

ORDINANCE NO. 2007-42

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF VALDOSTA SIGN REGULATIONS ALSO KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS CHAPTER 8 OF THE CITY OF VALDOSTA ZONING ORDINANCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Valdosta, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by authority of same, as follows:

Section 1.

The City of Valdosta Sign Regulations known and designated as Chapter 8 of the City of Valdosta Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended, as follows:

8-2 Definitions. Is hereby amended by striking therefrom the following definitions:

Off Premise Sign, On Premise Sign, Variable Message Board.

Said section is further amended by adding the following definitions thereto to be placed in said ordinance in alphabetical order in relationship to the overall list of definitions:

Billboard -- Any structure or portion thereof on which lettered, figured, or pictorial matter is displayed for advertising purposes, except for the name and occupation of the user of the premises or the products primarily sold or manufactured on the premises or noncommercial messages, and having an area of 125 square feet or more. Any signboard carrying a message accepted in this definition which also carries extraneous advertising of 125 square feet or more shall be considered a billboard. (See Section 8-4.9).

Construction Sign -- A sign announcing the proposed or existing construction of a building or project.

Sign Face -- The portion of a sign on which the copy is placed.

Variable Message Board -- An electronically programmable sign that provides changing information. This may include Light Emitting Diode (LED) and Tri-Face signs.

Section 2.

Said ordinance is further amended by striking section 8-4.5 Maximum Size and Number subsection (b) Number and subsection (c) Sign area, single-use parcels and substituting in lieu thereof new subsections (b) and (c) to read, as follows:

- (b) Number. Except for exempted signs listed in Section 8-4.2 freestanding signs shall be limited to one sign per street frontage per parcel. In the case of multiple street frontages, the freestanding sign on the primary street frontage (as designated by the property owner) shall comply with the maximum sign areas listed in Tables B and C. Freestanding signs on secondary street frontages shall

be permitted and shall not exceed ½ of the maximum sign areas listed in Tables B and C. Secondary freestanding signs shall be oriented for viewing from the secondary street and shall be located a minimum distance of ½ the secondary lot frontage from the primary street's right-of-way line. In the case of two intersecting street frontages, and at the Building Official's discretion, freestanding signs for both the primary and secondary frontages may be combined into a single freestanding sign at 1½ times its maximum permitted sign area, only if the sign is located near the corner of the property and oriented so that it is easily viewed from both street frontages. There is no limit on number of other sign types (unless otherwise provided); only limits on total sign areas.

- (c) Sign area, single-use parcels. Except for the exempted signs listed in Table B, the maximum total area for all signs on each parcel shall not exceed the "Maximum Total Square Feet" listed in Table B. The maximum total area for all signs of each sign type (including the exempted signs listed in Table B) on each parcel shall be as indicated in Table B.

Section 3.

Said ordinance is further amended by striking section 8-4.9 Off-premises Advertising in its entirety and substituting in lieu thereof a new section 8-4.9 to be designated Billboards, said new section shall read, as follows:

8-4.9 Billboards

Unless otherwise provided, billboard signs shall be subject to all of the following requirements in addition to all other applicable requirements of this ordinance. Where they are in conflict the following requirement shall apply:

- (1) An exception shall be made in the event any billboard is located on property annexed to the City of Valdosta. In that event, the number of billboards shall immediately increase by the number of billboards contained within the newly annexed area. In the event any billboard contained within the newly annexed property does not comply with this ordinance said billboard shall be considered legal non-conforming.
 - (a) All billboard signs shall be located a minimum of 1,250 feet measured as a radius from any other billboard regardless of location.
 - (b) The number of billboard faces within the corporate limits of the City of Valdosta shall not exceed the number of faces within the corporate limits of the City of Valdosta as of September 7, 2007. An inventory of these existing faces shall be maintained by the Planning and Zoning Office. Additionally, no more than eight (8) variable message sign faces shall exist within the corporate limits of the City of Valdosta. In addition thereto, billboard permits and applications for permits approved on or before September 7, 2007 shall be counted in the total number of billboard faces permitted.

- (c) Any existing billboard structure or face may undergo minor repairs to ensure the safety and aesthetic quality of the entire sign structure and face. This minor repair shall not result in any modification of the sign structure, face or increase in the overall square footage or depth of the sign face.
 - (d) Any replacement billboard shall be a single tier billboard not to exceed three hundred (300) square feet of sign face and must meet all current standards at the time of replacement. A variance may be considered for the spacing requirement of 8-4.9(1)(a); however, in no case shall a variance be granted for a distance less than that of the distance between the original billboard and the nearest billboard.
- (2) Existing billboards faces may be modified to include variable message boards provided all of the following provisions are met:
- A) Each message shall remain fixed for a minimum of ten (10) seconds.
 - B) When a message is changed, it shall be accomplished in three (3) seconds or less.
 - C) Messages shall not be illuminated by blinking, scrolling, intermittent, or flashing lights.
 - D) No variable message board shall be placed within five thousand feet (5,000') of another variable message board measured in a radius from any other variable message sign, regardless of location;
 - E) Submittal of a complete sign application and receipt of proper permit in accordance with Section 8-3 of this ordinance.
 - F) Any new variable message billboard shall not exceed three hundred (300) square feet in copy face.

Section 4.

Said ordinance is further amended by striking therefrom in its entirety subsection (a) of Section 8-5.2 Interstate 75 Corridor and striking the (b) preceding section (b) so that said section shall read, as follows:

High Rise Identification Signs. One additional on-premise sign per parcel, which is zoned for commercial or industrial uses, may be allowed within 1,500 feet of the I-75 right-of-way (said distance measured in a straight line perpendicular to the right-of-way of I-75). Such sign shall be located in the rear yard setback area of the parcel and shall have a minimum height of 75 feet clearance above the finished grade, a maximum overall height of not more than 200 feet, shall contain not more than 250 square feet of signage area, and shall be located no closer than 500 feet radial distance from any other such high rise sign. This sign shall be exempt from the maximum total signage area allotment for the parcel on which it is located, and it shall remain subject to all other applicable regulations.

Section 5.

Said ordinance is further amended by striking therefrom Table A, Permitted Signs by Type and Zoning District and substituting in lieu thereof a new Table A, Permitted Signs by Type and Zoning District to read, as follows:

**TABLE A
PERMITTED SIGNS BY TYPE AND ZONING DISTRICT**

SIGN TYPE	ZONING DISTRICT										
	(R)	(P)	CN, CC	CH	CD	CA	M-1	M-2	E-R	inst	
Freestanding Signs											
On-premise	--	S	S	S	S	--	S	S	S	S	
Off-premise	--	--	--	S	--	--	S	S	--	--	
Building Signs (on-premise only)											
Building Marker (historical) ^a	A	A	A	A	A	--	A	A	A	A	
Canopy	--	S	S	S	S	--	S	S	S	--	
Identification ^b	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
Incidental ^c	A	A	A	A	A	--	A	A	A	A	
Projecting	--	--	S	S	S	--	S	S	S	--	
Home Occupation ^d	A	S	--	--	A	--	--	--	--	--	
Home Business ^t	S	S	--	--	S	--	--	--	--	--	
Mansard	--	--	--	S	--	--	S	S	--	--	
Under Canopy	--	S	S	S	S	--	S	S	S	A	
Wall	--	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
Window	--	--	S	S	S	--	S	S	S	--	
Miscellaneous Signs											
Directional	--	S	S	S	S	--	S	S	S	S	
Banners ^e	S	S	S	S	S	--	S	S	S	S	
Flags ^f	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
Portable ^g	--	--	S	S	--	S	S	S	S	--	
Subdivision	S	S	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	

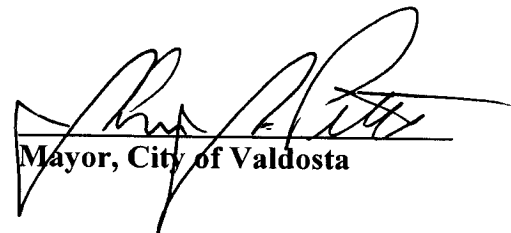
Said ordinance is further amended by striking therefrom Table B, Maximum Sign Area (Sq. Ft.) by Sign Type and Zoning District, Single Uses from said ordinance and substituting in lieu thereof a new Table B, Maximum Sign Area (Sq. Ft.) by Sign Type and Zoning District, Single Uses to read, as follows:

TABLE B

**Maximum Sign Area (Sq. Ft.) By Sign Type And Zoning District
SINGLE USES**

SIGN TYPE	ZONING DISTRICT										
	(R)	(P)	CN	CC	CH	CD	CA	M-1	M-2	E-R	inst
Freestanding Signs ^t											
On-premise ^p		24 ^h	50	75	125	12 ^s		125	125	24	32
Off-premise					400 ^f			400 ^f	400 ^f		
Building and Miscellaneous Signs											
Directional ⁱ		8	12	12	12	6		12	12	8	6
Wall, Canopy, Mansard, Projecting (combined)		24	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	12	*
Home Occupation	2	4	4			12					
Home Business ^t	12	12	12			12					
Under Canopy		6 ^j	6 ^j	6 ^j	6 ^j	6 ^j		6 ^j	6 ^j	4	4
Window (which require a permit)			+	+	+	+		+	+	+	
Portable			32	32	32			32	32	32	
MAXIMUM Total Square Feet (for all of the above)	2	32	125	200	500	100	50	500	500	50	50
Signs Exempt from Above Totals											
Building Marker (historical)	4	4	4	4	4	4		4	4	4	4
Flags	60	60								60	60
Identification	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Incidental	2	2	3	2	2 ^k	2		2 ^k	2 ^k	3	2
Subdivision	24 ^h	24 ^h	24 ^h	24 ^h	24 ^h			24 ^h	24 ^h		

SO ORDAINED, this 6th day of September, 2007.


Mayor, City of Valdosta

ATTEST:


Clerk of Council

