

1119.02 SUBSTITUTION AND PROTECTION CLAUSE.

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OH

Sheffield Lake

Codified Ordinances of Sheffield Lake, OH

1119.02 SUBSTITUTION AND PROTECTION CLAUSE.

CHAPTER 1119 Signs

CHAPTER 1119

Signs

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1119.01 PURPOSE.

(a) The purpose of this chapter is to provide minimum standards to safeguard life, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the quality of materials, construction, illumination, installation and maintenance of all signs and sign structures.

(b) In establishing these purposes, the City has determined that signs which do not comply with these regulations (type, size, location, and limitation on the number of signs) are a public nuisance. Unregulated signs are unduly distracting to motorists and pedestrians, and thereby create a traffic hazard and reduce the effectiveness of signs needed to direct the public.

(c) The City does not intend to infringe on the rights of free speech as protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and Chapter I, §11 of the Ohio Constitution. All regulations in this chapter are to be construed, whenever possible, in favor of vigorous political debate and accommodation of the rights of persons to speak freely.

(Ord. 26-22. Passed 4-26-22.)

1119.02 SUBSTITUTION AND PROTECTION CLAUSE.

Wherever a sign with a commercial message is allowed or permitted under this chapter, an owner may replace the message with a noncommercial message, subject to the time, place and manner provisions of this chapter, without applying for a permit and/or paying a fee that otherwise would be required for the placement of a commercial message sign on the lot; provided, that the sign structure or mounting device is legal without consideration of message content. This provision prevails over any provision to the contrary in this chapter. The purpose of this provision is to prevent any inadvertent favoring of commercial speech over noncommercial speech or favoring of any particular noncommercial message over any other noncommercial message. This provision does not create a right to increase the total amount of signage on a lot or parcel, nor does it affect the requirement that a sign structure or mounting device be properly permitted.

(Ord. 26-22. Passed 4-26-22.)

1119.03 RECLASSIFICATION OF SIGNAGE.

If the type of any sign that legally existed prior to the effective date of this amendment is reclassified by this amendment, such sign shall be classified as the sign type defined in this chapter and Chapter 1131: Definitions, and shall be subject to the applicable standards for such sign type from the effective date of this amendment. Such reclassification shall be regardless of any variances that were approved prior to the effective date of this amendment.

(Ord. 26-22. Passed 4-26-22.)

1119.04 APPLICABILITY.

(a) No person shall erect, place, relocate, expand, modify, maintain, or otherwise alter a sign, or cause a sign to be erected, placed, relocated, expanded, modified, maintained, or otherwise altered unless all provisions of this code have been met.

(b) Unless otherwise provided, this chapter shall apply to any sign, in any zoning district, that is visible from a public right-of-way or from an adjacent property.

(c) Any sign legally established prior to the effective date of this chapter, and which sign is

rendered nonconforming by the provisions herein, shall be subject to the nonconforming sign regulations of Section 1119.11: Nonconforming Signs.

(d) Any person installing, structurally altering and/or relocating a sign for which a permit has been issued shall be responsible for the scheduling of necessary inspections, including, but not limited to, an inspection of footings on a free-standing sign, building, and electrical inspections, etc., during the course of the work.

(Ord. 26-22. Passed 4-26-22.)

1119.05 REVIEW AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.

(a) To ensure compliance with these regulations, a zoning permit shall be required to be issued unless specifically exempted in this chapter.

(b) All signs related to a use or development that requires a site plan review approval shall be required to be reviewed as part of the site plan review application prior to issuance of a zoning permit.

(c) Zoning Permit Exemptions for Signs. The following signs are subject to the requirements of this chapter but do not require a zoning permit. Permit-exempt signs may still be subject to building code or other applicable code requirements.

(1) Signs and/or notices issued by any court, officer, or other person in performance of a public duty. Any such sign shall be removed no later than seven (7) days after the last day it is required to be displayed;

(2) Whenever any sign, either conforming or nonconforming, is required to be removed for the purpose of repair, relettering, or repainting, the same may be done without a zoning permit or any payment of fees provided that all of the following conditions are met.

(3) There is no alteration or remodeling to the structure or the mounting of the sign itself;

(4) There is no enlargement or increase in any of the dimensions of the sign or its structure;

(5) Whenever there is an exchange of sign panels when a sign is designed to have replaceable sign faces;

(6) Signs that are an integral part of the original construction of vending or similar machines, fuel pumps, automated teller machines or similar devices that are not of a size or design as to be visible from a street or by any person other than those using the machine or device;

(7) Any sign that is located completely inside a building that is not visible from the exterior (see also definition of window sign);

(8) Signs that are located within a stadium, open-air theater, park, arena or other outdoor use that are not visible from a public right-of-way or adjacent property, and can be viewed only by persons within such stadium, open-air theater, park, arena or other outdoor use;

(9) Certain temporary signs as established in Section 1119.10: Temporary Signs;

(10) No more than four flags located on flagpoles or on wall-mounted posts provided that the following shall apply:

A. The maximum height of flag poles shall not exceed the maximum building height for structures in the subject zoning district, and a maximum sign area of area of forty (40) square feet for any individual flag attached to the pole.

B. The maximum projection for a wall-mounted flag post is six (6) feet and a maximum sign area of fifteen (15) square feet per flag.

(11) A single wall sign placed on the façade of an individual dwelling unit that is not illuminated and does not exceed two (2) square feet in area.

(12) Signs that are an integral part of the historic character of a structure that has been designated an official landmark or historic structure by any agency or body of the governments of

the United States, State of Ohio, Lorain County or City of Sheffield Lake;

(13) Any signs located on umbrellas, seating, or similar patio furniture;

(14) Ground signs and markings located completely within the interior of a lot used for a cemetery where such signs are not designed to be visible from a public street;

(15) Any sign on a truck, bus or other vehicle that is used in the normal course of a business (e.g., deliveries or fleet vehicles for contractors) for transportation (See also Section 1119.06: Prohibited Signs.), or signage required by the State or Federal government;

(16) Signs installed or required by a governmental agency including the City of Sheffield Lake, Lorain County, State of Ohio, and United States, including local and regional transit agencies;

(17) Any warning signs or traffic safety signs required by public utility providers;

(18) Hand-held signs not set on or affixed to the ground;

(19) Any address numbers required by the City of Sheffield Lake, Lorain County, or the State of Ohio;

(20) Changes of copy on signs with changeable copy;

(21) Any signs, including illuminated signs, or related decorations erected in observance of religious, national or state holidays which are not intended to be permanent in nature and which contain no advertising material; and

(22) General maintenance, painting, repainting, cleaning and other normal maintenance and repair of a sign or any sign structure unless a structural change is made. See also Section 1119.08(m).

(d) Revocation of Permits for Noncompliance. The Zoning Inspector is hereby authorized and empowered to revoke any permit issued upon failure of the applicant or holder thereof to comply with any provision of this chapter.

(Ord. 26-22. Passed 4-26-22.)

1119.06 PROHIBITED SIGNS.

The following types of signs are specifically prohibited within the City of Sheffield Lake:

(a) Any sign that copies or imitates a sign installed by any governmental agency or purports to have been authorized by a governmental agency;

(b) Signs that interfere with, obstruct the view of, or are similar in appearance to any authorized traffic sign, signal, or device because of its position, shape, use of words, or color;

(c) Signs that constitute a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate or inappropriate design, construction, repair, or maintenance, as determined by the building official;

(d) Signs that employ any parts or elements which revolve, rotate, whirl, spin, or otherwise make use of motion to attract attention. This shall not include electronic message centers as allowed in this chapter;

(e) Signs with moving or flashing lights except for electronic message centers as allowed in this chapter;

(f) Beacons and searchlights, except for emergency purposes;

(g) Windblown devices, pennants, streamers, and similar signs that are designed to move by atmospheric, mechanical, electrical, or other means, whether containing words or numerals or containing no message except that feather signs may be permitted in accordance with Section 1119.10: Temporary Signs;

(h) Air-activated graphics;

(i) Balloon signs;

(j) Roof signs;

(k) Signs that are applied to trees, bus shelters, utility poles, benches, trash receptacles,

newspaper vending machines or boxes, or any other unapproved supporting structure, or otherwise placed in the public right-of-way except as provided for in Section 1119.08(h);

(l) Signs that obstruct or substantially interfere with any window, door, fire escape, stairway, ladder, or opening intended to provide light, air, ingress, or egress to any building;

(m) Signs which are not securely affixed to the ground or otherwise affixed in a permanent manner to an approved supporting structure unless specifically permitted as a temporary sign;

(n) Portable signs;

(o) Vehicle signs viewed from a public road with the primary purpose of providing signage not otherwise allowed by this chapter. A vehicle sign shall be considered to be used for the primary purpose of advertising if the vehicle fails to display current license plates; if the vehicle is inoperable; or if the sign alters the standard design of such vehicle. Vehicle signs include those attached to or placed on a vehicle or trailer. Vehicles or trailers shall not be parked continuously in one location to be used primarily as additional signage. This does not apply to a vehicle parked at a driver's residence and is the primary means of transportation to and from their place of employment; and

(p) Any sign not specifically allowed by this chapter.

(Ord. 26-22. Passed 4-26-22.)

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- ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SHEFFIELD LAKE, OHIO
- ORDINANCE NO. 116-84
- ORDINANCES OF SHEFFIELD LAKE
- effectiveness of signs needed to direct the public

- Ord. 26-22
 - effective date of this amendment is reclassified by this amendment, such sign shall be classified as the sign type defined in this chapter and Chapter 1131: Definitions, and shall be subject
 - effective date of this amendment
 - effective date of this chapter, and which sign is rendered nonconforming by the provisions herein, shall be subject to the nonconforming sign regulations of Section 1119
 - signs, or color;
 - signs or numerals or containing no message except that feather signs may be permitted in accordance with Section 1119
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