

**CITY OF GRANITE FALLS**

**ORDINANCE NO. 779-09**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 740-07 § 1 (IN PART) AND SECTION 19.6.040, SIGN REGULATIONS, OF THE GRANITE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE – UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT CODE, AND REPEALING CHAPTER 19.56 OF THE GRANITE FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO SIGN REGULATIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, signs perform functions that are important for public safety and general welfare including communicating messages and supporting business and community vitality by providing information about goods and services and directing citizens and visitors; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that the number, size, design, characteristics, and location of signs within the City directly affects the public safety and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that it is important to maintain, enhance, and improve the aesthetic environment of the City by preventing visual clutter that is harmful to the appearance of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that unregulated signs may distract from the historic and scenic character of the City of Granite Falls; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Planning Staff and Sign Committee have, on numerous occasions over the past year, reviewed, considered, and discussed proposed revisions to the current Sign Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, on February 2, 2009, the Granite Falls Planning Commission held a Workshop relating to proposed revisions to the Sign Regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 5, 2009, a Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) was issued by the City's SEPA official; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2009, the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing regarding proposed revisions to the Sign Regulations and subsequently provided recommendations to the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 22, 2009, the City Council held a workshop to review and consider the proposed Sign Regulation revisions and the recommendations from the Planning Commission;

**WHEREAS**, on May 6, 2009, the City Council held a Public Hearing regarding proposed revisions to the Sign Regulation revisions and the recommendations from the Public and the Planning Commission;

**WHEREAS**, on May 11, 2009, the City Council held a second Workshop to review and consider the proposed Sign Regulation revisions and the recommendations from the Planning Commission;

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRANITE FALLS, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**Section 1:** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 740-07 § 1 (in part) and Section 19.6.040, Sign Regulation Ordinance, of the Granite Falls Municipal Code – Unified Development Code are hereby amended to read as follows:

**19.6.010 SIGN REGULATIONS:**

**A. PURPOSE:**

A sign permit is a Type 1 permit which is administratively approved by the Designated Official (please see definition in the front of the Unified Development Code).

The purpose of this ordinance is to preserve and maintain the quality and unique historic character of the city. It is to promote and protect the public welfare, health, safety, and aesthetics by regulating existing and proposed signs.

The City of Granite Falls believes it is important to encourage business owners to advertise their businesses, products and/or services to potential customers in an effective and appropriate manner that helps the businesses to thrive.

It is also recognized that unregulated signing within the City may result in the following problems: accidents resulting from visual confusion between advertising and traffic control signs; the collapse of improperly constructed signs; distracting demand for attention which may cause accidents and be injurious to health, creation of urban blight, destruction of natural beauty and loss of property values.

The intent of this Ordinance is to regulate the number, size, location, height, illumination, character, and other pertinent features of signs, in order to provide adequate identification and advertising for business, and access to advertising signage in a manner that

will promote for fair economic competition and at the same time protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the City.

**DEFINITIONS:**

1. "Advertising vehicle" means any vehicle or trailer on a public right-of-way or public property or on private property so as to be visible from a public right-of-way which has attached thereto, or located thereon any sign or advertising device for the basic purpose of providing advertisement or products or directing people to a business activity located on the same property or nearby property or any other premises. The vehicle must be used primarily for the purpose of advertising, as opposed to serving some other function such as delivery of goods or services or transport.
2. "Air-supported structure" means an air-supported or inflated object with or without cable supports and braces intended to attract attention to the location, event or promotion.
3. "Area or surface area of sign" means the greatest area of a sign, visible from any one viewpoint, excluding the sign support structures, which do not form part of the sign proper or of the display. Surface area shall be measured as follows:
  - a. The "surface area" of the sign is determined by the height times the width of a typical rectangular sign, or other appropriate mathematical computation of surface area, for nonrectangular signs.
  - b. For identical multiple sided signs, only one face shall be included in the area calculation.
4. "Awning" means a roof-like cover which projects from the wall of a building for the purpose of shielding the door, window or pedestrians from the elements.
5. "Billboard" generally means a sign that directs attention to a business, commodity, service or entertainment conducted, sold or offered at a location other than the premises on which the sign is located.
6. "Canopy" means a freestanding structure affording protection from the elements to persons or property there under.
7. "Designated Official" means the City of Granite Falls Designated Official of the community development department or appointed designee.
8. "Display" means the visual information shown on a sign, including the text, graphics, logo, pictures, lights and background.

9. "Display area" means the greatest area of display meant to contain the text, graphics; pictures, lights and other background details to be viewed as signage. Display area shall be measured as the smallest rectangle placed around all that composes the display area. On no sign shall the display area be less than fifty percent of the surface area of the sign.
  - a. "Display area" includes only one face of a double-faced sign where the faces of the sign are parallel. If any face is offset from parallel or separated by more than two feet, such face shall be counted as a separate surface area.
  - b. "Display area" of a spherical, cubical or polyhedral sign equals the sum of the surface area of all faces, divided by two.
10. "Facade" means the exterior wall face of a building, extending from the ground to the top of the parapet or eaves, but not including any portion of the roof. Each side of a building (i.e., each architectural elevation) is considered one facade.
11. "Festoon(s)" means a strip or string of balloons, flags or lights, which includes clusters of balloons, flags or lights, connected on at least one end to a fixed or movable object such as a vehicle.
12. "Frontage" means the linear distance of property along a street or highway, excluding alleys.
13. "Frontage, building" means that part of a building or structure considered to be the face of a building with a principal access to a business or businesses.
14. "Grade (ground level)" means the finished level of the street (or parking lot) closest to the sign to which reference is made. In cases where the property on which the sign is located is lower than the immediately adjacent street level, the ground level shall be considered the street level as measured from the street centerline, so as to facilitate visibility of signage.
15. "Height of sign" means the vertical distance from the grade to the highest point of a sign or any vertical projection thereof, including its supporting columns, or the vertical distance from the relative grade in the immediate vicinity.
16. "Holographic display" means any display that creates a three-dimensional image through projection.
17. "Inflatable object" means any inflatable object larger than three feet in diameter, such as a blimp, large balloon, or

- inflatable sport equipment, used to attract attention to a business, special event or activity.
18. "Maintenance" means the work of keeping something in a suitable condition such as repair would accomplish.
  19. "Marquee" means a permanent roof-like structure projecting horizontally from and attached to a building, affording protection from the elements to persons and property there under.
  20. "Message" means a set of sequential displays that conveys related information about a product, service or company in an electronic sign.
  21. "Multiple building complexes" means a group of structures housing more than one type of retail business, office, commercial or manufacturing venture and generally under one ownership and control.
  22. "Multiple occupancy building" means a single structure housing more than one type of retail business, office, commercial, or manufacturing venture.
  23. "Mural" means a large painting or decoration, either painted directly on the wall, or prepared separately and attached to the wall.
  24. "Noncommercial public service sign" means noncommercial signs devoted to religious, charitable, cultural, governmental or educational messages.
  25. "Parapet" means that portion of a building wall and/or facade, which extends above the roof of the building.
  26. "Porte cochere" means a covering structure projecting horizontally from and attached to a building, affording protection from the elements; typically used for loading and unloading of vehicles.
  27. "Property line" means the line denoting the limits of legal ownership of the property.
  28. "Reader board" means a sign or part of a sign on which the letters are replaceable by manual means such as changing magnetic letters on a signboard.
  29. "Repair" means to paint, clean or replace damaged parts of a sign, or to improve its structural strength, but not in a manner that would change the size, shape or location.
  30. "Scrolling" means the vertical movement of a static message or display on an electronic sign.

31. "Searchlight" means any device emitting a strong beam of light not normally associated with the daily operation or outdoor lighting of the business or location, used to attract attention to the site.
32. "Sign" means all surfaces/structures (permitted, exempt or prohibited) regulated by this chapter that have letters, figures, design, symbols, trademark or devices intended to attract attention to any activity, service, place, subject, person, firm, corporation, public performance, article, machine or merchandise whatsoever.
33. "Sign, address" means any sign of a noncommercial nature stating the address of the structure upon which said sign is located.
34. "Sign, awning" means any sign erected upon or against an awning.
35. "Sign, banner" means a sign of nonpermanent nature constructed of non-rigid materials.
36. "Sign, building-mounted" means a single- or multiple-faced sign of a permanent nature, made of rigid material, attached to or painted upon the wall/facade of a building or the face of a marquee in such a manner that the wall/facade becomes the supporting structure and forms the background surface of the sign and does not project more than 18 inches from such wall/facade.
37. "Sign, cabinet" generally means an internally illuminated sign in which a removable sign face (typically with translucent graphics) is enclosed on all edges by a metal cabinet. A cabinet sign may be multi-sided.
38. "Sign, canopy" means any sign erected upon or against a canopy.
39. "Sign, changeable message" means any sign capable of changing the message by means of manual methods.
40. "Sign, construction" means an informational sign, which identifies the architects, engineers, contractors and other individuals or firms involved with the construction of a building, which is erected during the construction period.
41. "Sign, Directory" means a sign listing the tenants or occupants of a building or group of buildings and that may indicate their respective professions or business activities.
42. "Sign, electronic" means a sign containing a display that can be changed by electrical, electronic or computerized process, not including video signs.

43. "Sign face" means each side of a free standing sign or the visible side of a wall sign. The sign face includes all of the sign except support structures.
44. "Sign, flashing" means a sign or a portion thereof which changes light intensity or switches on and off in a constant, random or irregular pattern or contains motion or the optical illusion of motion by use of electrical energy.
45. "Sign, freestanding" means a sign permanently mounted into the ground, supported by poles, pylons, braces or a solid base and not attached to any building. Freestanding signs including those signs otherwise known as "pedestal signs," "pole signs," "pylon signs," and "monument signs."
46. "Sign, illegal" means any sign which was never legally permitted and does not comply with the requirements of this code within the city limits, as they now or hereafter exist.
47. "Sign, informational" means small signs, not exceeding six square feet in surface area, of a noncommercial nature, and not announcing the name of the business or use, intended primarily for the convenience of the public. Included are signs designating restrooms, address numbers, hours of operation, entrances to buildings, directions, help wanted, public telephone, parking directions and the like.
48. "Sign, legal nonconforming" means any sign erected prior to the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter pursuant to a city sign permit, not meeting the parameters of this chapter.
49. "Sign, marquee" means any sign that forms part of or is integrated into a marquee and that does not extend above the height or beyond the limits of such marquee, also considered an extension of a building mounted sign.
50. "Sign, monument" means a ground-mounted, freestanding sign where the base is attached to the ground as a wide base of solid construction and no part of the sign is wider than the base.
51. "Sign, mural" means a mural, as described in subsection (23) of this section, containing signage, as described in subsection (32) of this section.
52. "Sign, off-premises" means a sign which displays a message relating to a use of property or sale of goods or services at a location other than that on which the sign is located.
53. "Sign, on-premises" means a sign which displays a message that is directly related to the use of the property on which it is

located. Including those freestanding signs approved under a master sign site plan.

54. "Sign, parapet" means any sign erected upon the parapet of a building, not to exceed the height of said parapet.
55. "Sign, political" means a sign advertising a candidate or candidates for public elective office, or a political party, or signs urging a particular vote on a public issue decided by ballot.
56. "Sign, portable" means a sign which has no permanent attachment to a building or the ground, including A-frame signs, sandwich board signs, pole attachments, and signs mounted on a mobile base, but not including real estate open house and political signs or portable reader board signs as prohibited.
57. "Sign(s), primary" means all permitted monument/freestanding and building-mounted signs.
58. "Sign, projecting" means a sign other than a wall sign, which projects from and is supported by a wall of a building or structure.
59. "Sign, real estate" means a sign that pertains to the sale or lease of the premises, or a portion of the premises on which the sign is located.
60. "Sign, roof" means any sign erected above a roof, parapet, canopy, porte cochere of a building or structure, including a sign affixed to any structure erected upon a roof, including a structure housing building equipment.
61. "Sign, snipe" means an off-premises sign which is tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued or otherwise attached to trees, poles, stakes, fences, utility poles or to other objects, not applicable to the present use of the premises or structure upon which the sign is located.
62. "Sign, subdivision" means a sign used to identify a land development of a residential nature.
63. "Sign, suspended" means a sign hanging down from a marquee, awning, canopy or porte cochere that would exist without the sign.
64. "Sign, temporary" means a nonpermanent sign intended for use for a limited period of time. Types of temporary signs are: construction, banner, inflatable, real estate and political signs.

65. "Sign, trailer" means a sign which is attached to a trailer or has been constructed as a trailer for the purpose of being towed by a motor vehicle whether operable or not.
66. "Sign, wall" (See subsection (36) of this section, "Building-mounted sign" definition.)
67. "Sign, window" means all signs located inside and affixed to or within three feet of a window of a building, whether temporary or permanent, lighted or unlighted, including electronic signs, which may be viewed from the exterior of the building. The term does not include merchandise located within three feet of a window.
68. "Sign, video" means video devices such as televisions, computer monitors, flat panel displays, plasma screens, and similar video electronics used as signage.
69. "Single occupancy building" means a commercial or industrial building or structure with one major enterprise. A building is classified as "single occupancy" only if:
  - a. It has only one occupant;
  - b. It has no wall in common with another building; and
  - c. It has no part of its roof in common with another building.
70. "Traveling" means the horizontal, side-to-side movement of a static or dynamic message or display on an electronic sign.

**B. GENERAL:**

This section shall govern all regulations not identified in subsequent sections.

1. All signage used per site or tenant shall be counted towards the total allowed for the site or tenant maximum unless otherwise exempted.
2. Wall Sign Location. No wall sign shall project more than eighteen inches from the wall of a building, nor extend above the eave or deck line of the building upon which it is located; except those located upon parapet walls, wherein they may be located above the deck line but not above the height of the parapet wall.

**C. RESIDENTIAL:**

This section shall govern signage in the Rural 2.3 (R-2.3), Residential 9,600 (R-9,600), Residential 7,200 (R-7,200), Downtown Residential (DT-2,500), Multiple Residential (MR) Residential Zoning districts.

1. Address signs must comply with the fire and postal code requirements and shall not count towards the maximum number or size requirements.
2. One of the following is allowed for each multi-family development of six or more units:
  - a. Freestanding Signs. Applicable to multi-family properties containing six or more dwelling units, identifying the name of the development.
    - (i) Size. Surface area shall not exceed 32 square feet per face.
    - (ii) Location. Subdivision and/or multifamily complex identification signs are to be located at the public entrance from a right-of-way.
    - (iii) Setback. Setback to be a five-foot minimum setback from all property lines.
    - (iv) Height (Maximum). Shall not exceed ten feet in height.
    - (v) Number Permitted. One per public entrance.
  - b. Wall Signs. Applicable to multifamily properties containing four or more dwelling units. Not to include building number identification.
    - (i) Size. Sign surface area shall not exceed 30 square feet.
    - (ii) Number Permitted. One per site.
3. Home Occupation Signs.
  - a. Size. Surface area shall not exceed four square feet per face for a total of eight square feet for all signage including wall mounted, free standing and suspended signs.
  - b. Location. Individual dwelling unit identification signs are to be located on the wall of a dwelling unit, next to the primary entrance or in the window.
  - c. Freestanding, applicable to single-family residential only; one sign not to exceed five feet in height, and four square feet per face. Setback shall be a minimum of five feet from all property lines.
  - d. Suspended Signs. One suspended sign per residence, not to exceed four square feet.

4. Signs – other, such as would identify a residence or state a political opinion or view. Shall not include signs otherwise referenced in this chapter, and shall not include off-premises commercial advertising, home occupations or signs otherwise regulated or exempted by this chapter.
  - a. Size. Shall not exceed 12 square feet in area.
  - b. Location. Freestanding signs shall be located at least five feet from all property lines. Wall signs shall not be located on or above the roof.
5. Nonresidential Uses. Nonresidential uses permitted, conditionally permitted or accessory in residential zoning districts shall follow subsections (3) and (4) of this section.

D. PUBLIC OWNERSHIP ZONE:

This section shall govern signage in the Schools, Parks and miscellaneous within the Public Ownership Zone.

1. Residential developments in this zoning district shall follow the residential criteria.
2. Signage Calculation. The lesser of one-half square foot of signage, per one lineal foot of property frontage; or one square foot of signage, per one lineal foot of building frontage.
3. Site Signage Maximum. Not to exceed 250 square feet per site.
4. Freestanding Signs.
  - a. Size. Surface area shall not exceed 100 square feet per sign face.
  - b. Setback. Setback shall be a minimum of five feet from all property lines.
  - c. Height (Maximum). Shall not exceed 25 feet in height.
  - d. Number Permitted. One per site, with the following exception:
    - (i) Parcels with more than 300 lineal feet of frontage are granted one additional freestanding sign; provided, that they are located more than 200 lineal feet apart as measured by a straight line, not to exceed two per site.

E. GENERAL COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL RETAIL, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL AND INDUSTRIAL:

This section shall govern signage in the GC, IR, LI and I zoning districts.

1. Residential uses in the GC, IR, LI and I zoning districts shall follow the residential criteria.
2. A single occupancy building within this zone, regardless of size, has the right to a minimum sign area of 40 square feet.
3. Single Occupancy Building.
  - a. Signage Calculation. Two square feet of signage per lineal foot of building frontage.
  - b. Site Signage Base Maximum. Shall not exceed 250 square feet per site.
4. Multiple Occupancy Building.
  - a. Signage Calculation. Two square feet of signage per lineal foot of building frontage.
  - b. Site Signage Base Maximum. Shall not exceed 250 square feet per site with the following exceptions:
  - c. Signage Increase Above Base Maximum. For each additional tenant with an active business license to do business at that address, the maximum allowable signage increases an additional 32 square feet per tenant, but shall not exceed 378 square feet (Multiple Tenant Maximum).
    - (i) Newly created tenant spaces shall be allowed one tenant identity wall sign located above that particular tenant's entry, shall not exceed twelve square feet.
  - d. If the site has reached the multiple tenant maximum and additional tenants are added then the building is allowed directory signs in accordance with Section H.5.a of this code.
5. Freestanding Signs.
  - a. Surface Maximum (Single Occupancy Building). Shall not exceed 100 square feet per sign face.
  - b. Surface Maximum (Multiple Occupancy Building). Shall not exceed 100 square feet per sign face.
  - c. Setback. Setback shall be a minimum of five feet from all property lines.
  - d. Height (Maximum). Shall not exceed 35 feet in height.

e. Number Permitted. One per site, with the following exceptions:

- (i) Parcels with more than 400 lineal feet of street frontage shall be granted one additional freestanding sign; provided, that they are located more than 200 lineal feet apart as measured by a straight line for a total of no more than two per site.

6. Site Signage Maximum Increase. If the site is permitted one additional freestanding sign, the site is granted 60 additional square feet of signage above the base or multiple tenant maximum to be applied towards a freestanding sign or wall sign. Site signage shall not exceed 310 square feet for single occupancy buildings or 438 square feet for multiple occupancy buildings.

F. CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD):

This section shall govern signage in the CBD zoning district.

1. Residential uses in the central business district zoning district shall follow the residential criteria.
2. A single occupancy building within this zone, regardless of size, has the right to a minimum sign area of 32 square feet.
3. Signage Calculation. Two square feet of signage per lineal foot of building frontage.
4. Site Signage Base Maximum (Single Occupancy Building). Shall not exceed 150 square feet of signage per site.
5. Site Signage Base Maximum (Multiple Occupancy Building). Shall not exceed 150 square feet of signage per site with the following exceptions:
  - a. Signage Increase Above Base Maximum. For each additional tenant after the first tenant, the maximum allowable signage increases an additional 20 square feet per tenant, shall not exceed 230 square feet for the entire site (Multiple Tenant Maximum)..
  - b. If the site has reached the base or multiple tenant maximum if new tenant spaces are created then the building is allowed directory signs in accordance with H.5.a and G.7.

6. Corner Lot. Parcels with frontage on two or more public rights-of-way shall be granted an additional 40 square feet of signage above the base or multiple tenant maximum.
7. Multiple Occupancy Buildings. Multiple occupancy buildings with shared public entrances are allowed one directory sign per street frontage with a public entrance, located on the wall of the building next to the entrance, Shall not exceed six square feet in surface area. Shall not count against base or multiple tenant maximum if adhering to this provision.
8. Freestanding Signs.
  - a. Surface Maximum (Single Occupancy Building). Shall not exceed 50 square feet per sign face.
  - b. Surface Maximum (Multiple Occupancy Building). Shall not exceed 80 square feet per sign face.
  - c. Setback. No minimum setback from property lines is required; provided, that the designated official approves visibility.
  - d. Height (Maximum). Shall not exceed 25 feet in height.
  - e. Number Permitted. One per site, with the following exception:
    - (i) Parcels with more than one street frontage shall be granted one additional freestanding sign; provided, that they are not located on the same frontage.
9. If a parcel of land in the CBD is 15,000 square feet or larger and has a street frontage of 135 lineal feet or greater, then the GC signage allotment (section E) applies, with the exception that freestanding signs shall conform to the height limit in the CBD.
10. Location.
  - a. The sidewalks and corners at the intersection of Stanley Street and Granite Avenue shall remain clear of all signs with the exception of non-profit organization directional sandwich boards or signs as approved by the Designated Official.
  - b. Signs shall not be located on, or at an elevation above, the ridge of the roof or the top of the roof deck.
  - c. Signs shall be positioned to complement the architecture of the building on which they are

located. Signs shall not interrupt or overlap architectural features such as cornices, columns, trim and windows, excluding interior applied window signs.

- d. Signs shall not extend beyond the wall on which they are located; excluding approved projecting signs as referenced in Section I.

**G. MASTER SIGN SITE PLAN:**

This section shall govern master sign site plans in the CBD, GC, IR, LI, and I zoning districts and is not applicable to Residential uses. Signs posted under the authority of this section shall not be considered in violation of the off-premises section provided, that any such sign satisfies all other applicable requirements of this chapter.

1. Purpose. The purpose of this section is to establish binding master sign site plans for multi-occupancy buildings, multi-building complexes or properties under common ownership and/or control, in order to establish consistent sign design, location and materials and to allow for certain signage bonuses as set forth below.
2. Applicability. All development permits for multi-occupancy buildings, multi-building complexes and commonly developed properties sharing common access points and adjacent to one another, approved after the effective date of the ordinance codified in this chapter shall submit a master sign site plan to the Designated Official for approval.
3. Submittal Requirements. Master sign site plan applications shall include the following documents in addition to the sign permit submittal requirements set forth by the City of Granite Falls Planning Department:
  - a. A master site plan drawn to scale delineating the site and areas of future phased development proposed to be included within the master sign plan and the general location of all proposed signs. All lot lines shall be dimensioned.
  - b. Scaled drawings or sketches indicating the exterior surface details including the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the façade(s) of all buildings on the site on which signs are proposed.
  - c. Scaled drawings or sketches of all proposed freestanding signs including directional and directory signs. If possible provide product

drawings and specifications from sign manufacturer

- d. A schedule showing the total allowed signage on the site in accordance with the underlying zoning and applicable section of the sign code.
  - e. A narrative explaining how the proposal constitutes exceptional effort towards creating a consistent design theme by way of color, materials, types and locations of signs.
4. Exemptions. The following exemptions may be permitted under an approved master sign site plan:
- a. Directory signs not legible from the public right-of-way and not exceeding six feet in height and 24 square feet in surface area. No more than two directory signs shall be permitted under this exemption and must comply with H.5.a and G.7.
  - b. The development identity name, not of a commercial nature or identifying an exclusive tenant of the development. The development identity name may be permitted on approved freestanding signs or a maximum of two monument signs used exclusively for the development identity name and address. The surface area of the development identity name sign is not to exceed 20 square feet in surface area. This exemption shall not increase the maximum sign face area permitted for any freestanding sign.
5. Transfer. The maximum determined signage for the development may be transferred from one tenant and/or parcel to another within the site.
6. Freestanding. Freestanding signs shall be permitted in accordance with the regulations specific to the underlying zoning district. Businesses within the master sign site plan may co-locate on approved freestanding signs.
7. Approval and Modification. The Designated Official shall approve a master sign site plan and subsequent modifications. Any deviation from the approved master sign site plan such as additional signage, relocating signs, replacement signs and other modifications not including tenant name changes shall require modifying and updating the approved master sign site plan on file at the city.

#### H. PORTABLE SIGNS:

This section shall govern portable signage as described in the CBD, GC, IR, LI and I zoning districts.

1. Not Permitted. Portable signs are not permitted in any zoning districts other than those listed under H above, excluding off-premises directional signs.
2. Residential uses are not allowed portable signs, including those operating with a home occupation business license.
3. Size. Shall not exceed two feet in width and three feet in height.
4. Attachment. Not to be permanently affixed to the ground.
5. Location. Shall meet the following requirements:
  - a. Shall be located on the premises for which it is advertising, in the location specified under the approved permit. Not to be located in the public right-of-way. Not to be located in required parking areas, affixed to or covering required landscaping such as bushes or shrubs.
  - b. Shall not interfere with pedestrian movement, nor impede the vision or block the movement of motorists on private or public rights-of-way.
  - c. Portable signs in the central business district may be located on the public sidewalk directly in front of the sponsoring business; provided in a manner they not impede pedestrian movement. Additionally, the location requirements codified at subsection (5)(b) of this section and the permit requirements found in subsection (5)(h) of this section must be satisfied.
  - d. Duration. To be displayed during business hours only.
  - e. Number. One per business and a maximum three per building.
  - f. Illumination. Not permitted.
  - g. Construction. Portable signs shall be constructed of a durable, rigid, all-weather materials (i.e., plywood, plastic, etc.) so as not to lose their structural integrity in inclement weather. Sign must be of a sufficient weight and stature to ensure that it will remain in place during high winds.
  - h. Owners of portable signs shall be required to keep their signs legible and well maintained.

I. PROJECTING SIGNS:

This section shall govern projecting signage in the CBD, GC, IR, LI, and I zoning districts.

1. Residential uses are not allowed projecting signs, including those operating with a home occupation business license.
2. Size. Shall not exceed five feet in horizontal projection and 20 square feet total.
3. Clearance. Minimum nine feet of vertical clearance from grade or sidewalk.
4. Projection from Building Wall. Shall not project more than five feet from building wall with the leading edge. Interior edge not to project more than six inches from the building wall.
5. Projection over Right-of-Way. Only those projecting signs located in the Central Business District may be permitted to project into the public right-of-way, provided they meet all requirements relating to traffic, construction, safety and size.
6. Additional Permit Requirements. When deemed necessary due to safety concerns, those projecting signs located in the Central Business District zoning district, over the public right-of-way, shall require the applicant to provide the city with a letter of indemnification appropriate to the city attorney, holding the city harmless for loss or injury resulting from the sign.

J. SUSPENDED SIGNS:

This section shall govern suspended signage as described in CBD, GC, IR, LI, and I zoning districts.

1. Residential uses are allowed one suspended sign, including those operating with a home occupation business license, not to exceed four square feet.
2. Size. Shall not exceed ten square feet in surface area.
3. Clearance. Minimum nine feet of vertical clearance from grade or sidewalk. Sign shall not be suspended more than one foot below the attachment point.
4. Location over Public Sidewalk. Only those suspended signs located in the Central Business District may be permitted to suspend over the public sidewalk, provided they meet all requirements relating to traffic, construction, safety and size and are attached to an approved awning, canopy, marquee or porte cochere.

5. Additional Permit Requirements. When deemed necessary due to safety concerns, those suspended signs located in the Central Business District, over the public right-of-way, shall require the applicant to provide the city with a letter of indemnification appropriate to the city attorney, holding the city harmless for loss or injury resulting from the sign.

K. WINDOW SIGNS:

This section shall govern window signage as described in CBD, GC, IR, LI, and I, zoning districts.

1. Residential uses are not allowed window signs for commercial purposes, including those operating with a home occupation business license.
2. Window signs shall follow the requirements listed below and shall be considered exempt from being calculated as part of the total allotted sign area:
  - a. Total area of window signage shall not exceed one third (33 percent) of the window, as measured as the length times the width of the windowpane.
  - b. Window signage area may not be transferred from one window to another.
  - c. Glass doors should not exceed 20% coverage.
3. Lighted window signs are allowed in all zones, except any Residential zone, including those operating with a home occupation business license.
4. Electronic window signs, open/closed signs, and business identification and product services are allowed to be on 24 hours a day.
5. Number Permitted.
  - a. A total of three lighted signs, one open/closed/hours plus two lighted signs identifying the business, service or products, shall be the maximum allowed, per tenant space, except as stated in Part O.7.c (i).
6. Size Allowed.
  - a. Any lighted window signs including electronic signs are allowed three square feet each and are not counted toward total signage allowed.

L. ROOF SIGNS:

This section shall govern roof signage as described in CBD, GC, IR, LI, and I zoning districts.

1. Residential uses are not allowed roof signs, including those operating with a home occupation business license.
2. Size. Roof signs shall not exceed 20 square feet in surface area or four feet in height per tenant.
3. Location. Roof signs shall be located on or above the eave or deck of the roof.
4. Attachment. Signs shall be installed in such a manner that there are no visible angle iron supports, guy wires, braces, or secondary supports. Signs shall appear to be an architectural or integral part of the roof.
5. The total, cumulative area of roof signs shall be counted as part of the base or multiple tenant maximum

**M. TEMPORARY AND SPECIAL USE SIGNS:**

This section shall govern temporary use signs including banner, real estate, construction, future use, balloons, air-supported structures, inflatable objects, searchlights and the like.

1. Banner Signs.
  - a. Size. Shall not exceed the lesser of 20 percent of the area of the wall face to which it is attached, or 75 square feet in area, as measuring the extreme edges of the banner.
  - b. Location. Shall be located completely on the wall of the building or leased space of the sponsoring business. Not to be located in required parking areas, upon poles, other constructed frame, affixed to or covering required landscaping, utility poles or vehicles.
  - c. Attachment. Shall be affixed so as not to fall in high winds or storm events.
  - d. Maintenance. Shall remain legible, and be well maintained.
  - e. Duration. Shall be limited to 90 days total per calendar year per site, regardless of alternating banners. To be used in increments up to 15 days. Signs announcing the opening or closing or relocation of a business shall be permitted for 60 days from issuance of a business license,, without being counted against the standard annual duration permitted. Upon removal, a banner may not be re-erected for duration equal to the time it was displayed.

- f. Number Permitted. One banner per wall or frontage, not to exceed two per building.
  - g. Permit Requirements. A permit shall be issued with the applicant notifying the city of the proposed date(s) and location for the display of the banner(s).
  - h. Not Permitted. Residential uses are not allowed banner signs, including those operating with a home occupation business license.
  - i. The use of banners as a primary business sign is prohibited.
2. Air-Supported Structures, Inflatable Objects, Kites and Searchlights.
- a. Size, Height, Illumination. Shall adhere to all applicable city, state and federal requirements relating to public safety, air and vehicular traffic control and the like. Kites and inflatable objects such as balloons shall not be operated more than 150 from the grade of the earth beneath the point of attachment, without written waivers from the Federal Aviation Administration.
  - b. Location. Shall be located on the premises for which it is advertising, in the location specified under the approved permit. Not to be located in the public right-of-way. Shall not be located in required landscaping or parking areas. Shall not interfere with pedestrian movement, nor impede the vision or block the movement of motorists on private or public rights-of-way.
  - c. Maintenance. Must be well maintained.
  - d. Duration. Shall be limited to 30 days total per calendar year per type of use, i.e., air supported structure, inflatable object or searchlight per site, regardless of alternating banners. To be used in increments of up to 15 days. Upon removal, the structure may not be re-erected for a duration equal to the time it was displayed.
  - e. Number Permitted. Only one air-supported structure, inflatable object or searchlight shall be permitted individually at one time per site. Upon removal, the structure may not be re-erected for a duration equal to the time it was displayed.

- f. The beam of the searchlight shall not flash against any building or sweep an arc greater than 45 degrees from vertical.
- g. Permit Requirements. A permit shall be issued with the applicant notifying the city of the proposed date(s) and location for the display of the temporary sign(s).

3. Real Estate Signs.

- a. Signs announcing the sale, rental, or lease of property located in the Rural 2.3 (R-2.3), Residential 9,600 (R-9,600), Residential 7,200 (R-7,200), and Downtown Residential (DT-2,500) zoning districts shall adhere to the following requirements:
  - (i) Size, Height. Sign face shall not exceed three feet in width or height. Not to exceed six feet in overall height.
  - (ii) Location. Shall be located within the confines of the subject property.
  - (iii) Illumination. Not permitted.
  - (iv) Duration. Shall be removed no later than ten days following the sale, rental or lease of the property or unit listed.
  - (v) Number Permitted. Shall not exceed one per parcel/unit.
- b. Signs announcing the sale, rental, or lease of property located in the Multiple Residential (MR) zoning district shall adhere to the following requirements:
  - (i) Size, Height. Sign face shall not exceed three feet in width by five feet in height. Not to exceed six feet in overall height.
  - (ii) Location. Shall be located within the confines of the subject property.
  - (iii) Illumination. Not permitted.
  - (iv) Duration. Shall be removed no later than ten days following the sale, rental or lease of the property or unit listed.
  - (v) Number Permitted. Shall not exceed one per parcel/unit.

c. Signs announcing the sale, rental, or lease of property located in the CBD, GC, IR, LI, and I zoning districts shall adhere to the following requirements:

- (i) Size, Height. Sign face shall not exceed four by eight feet. Not to exceed six feet in overall height.
- (ii) Location. Shall be located within the confines of the subject property.
- (iii) Illumination. Not permitted.
- (iv) Duration. Shall be removed no later than ten days following the sale, rental or lease of the property or unit listed.
- (v) Number Permitted. Shall not exceed one per parcel/unit. A second real estate sign may be permitted for parcels fronting on two public streets.

d. Off-Premises Directional. Directional signs for the announcement and direction to residential real estate open houses and garage/yard sales in the residential zoning districts and residential uses in the public open space and limited open space zoning districts shall be permitted according to the following requirements:

- (i) Size, Height. Shall not exceed six square feet in surface area. Not to exceed three feet in overall height.
- (ii) Location. Shall be located no more than 25 feet in any direction from a street intersection at the curb line. Shall be located a minimum of five feet from the edge of a street intersection without a curb line. On streets containing curb, gutter and sidewalk, signs shall be located in a manner not to impede pedestrian movement.
- (iii) Attachment. Not to be permanently affixed (including staking) to the ground. Not to be located on utility poles.
- (iv) Illumination. Not permitted.
- (v) Duration. Signs shall be erected only during daylight hours when a sales

person or duly appointed representative is on-site.

- (vi) Number Permitted. No more than one on-premises and five off-premises signs per open house or sale.
- (vii) Construction. Signs shall be constructed of a durable, rigid, all-weather material (i.e., plywood, plastic, etc.) so as not to lose its structural integrity in inclement weather. Signs must be of a sufficient weight and stature to ensure that it will remain in place during high winds. Owners of signs shall be required to keep their signs legible and well maintained.

4. Construction Signs. Signs identifying the architects, engineers, contractors, developers, financing institutions and other individual or firms associated with the project are permitted according to the following requirements:

- a. Size, Location. Shall conform to the size and location regulations as set forth by zoning districts in subsection 3 of this section.
- b. Illumination. Not permitted.
- c. Duration. Signs shall be permitted after the issuance of a building permit, and removed upon issuance of a certificate of occupancy from the City of Granite Falls building department.
- d. Number Permitted. No more than four per parcel in residential zoning districts, and six per parcel for all other zoning districts. Residential construction in the Public Ownership zoning district shall only be permitted four per parcel.

5. Future Home or Future Use. Signs identifying the proposed use on a vacant or developed parcel are permitted according to the following requirements:

- a. Size, Location. Shall conform to the size and location regulations as set forth by zoning district in subsection 3 of this section. However, formal subdivisions which have preliminary plat approval may have one sign announcing the plat per public entrance, not to exceed four feet in width by eight feet in height.

- b. Illumination. Not permitted.
  - c. Number Permitted. No more than one per parcel or proposed development.
  - d. Duration. Shall be erected no more than 12 months before construction or intended use the announcement is describing. Shall be removed upon either of the following: the issuance of a certificate of occupancy or the completion of a permanent sign, or for residential uses, when 75 percent of the units or homes have been sold, leased or rented.
6. Signs Located over or upon Public Right-of-Way. Signs including banners and signs erected upon city-approved sign structures may be permitted in and/or over public right-of-way in locations approved by the city in accordance with the following requirements:
- a. Application. A city-approved application shall be submitted with the required fee as outlined in the City of Granite Falls fees resolution, no more than 90 days prior to the event date.
  - b. Size. Banner signs shall be no more than 100 square feet in area. Freestanding signs shall be no larger than eight feet by four feet. The name of the local event sponsor(s) is not to exceed 25 percent of the total sign surface.
  - c. Duration. An approved sign may be erected no more than 14 days prior to the event date and remain no longer than seven days after the event.
  - d. Allowable Displays. The following are signs permitted for display:
    - (i) Advertisements or promotions of nonprofit organizations, community activities, and/or festivals.
    - (ii) Activities sponsored by the City of Granite Falls.
    - (iii) Athletic and special community events that are commercially sponsored, when proceeds are used for community service.
    - (iv) Welcome messages, such as those for class reunions, conventions, and conferences, athletic tournament

participation, local winner of a major event, etc.

- (v) Promotion of sales and money raising for youth organizations for their program support, nonprofit and community service organizations when a major portion of the profit will be for community and youth projects.
- (vi) Nonpartisan and non candidate voting information.

**N. MURALS:**

This section shall govern murals in all zoning districts.

1. Permit Exemption. Murals may be painted or otherwise placed on any building or structure where permitted. However, a rendition of the mural shall be reviewed and approved by the Designated Official prior to placement, to ensure that it is not a mural sign or contains a commercial sign message.
2. Permit Required. Murals containing a commercial sign message shall require a sign permit and shall only be allowed on-premises in the CBD, GC, IR, LI, and I zoning districts. The commercial "display area" of the mural shall be calculated against the allowed signage for the site and/or tenant.

**O. CHANGEABLE MESSAGE AND ELECTRONIC SIGNS:**

This section shall govern signs on which the message can be changed, such as reader boards and electronic signs.

1. Electronic signs located outdoors are not permitted in any zoning districts, with the exception of school and city property. Electronic signs located indoors and within three feet of a window are permitted in all zones except all Residential zones, including those operating with a home occupation business license. Changeable message signs are allowed on all properties that do not have a principal use of single-family residential.
2. Changeable copy areas of a sign shall be included as part of the permitted sign area.
3. Freestanding Sign Size.
  - a. The surface area of the changeable message sign shall be no larger than 50 percent of the maximum sign surface area allowed for the user(s) of the

changeable message sign, specific to the zoning district in which it is proposed.

- b. Motor vehicle service stations and convenience stores with gas pumps may utilize up to 100 percent of the permitted surface area of a freestanding sign for changeable prices of motor fuel only.
    - c. Movie theaters and other performance/entertainment facilities may utilize up to 80 percent of the permitted surface area of a freestanding sign for display of names of films, plays or other performances currently showing on the site.
4. Location. Shall be located according to the requirements for freestanding signs in the applicable zoning district in which it is proposed.
5. Electronic Sign Size Allowed.
  - a. The surface area of an electronic sign can be no larger than three square feet.
  - b. The surface area of an electronic sign on a school property can be no larger than 20 square feet per side.
6. Display.
  - a. The display of the sign shall not change more rapidly than once every one and one-half seconds.
  - b. The display shall not appear to flash, undulate, pulse or portray explosions, fireworks, flashers or bursts of light and/or graphics and blinking or chasing lights.
  - c. The display shall not appear to move toward or away from the viewer, expand or contract, bounce, rotate, spin, twist or otherwise portray movement or animation as it comes onto, is displayed on, or leaves the sign.
7. Number Permitted.
  - a. Not to exceed one changeable message sign per parcel or commercial, industrial or business complex, not in addition to the number of freestanding signs permitted for the site.
  - b. Not to exceed one electronic sign per business.
  - c. Permit Requirements. Applicants for electronic signs shall comply with the following requirement:

- (i) Permit applications must include a copy of the manufacturer's operating manual, which includes the manufacturer's recommended standards for light levels, scrolling or traveling speed and other display operations

**P. INFORMATIONAL SIGNS:**

This section shall govern informational signage in CBD, GC, IR, LI, and I zoning districts.

1. Residential uses are not allowed informational signs, including those operating with a home occupation business license.
2. Size. Not to exceed six square feet in surface area.
3. Height. Not to exceed six feet in overall height.
4. Location. A minimum of five feet from all property lines, not within 25 feet of public right-of-way. May be permitted as a wall sign. Not to be located on top of or above the roof ridge or deck.
5. Number Permitted. One per frontage visible from right-of-way. No maximum number within the site/development, if not visible from any public right-of-way.
6. Permit. A rendition of the informational sign shall be reviewed by the Designated Official prior to placement, to insure that it does not contain a commercial message.

**Q. ILLUMINATION:**

This section shall govern illumination of signs where permitted in the city.

1. The light directed upon, or internal to, any sign shall be shaded, shielded or directed so that the light intensity or glare shall not adversely affect the surrounding or facing premises, or adversely affect safe vision of operator of vehicles moving on public or private roads, highways or parking areas, or adversely affect safe vision of pedestrians on a public right-of-way. Glare and intense lighting of signs shall not shine on or directly reflect into residential structures.

**R. EXEMPTIONS:**

Subject to the requirements of this section, the following signs shall be exempt from all provisions of this chapter, except for construction, safety regulations and permitting requirements for permanent signs or where otherwise referenced in this chapter.

1. Political Signs.

- a. Private Property. Not to exceed 32 square feet in area per sign. To be removed ten days following the date of the election or item of public vote.
- b. Private Property (Campaign Headquarters). Political signs may be larger than 32 square feet; provided, that they adhere to the size requirements of the underlying zoning district in which they are located.
- c. Public Right-of-Way (Off-Premises).
  - (i) Size and Height. Political signs shall not exceed 32 square feet in area. No political sign may exceed six feet in height.
  - (ii) Location. Permits for political signs are not required. Political signs may not be placed on private property without the permission of the property owner. In parking strips and public rights-of-way where the placement of a political sign may be fairly attributed to a neighboring property owner, permission of that owner must first be obtained prior to placement. Political signs may not be located so as to impede driver vision or represent an obstruction or hazard to vehicular or pedestrian traffic. On public property, not part of the public right-of-way, relevant city departments may designate an area or areas for the placement of political signs in order to ensure that placement will not interfere with the intended use of that land.
  - (iii) Removal of Election Signs. Off-premises political signs shall be removed within ten days of the date of the election to which the sign pertains. Failure to remove political signs within the time limit provided shall constitute a violation of this code and be punishable as such. In the event that city personnel are required to remove signs from public rights-of-way after expiration of the time limit for removal, all costs associated with such

removal shall be the responsibility of the candidate or campaign organization for whom the sign was posted and shall be collected in addition to any other penalty applicable to failure to remove the sign.

- (iv) Public Works Projects. The public works department may remove signs from public rights-of-way in order to conduct periodic maintenance activities or public works projects. Signs removed for this purpose may be picked up at City Hall.
  - (v) Removal of Signs in Disrepair. The public works department may remove any sign which is in a state of disrepair from the public right-of-way or public property at any time. For purposes of this subsection, a sign is in a state of disrepair if it is ripped, torn, broken, faded, obliterated, obscured, dilapidated, blown down, knocked over or in any other state in which its message has ceased to be readable or legible.
2. Public Informational Signs. Signs of a noncommercial nature and erected in the public interest, by or on the order of a city employee, such as traffic and safety advisory signs.
  3. Directional signs for city facilities or city-sponsored functions. City entrance/exit signs, memorial and historical markers.
  4. Integral Signs. Names of buildings, dates of erection, monumental citations, commemorative tablets and the like, when carved into stone, concrete or similar material made of bronze, aluminum, steel or other permanent type of construction and made an integral part of the structure, not exceeding ten square feet in area and not projecting more than six inches from the face of the structure.
  5. Address signs meeting the requirements of applicable emergency services departments and the city engineer for adequate visibility from the right-of-way.
  6. Signs required by law.
  7. Warning signs and other on-site informational signs not to exceed four square feet in surface area.
  8. Seasonal decorations appropriate with the applicable holiday. Said decorations are to be removed ten days following the holiday or season.

9. The flag of governmental and public institutions.
10. The flag of a commercial institution not advertising a product to be left loose to fly in the breeze. Not to exceed one per business and 20 square feet in surface area.
11. Legal notices and official instruments.
12. Decorative flags and bunting for a celebration, convention or commemoration of significance to the community located on public right-of-way, when authorized by the city council for a prescribed period of time.
13. Signs incorporated into machinery or equipment by a manufacturer or distributor, which identify or advertise only the product or service dispensed by the machine or equipment, such as signs customarily affixed to vending machines, newspaper racks, telephone booths or gasoline pumps.
14. Advertising signs located on licensed taxicabs and buses or commercial vehicles operating during the normal course of business.
15. Credit card or membership signs not to exceed two square feet in area, or more than two per business.
16. A maximum of two menu boards or price lists for drive-through facilities not to exceed 24 square feet in surface area located adjacent to and oriented toward the drive-through aisle. A permit shall be required for construction purposes.
17. Menus, not to exceed four square feet in area, mounted on the wall or window adjacent to entrances to restaurants.

S. PROHIBITED SIGNS:

The following signs are prohibited in the City of Granite Falls.

1. Signs that contain statements, words or pictures of an obscene, indecent or immoral character such as will offend public morals or decency under the prevailing statutes or U.S. Supreme Court rulings.
2. Signs that resemble any official sign or marker erected by any governmental agency, or that by reason of position, shape or color, would conflict with the proper functioning of any traffic sign or signal, or be of a size, location, movement, color, or illumination that may be reasonably confused with or construed as, or conceal a traffic control device.
3. Signs that are of such an intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or impair the vision of any motorist, cyclist or pedestrian using or entering the public right-of-way, or that are a

- nuisance or hazard to occupants of any property because of glare or other characteristics.
4. Signs attached to public vegetation, utility poles, traffic control devices, lampposts, or city-owned structures and properties unless otherwise allowed pursuant to state or federal laws.
  5. Signs that are in violation of the building, electrical or fire codes adopted by the city.
  6. Signs on, attached to or a part of advertising vehicles.
  7. Portable reader board signs including trailer signs.
  8. Signs with visible moving, revolving or rotating parts or visible mechanical movement of any description or other apparent visible movement achieved by optical illusion, motion, electrical, electronic or mechanical means, except for traditional barber poles.
  9. Signs which are animated, or have the appearance of movement of a sign display through the use of patterns of lights, changes in color or light intensity, computerized special effects or through any other method except as permitted.
  10. Video signs visible from public right-of-way and/or adjacent properties.
  11. Signs that contain bare bulbs in excess of eleven watts.
  12. Holographic display signs.
  13. Signs that incorporate projected images such as holographic display signs, emit any sound that is intended to attract the attention, or involve the use of live animals.
  14. Signs that emit audible sound, odor or visible matter such as smoke or steam.
  15. Off-premises signs including, but not limited to, billboards, snipe signs and those signs upon vehicles and trailers, except for those otherwise authorized by this chapter. This prohibition shall not apply to noncommercial signs, including but not limited to political signs or other categories of signage specifically exempted under this chapter.
  16. Signs that are painted, pasted, or printed on any curb, pavement or any portion of any sidewalk or street, except house numbers and traffic control signs.
  17. Signs for which a permit has been granted under conditions with which the permitted does not comply.
  18. The use of banners as a primary business sign.

19. Any other signs that are not specifically permitted or exempted by this chapter.

T. NONCONFORMING SIGNS:

1. Where a legal sign exists at the effective date of adoption of the ordinance codified in this chapter, that could not be constructed under the terms of this chapter, such sign may remain so long as the structure remains lawful and is not hazardous to public safety. Legal nonconforming signs may be repaired, so long as the repair does not result in a larger size or height, or with an increase in illumination. Repairs are limited to 50% of the replacement costs of the sign and shall not result in a change of material or message. Improvements beyond these thresholds or replacement of the sign requires compliance with this code.

U. ILLEGAL SIGNS:

1. All existing illegal signs will need to be brought into conformance or removed within six (6) months of the adoption of this Ordinance.

V. PERMITS AND FEES:

1. **Permits Required.** It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, re-erect, construct, enlarge, display, alter or move a sign, or cause the same to be done, without first obtaining a permit for each sign from the Designated Official as required by this chapter. This section shall not be construed to require an additional permit to clean, repaint, or otherwise perform normal maintenance or repair of a permitted sign or sign structure. If, however, a sign is modified in any way, a permit is required. No permit shall be required to change the message on a changeable message and electronic sign.
2. **Permit Application Procedure.** To obtain a sign permit the applicant shall file a complete application on a form provided by city hall. Each application shall provide the following information:
  - a. Identify and describe the sign being permitted.
  - b. Describe the land where the proposed sign is to be located by legal description, street address or parcel number.
  - c. Provide a site plan drawn to scale containing a north arrow, location of property lines, lot dimensions, location of adjacent right-of-way or access

easements, location and size of existing signs, and the location of the proposed sign.

d. Provide plans, elevations, diagrams, light intensities, structural calculations and other materials to aid in the review as required by the Designated Official.

e. Provide a copy of an approved electrical permit when required.

3. Fees. When a permit is required, fees shall be paid in accordance with the adopted City of Granite Falls fees resolution in effect at the time of permit submittal.

#### W. CONSTRUCTION, INSPECTION, MAINTENANCE AND SAFETY:

1. Construction. All permanent signs and sign structures shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the requirements of applicable City of Granite Falls adopted codes. All signs with electric illumination shall receive a permit from the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries prior to issuance of the sign permit. All utilities, including electrical service, shall be located underground where applicable.

2. Inspection. When a permit has been issued for a sign, the Designated Official shall have right of entry to the property to inspect the sign to ensure compliance to the permit issued. It is the responsibility of the applicant or sign owner to call for all required sign inspections.

3. Maintenance. All signs, together with their supports, braces, guys and anchors, shall be kept in good repair. The surfaces of all signs shall be kept neatly painted at all times. The ground area shall be maintained in a neat and orderly manner.

4. Maintenance/Safety. The Designated Official may order the removal of any sign on private property that is not maintained in a safe and orderly condition. The order for removal or maintenance of any sign shall be sent by the Designated Official to the owner of the sign or property owner. The notice shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested. If the action requested in the order is not taken within the specified time period, the Designated Official may direct the sign to be removed from the premises. The owner of the sign or the property shall be charged an amount equal to the city's cost for removal of the sign, but in no event shall the fee be less than 100 dollars.

#### X. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

1. Authority. The process and requirements for administration and enforcement are defined in Section 19.4.0120 of this code. If the enforcement process in Section 19.4.0120 has been pursued to the point of fines, then the City of Granite Falls may also file criminal charges against the violator.
2. Responsibility. The ultimate responsibility for any sign shall be borne by the legal owner of the property or business where the sign is located. The Designated Official may require, when necessary, that the property owner or agent be party to, or applicant for, a sign permit.

**Section 2: Repealer.** Granite Falls Ordinance No. 392 (in part) and Ordinance No. 370 § 4.16.4 and Chapter 19.56, Signs, of the Granite Falls Municipal Code are hereby repealed in their entirety.

**Section 3: Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

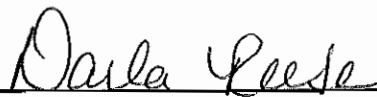
**Section 4: Publication and Summary.** This Ordinance or a summary thereof consisting of the title shall be published in the official newspaper of the City and shall take effect and be in full force on the effective date of this Ordinance.

**Section 5: Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

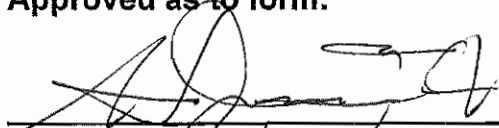
Said Ordinance was passed in open session by the City Council of the City of Granite Falls on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2009, and signed in authentication of its passage this 4<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LYLE ROMACK, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**DARLA REESE, City Clerk**

**Approved as to form:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**H.J. Gachot, City Attorney #6327**

<b>DATE OF FIRST AND FINAL READING:</b>	<u>05-20-09</u>
<b>DATE OF PUBLICATION:</b>	<u>06-06-09</u>
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	<u>06-11-09</u>
<b>COPY TO CPC:</b>	<u>06-04-09</u>