so that the light source is not visible from normal pedestrian perspectives, adjacent properties or the public right-of-way.
- 6) Signs Prohibited in All Districts. Signs that are not specifically listed as permitted signs are prohibited. Examples of such signs include but are not limited to the following:
- (a) Roof signs.
 - (b) Signs containing flashing, intermittent or moving lights or with moving or revolving parts. ~~This provision is not intended to exclude those signs which give the time or temperature, provided no other animated messages are displayed.~~ (Rev. 9/14/18)
 - (i) In the case of a sign as described above located in the Historic District, the Historic District Commission may approve such sign upon a determination that:
 1. The sign is historically appropriate for the business it is intended to serve; and
 2. ~~The sign is~~If historically appropriate for the business, the flashing or moving aspect of said sign is required to maintain the historic authenticity of said sign, either as a restored sign or an accurate reproduction.
 3. This exception by the HDC as described above does not apply to L.E.D. (Light Emitting Diode) signs, electronic changeable copy signs, digital message centers, channel letters, and similar modern signs. (Note that the HDC may permit a static internally illuminated window sign that communicates the “open” status of a business, as described in section h.2 Permitted Window Signs) below.) (Rev. 9/14/18)

- (c) Electronic changeable copy signs, and digital message centers. (Rev. 3/18)
- (ed) Signs affixed to trees, rocks, shrubs or similar natural features, provided, signs denoting a site of historic significance may be allowed.
- (de) Signs which imitate traffic signals, traffic direction signs, or similar traffic control devices.
- (ef) Temporary signs mounted upon stationary trucks, vans, or other wheeled devices. Signs permanently painted on, or otherwise displayed upon a vehicle, licensed and operating on the public streets and highways, identifying the owner's occupation or livelihood, shall be permitted.
- (fg) Advertising devices such as banners, balloons, flags, pennants, pinwheels, searchlights, or other devices with similar characteristics.
- (gh) Signs in the public right of way or on public property shall be prohibited, unless specifically approved by City Council or unless approved in accordance with this section.
- (hi) Any sign or sign structure which:
- (i) is structurally unsafe, or
 - (ii) constitutes a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation or abandonment, or
 - (iii) is not kept in good repair, or
 - (iv) is capable of causing electrical shocks to persons likely to come in contact with it.
- (ij) Signs which make use of words such as “Stop”, “Look”, “Danger”, or any other words, phrases, symbols or characters, in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.
- (jk) Any sign or other advertising structure containing any obscene, indecent or immoral matter.
- (kl) Any sign unlawfully installed, erected or maintained.

Section 3. Rights and Duties

Rights and duties which have matured, penalties which have incurred, proceedings which have begun and prosecution for violations of law occurring before the effective date of this ordinance are not affected or abated by this ordinance.

Section 4. Validity

Should any section, clause or paragraph of this ordinance be declared by a Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same will not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole or part therefore, other than the part declared invalid.

Section 5. Ordinances Repealed

All other ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance are to the extent of such inconsistencies hereby repealed

Section 6. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective on the 8th day following publication.

The foregoing ordinance amendment was adopted at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Northville, Oakland and Wayne Counties, Michigan, held on _____ at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Northville Municipal Building, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167.

Ken Roth, Mayor
City of Northville

Dianne Massa, City Clerk
City of Northville

The undersigned certifies foregoing ordinance was:

Introduced: _____
Enacted: _____
Published: _____
Effective: _____

By a vote of _____

Dianne Massa, City Clerk