

1 2 3 7 8 9 10 15 ARTICLE X

SIGNS

Section 10.1 PURPOSE AND INTENT; FINDINGS REGARDING ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTER (EMC) SIGNS

- A. This article is adopted to serve substantial governmental interests of correcting and avoiding multiple problems that would occur without the regulation of signs. The regulations contained herein are no more extensive than necessary to serve the substantial governmental interests defined in this Article. It is not the intent of this article to regulate the content of signs, but only their composition, type, location, distance from right-of-way, height, size, illumination, and in some cases the duration that may be displayed, or other non-content based restrictions implied in this article. It is not the intent of this article to foreclose important and distinct mediums of expression for political, religious, or personal messages, on any sign permitted to be erected by this article. These regulations shall not be construed as limiting the message content of any sign.

It is hereby declared that the aesthetic and safety interests of the City of Lawrenceville are reasonably promoted by the provisions of this article.

Accordingly, it is the intent and purpose of this article to provide for the orderly and harmonious display of signs within the community; to avoid the erection of displays which produce deleterious and injurious effects to adjacent properties and to the natural-beauty of the environment; to provide for: the safety of the traveling public by limiting distractions, hazards, and obstructions; to minimize visual clutter and encourage a positive visual environment within the City; and to promote the mental health, physical health, safety, and welfare of the public.

The regulations and requirements herein set forth shall be the minimum requirements to promote the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the public and to protect the character of the City of Lawrenceville.

The purpose and intent of these regulations is to create the legal framework for a comprehensive and balanced system of signage to improve and enhance the aesthetic environment of the City and to avoid the visual clutter that is potentially harmful to traffic and to the appearance of the community. The City Council of the City of Lawrenceville finds that the regulations set forth herein will improve the visual appearance of the City by limiting the number and size of signs within the corporate limits, consistent with constitutional

guarantees, while continuing to provide an effective means of communication.

- B. Unless restricted as required by this ordinance Electronic Message Center (EMC) signs, which allow operators to change content from remote locations in a matter of seconds, have been shown to create possible threats to public safety. Such signs are erected for the purpose of trying to hold the attention of motorists by changing messages and pictures for short durations using a series of bright, colorful images produced mainly via LED (light emitting diode) technologies. Brightly lit signs that change messages every few seconds compel motorists to notice them, and they lure the attention of motorists away from what is happening on the road and onto the sign. Such signs pose public safety threats because if they attract a motorist's attention, the motorist will look at the sign and not the road. Electronic Message Center (EMC) signs are also a threat to public safety because of their brightness, making them visible from great distances. Due to their nature of brightness and changing displays, Electronic Message Center (EMC) signs are more distracting than signs which do not vary the message. Some such signs could, if unregulated, have the appearance of large, plasma-screen televisions. An electronic LED display contains brightly-lit text and graphics which can be seen from hundreds of feet away, drawing the attention of everyone within view. Unless otherwise regulated, such displays can be extremely bright since they are designed to be visible in bright sunlight and at night. Furthermore, the human eye is drawn to them far more strongly than to traditional illuminated signs. Such electronic LED displays can be seen from as far away as six-tenths of a mile, making them distracting. It takes a minimum of six seconds to comprehend the message on an electronic sign, which is three times the safe period for driver distraction. For these reasons, it is the intent of the City Council to regulate Electronic Message Center (EMC) signs. The City Council relies on the following studies and findings, among others, as empirical and professional justification for imposing this regulation:

1. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). September 11, 2001. *Research Review of Potential Safety Effects of Electronic Billboards on Driver Attention and Distraction.*
2. University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center. May 2001. *The Role of Driver Distraction in Traffic Crashes.*
3. University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center. May 2003. *Distractions in Everyday Driving.*

4. Pettit, M., Burnett, G., Stevens, A. 2005. "Defining Driver Distraction." Paper presented at World Congress on Intelligent Transport Systems, San Francisco, November 2005.
5. Wallace, B. 2003. "Driver Distraction by Advertising: Genuine Risk or Urban Myth?" Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers. *Municipal Engineer* 156 September 2003 Issue ME3, Pages 185-190.
6. Scenic America. "Billboards in the Digital Age: Unsafe (and Unsightly) at any Speed. *Scenic America Issue Alert 2 Electronic Signs*.

A Wisconsin Department of Transportation study examined crash rates on I-94 East and West adjacent to the Milwaukee County stadium, after a variable message sign that showed sports scores and ads had been installed and concluded that "it is obvious that the variable message sign has had an effect on traffic, most notably in the increase of the side swipe crash rate." An analysis of the 100-Car Naturalistic Driving Study, conducted by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, released in 2006, showed that taking one's eyes off the road for more than two seconds for any reason not directly related to driving (such as checking the rearview mirror) "significantly increased individual near-crash/crash risk." A 1998 FHWA memo noted that digital signs raise "significant highway safety questions because of the potential to be extremely bright, rapidly changing, and distracting to motorists." A 2001 FHWA review of billboard safety studies found that "the safety consequences of distraction from the driving task can be profound."

^{11, 13 17}Section 10.2 DEFINITIONS

Certain words and terms used herein are defined and interpreted as follows:

Animated Signs: Signs that flash or move or otherwise change at intervals more frequently than once each six (6) seconds. Any sign that utilizes the appearance of movement using lighting to depict action or to create a special effect or scene.

Attention Getting Device: Any pennant, propeller, spinner, ribbon, streamer, search light, balloon, inflatable sign (static), figurine, statue, or other similar device or ornamentation designed to or having the effect of attracting the attention of potential customers or the general public. An attention getting device shall be considered a sign and shall meet all requirements of this ordinance for a sign.

Awning Sign: Any sign attached to, in any manner or otherwise made a part of any awning or awning-like structure which projects beyond a building or extends along and

projects beyond the wall of the building, generally designed and constructed to provide protection from the weather.

Banner Sign: A sign either enclosed or not enclosed in a ridged frame and secured or mounted to allow movement caused by the atmosphere. Flags are not banners.

Billboard: A sign larger than two hundred (200) square feet in area.

Building Area: The area of the face of a building (height x width), not including the roof.

Building Frontage: The side of the building on the primary roadway.

Canopy Sign: A sign affixed to, superimposed upon, or painted on any roof like structure, which extends over a sidewalk, walkway, vehicle access area, or outdoor service area, excluding marquees.

Construction Sign: A temporary sign erected on premises where construction is taking place.

Directory Sign: Any sign located on developed premises, adjacent to exits, entrances, driveways or off-street parking facilities.

Door Sign: A sign that is applied or attached to the exterior or interior of a door or located in such manner within a building that it can be seen from the exterior of the structure through a door.

Double Post Sign: A permanent, free standing sign where the primary support is supplied by two posts positioned no more than two (2) inches from the outer edge of the sign display area. The support posts shall be constructed with coated metal, painted wood, stone, brick or stucco and shall include a decorative cap at the top of each post. The maximum height of a double post sign shall be eight (8) feet, and the maximum width shall be eight (8) feet.

Electronic Message Center (EMC): A computer programmable sign capable of displaying words, symbols, figures, or picture images that can be altered or rearranged on site or by remote means without altering the face or surface of the sign. If any indoor EMC signs are visible from a public right-of-way, they will be subject to all conditions and standards of this ordinance.

Exposed Neon: Any display which utilizes bulbs or glass to directly illuminate without any form of colored translucent covering. Including but not limited to being placed directly on or in a sign structure or located on a building as accents. This definition shall include LED linear rope lights or similar devices intended to imitate Exposed Neon.

Façade Sign: Any wall, awning, marquee, directory or window sign.

Flag: A cloth with colors and patterns, which does not meet any other sign definition under this Ordinance.

Flashing Sign: A sign, the illumination of which is not kept constant in intensity at all times when in use, and which exhibits marked changes in lighting effects. Illuminated signs which indicate only the time, temperature, or date or any combination thereof shall not be considered as flashing signs.

Free Standing Sign: A permanent sign supported by any structure or support placed in or anchored in the ground and not attached to any building or structure. All free standing signs must meet the requirements of a ground sign or a double post sign unless specifically approved through the granting of a variance.

Ground Sign: A permanent, free standing sign with a solid supporting base. This definition shall not include a Subdivision Sign. The supporting base shall be at least eighteen (18) inches in height, shall be at least six (6) inches wider on each side than the sign display area, including any frame, and shall be constructed with stone, brick or stucco. No air space shall be visible within or between the sign display area and the supporting base. The maximum height of a ground sign shall be twelve (12) feet, and the maximum width shall be sixteen (16) feet. The sign to base ratio of any sign shall not exceed three to one (3:1). For example, if a sign is twelve (12) feet in height, the supporting base must be at least four (4) feet in height.

Height: The distance in vertical feet from the average elevation of the ground level at the base of the sign to the highest point of the sign structure. The ground shall not be altered for the sole purpose of providing additional sign height.

Illuminated Sign: A sign illuminated in any manner by an artificial light source.

Inflatable Sign (Animated): Any sign inflated or supported by winds, air, or pneumatic noncombustible pressure which moves or is caused to move in any way to thereby distract or draw attention.

Inflatable Sign (Static): Any sign inflated or supported by winds, air or pneumatic noncombustible pressure which is securely anchored to the ground and does not move.

Marquee Sign: Any sign attached to, in any manner, or otherwise made a part of any permanent roof-like structure which projects beyond a building or extends along and projects beyond the wall of the building, generally designed and constructed to provide protection from the weather.

Motor Vehicle Sign: A sign mounted, placed, written, or painted on a vehicle or trailer whether motor-driven or not.

Movable Panel Sign: Any sign which utilizes movable discs, panels or other similar methods which allows the message change to be actuated by a control rather than manually changing the message.

Pennant: Any long, narrow flag which does not meet any other sign definition in this Ordinance.

Pole Sign: Any Free Standing Sign where the primary support is one post or column.

Portable Sign: Any sign which is not permanently attached to the ground or other permanent structure, including, but not limited to signs attached to vehicles, trailers, securely anchored into the ground or any sign which may be transported or is designed to be transported. Such signs include, but are not limited to, "A" and "T" type, sidewalk, sandwich, trailer signs; curb type signs, banners; balloons or other commercial advertisement attached to vehicles. Exceptions: Signs which are painted, bolted, screwed or magnetically attached to the top, sides or rear of the vehicle. Signs which are placed in the bed of a truck or trunk of an automobile or a banner attached to the vehicle regardless of the information contained thereon or method of attachment are not included in this exception.

Premises: A designed parcel, tract, lot or area of land, together with improvements located thereon, if any, established by plat, subdivision, or as otherwise permitted by law, to be used, developed or built upon as a unit.

Primary Roadway: The public right-of-way, which is identified as the address of the premises.

Projecting Sign: A sign that is wholly or partly dependent upon a building for support and which projects more than twelve (12) inches from such building.

Road Frontage: The distance, measured in a straight line, from the two (2) furthest property corners located on the same public right-of-way, excluding out parcels.

Roof Sign: Any sign erected or installed upon the roof of any building of structure.

Sign: Any surface, fabric, device, or display which bears letters, numbers, symbols, pictures or sculptured matter, whether illuminated or unilluminated, designed to identify, announce, direct or inform, and that is visible, from a public right-of-way. For purposes of this Ordinance, the term "sign" includes all structural members.

Sign Area: The area of a sign face (which is also the sign area of a wall sign or other sign with only one face) shall be computed by means of the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle, or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed, but not including any supporting framework,

bracing, or decorative fence or wall when such fence or wall otherwise meets zoning Ordinance regulations and is clearly incidental to the display itself.

Snipe Sign: Any sign of any material whatsoever that is attached in any way to a utility pole, tree, or any object located or situated on any public road right-of-way, easements or alleys.

Subdivision: Shall have the same meaning as defined by the Regulations of the City of Lawrenceville.

Subdivision Sign: Any sign located in a subdivision or planned unit development.

Surface Area: The entire area within a continuous perimeter, enclosing the extreme limits of sign display, including any frame or border but excluding any supports. Curved, spherical, or any other shaped sign face shall be computed on the basis of actual surface area. The copy of signs composed of individual letters, numerals, or other devices shall be the sum of the area of the smallest rectangle or other geometric figure encompassing each of said letter or device as well as spaces between each letter, words, lines or device. The calculation for a double-faced sign shall be the area of one face only where the sign faces are parallel or whether the interior angle formed by the faces is sixty (60) degrees or less. The area of the larger side shall be computed in cases in which the two (2) sides do not coincide. For multiple sided signs, the sign area of all sides shall not exceed twice the maximum permitted sign area.

Temporary Sign: A display, sign, banner, or other device with or without a structural frame, not permanently mounted, and intended to be displayed for only a limited time.

Wall sign: Any sign painted on or attached to a wall of a building or structure and in the same plane as the wall.

Window Sign: Any sign placed inside or upon the window panes or glass of any window or door. A sign that is applied or attached to the exterior or interior of a window or located in such manner within a building that it is clearly visible forty (40) feet or more from the exterior of the structure.

Zoning Districts: Zoning districts defined in this Zoning Ordinance.

^{11, 13 17}Section 10.3 SIGNS EXEMPT FROM PERMITTING

A. Unless expressly prohibited under Section 10.4, the following types of signs are exempt from the permitting requirements of this Article; provided, however, that all such signs must meet the height and setback requirements of this Section:

- (1) Construction Sign with a maximum area not to exceed fifty (50) square feet.

(2) Directory Sign with a maximum area not to exceed six (6) square feet, maximum height five (5) feet and setback of zero (0).

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(4) Signs within a business, office, mall or totally enclosed area except as described in the definition of Electronic Message Centers in Section 10.2

(5) Flags.

(6) Signs containing a non-commercial message with a maximum total surface area not to exceed eighteen (18) square feet per lot.

(7) Signs located on property which is listed for sale or lease with a maximum total surface area not to exceed eighteen (18) square feet per lot.

(8) Pennants, Balloons and Streamers are allowed one (1) time only for a change in use or change in occupancy of the premises from two (2) weeks prior to the change in use or occupancy until two (2) weeks after the change in use or occupancy.

(9) Window Signs provided that each sign, as measured from its outermost points, covers no more than twenty per cent (20%) of each window area. Window signs of a temporary nature that are legally permissible as of the adoption of this provision shall come into compliance with the terms of this provision within six months of its adoption by the City Council.

(10) Door Signs provided that each sign, as measured from its outermost points, covers no more than twenty per cent (20%) of each door area. Door signs of a temporary nature that are legally permissible as of the adoption of this provision shall come into compliance with the terms of this provision within six months of its adoption by the City Council.

B. In addition to the requirements set forth in Section A, the following regulations shall also apply:

- (1) Setbacks: All exempt signs must be located out of right-of-way or at least ten (10) feet from the back of the curb or edge of pavement of the adjacent street, whichever is greater. Signs located on a corner lot within fifty (50) feet of the intersection of right-of-ways must be out of right-of-way or at least fifteen (15) feet from the back of the curb or edge of pavement of the adjacent streets, whichever is greater.
- (2) Height: The topmost portion of an exempt sign, except flags, shall not exceed a maximum height of eight (8) feet. Flagpoles in residential districts shall not exceed twenty-five (25) feet in height or the height of the primary structure on the lot, whichever is less.

^{6 11 14}Section 10.4 SIGNS PROHIBITED

The following types of signs are prohibited in all zoning districts of Lawrenceville:

- (1) Flashing Sign.
- (2) Portable Sign except in accordance with section 10.3, 10.5 & Section 10.7.
- (3) Roof Sign.
- (4) Signs attached to any street sign or marker, traffic control sign or device, or attached to or painted on any utility pole, post, tree, rock, shrub, plant or other natural object or feature.
- (5) Any sign greater than twelve (12) feet in height, sixteen (16) feet in width, or two hundred (200) square feet in size unless permitted as a billboard under Section 10.8.
- (6) Signs on public right-of-way.
- (7) Signs which emit odor or visible smoke, vapor or particles.
- (8) Signs which produce noise or sound that are not generally associated with the normal operations of a sign.
- (9) Snipe signs.
- (10) Temporary signs and banner signs except in accordance with Section 10.3, 10.5 and Section 10.7 or as approved through variance granted by the Architectural Review Board in the

Courthouse Square Sub-Area, as defined in Attachment four (4) of the Zoning Ordinance.

- (11) Construction signs not exempt under Section 10.3.
- (12) Electronic Message Centers except as defined in accordance with Section 10.5.
- (13) Inflatable Sign (Animated)
- (14) Movable Panel Sign
- (15) Attention Getting Devices unless specifically allowed as a temporary sign under section 10.7.
- (16) Exposed Neon unless specifically permitted by the City Council. An applicant for a permit to use Exposed Neon shall include specific plans for the use of the Exposed Neon, including colors and dimensions. Upon receipt of the permit application, the staff shall propose a staff recommendation and place the application on the next available regular City Council meeting agenda for consideration. In considering the application, the City Council shall consider the following factors:
 - (a) The proposed location of the Exposed Neon.
 - (b) Whether the Exposed Neon is part of a lettered sign or proposed as an accent on a building facade or window.
 - (c) Whether the Exposed Neon is part of a sign or building that is traditionally used by a franchise or business with multiple locations and standard building and sign designs.
 - (d) Whether the color and size of the Exposed Neon is appropriate for the location or whether it will create visual clutter and be aesthetically displeasing.
 - (e) Whether the business has adequate means to allow for public identification without the Exposed Neon.
- (17) Window Signs and Door Signs other than as specifically allowed in Section 10.5.

- (18) Projecting signs except as approved through variance granted by the Architectural Review Board in the Courthouse Square Sub-Area, as defined in Attachment four (4) of the Zoning Ordinance.
- (19) Pole signs.

^{6, 11,12,13, 14, 16, 17 19} Section 10.5 SIGNS PERMITTED

- A. The following types of signs are permitted and regulated within the RS60, RS150 and RS180 zoning districts:
 - (1) Subdivision signs in accordance with Section 10.6.
 - (2) Any exempt sign under Section 10.3.
- B. The following types of signs are permitted and regulated within the RM-6 and RM-12 zoning districts:
 - (1) Any sign allowed in the RS60, RS150 and RS180 zoning districts.
- C. The following types of signs are permitted and regulated in the OI, BN, BG, HSB, LM, and HM zoning districts:
 - (1) Any sign allowed in the RS60, RS150, RS180, and RM-6 and RM-12 zoning districts.
 - (2) Awning sign in accordance with Section 10.6.
 - (3) Banners in accordance with Section 10.7 or as approved through a variance granted by the Architectural Review Board in the Courthouse Square Sub-Area, as defined in Attachment four (4) of the Zoning Ordinance.
 - (4) Canopy sign in accordance with Section 10.6.
 - (5) Free standing sign in accordance with Section 10.6.
 - (6) Temporary sign in accordance with Section 10.3 and 10.7.
 - (7) Wall sign in accordance with Section 10.6.
 - (8) Billboards which qualify pursuant to Section 10.8 of this Ordinance.

- (9) Inflatable signs pursuant to Section 10.7(c).
- (10) Electronic Message Center (EMC). All EMCs shall require a Special Use Permit from the Lawrenceville City Council, unless such sign meets the requirements of Subsection (10)(x) herein. The Special Use Permit shall be processed and considered in accordance with the procedures required in Article IV, Section 4.19. All EMCs must satisfy the following requirements:
 - (i) EMC signs may be permitted as ground signs only, except for Billboards as specifically authorized in Section 10.8, and must contain a solid brick base and sides as well as a decorative cap.
 - (ii) EMC signs are restricted to properties that are zoned General Business (BG) and Highway Service Business (HSB).
 - (iii) Public Schools and Government Facilities may install EMC's in accordance with the regulations herein but may be exempt of any location requirements.
 - (iv) EMC signs shall not interfere with any public safety vehicle or traffic control device.
 - (v) EMC signs shall have light sensors/monitors to control brightness as specified in (vii) below for all times and all weather conditions; day, night, twilight, overcast skies and dark clouds. Excessive brightness is a distraction to vehicular traffic and as such is a hazard. Failure to control a sign's brightness will result in the sign being turned off until the brightness is within the standards.
 - (vi) The City will from time to time check the brightness of each EMC to verify the levels specified in paragraph (vii) are met. If the owner of a sign fails to control brightness within these limits, the sign permit shall be revoked. Should a permit be revoked, the sign must be turned off immediately and remain off unless and until the sign is re-permitted. Re-permitting requires the owner to reapply in accordance with the procedures in place at the time of the new permit application, including paying fees required for a new permit.

- (vii) EMC signs light levels shall not increase lighting or brightness levels by more than 0.30 foot-candles above ambient levels as measured using a standard foot-candle meter.
- (viii) The sign owner and installer shall provide a letter to the Planning and Zoning Department certifying that the light sensors are operational and that the sign meets the brightness standards established in paragraph (vii).
- (ix) The EMC portion of the sign may occupy a maximum of forty percent (40%) of the permitted square footage sign area. The total sign area allowed will be in accordance with Article X, Section 10.6.
- (x) The combined EMC portion or element of any sign where the text will change no more than four (4) times in any twenty-four (24) hour period may be a maximum of Fifty-Four (54) square feet, provided the following additional requirements are met:
 - (a) No lot shall be permitted to have more than three (3) display panels on any sign or combination of signs;
 - (b) No single display panel shall exceed eighteen (18) square feet;
 - (c) There shall be a minimum of one (1) inch of space in between each display panel;
 - (d) Text messages shall not scroll or flash, and all text messages shall be static for a minimum of six (6) hours; and
 - (e) The EMC sign must be specifically authorized as a permitted accessory use for the zoning classification of the property upon which the sign is to be located.
- (xi) The EMC portion or element of any sign where the text may change more than four (4) times in any twenty-four (24) hour period may be a maximum of Seventy Two (72) square feet, provided the following additional requirements are met:

- (a) Such signs are restricted to properties with frontage along the following portions of roads:
 - 1. Scenic Highway – From City Limits to Moon Road
 - 2. Buford Drive/SR 20 North – From City Limits (at SR 124 intersection) to Railroad Bridge
 - 3. W Pike St/SR 120 – From SR 316/City Limits to Railroad Bridge
 - 4. Sugarloaf Parkway – From Lawrenceville/Suwanee Road to Five Forks Trickum Road
 - 5. Lawrenceville Highway – From the Eastern City Limits to the Scenic Highway/E. Pike Street intersection
 - (b) Text messages shall not scroll or flash. All text messages shall be static for a minimum of six (6) seconds.
- (xii) For Changeable Text the minimum text height shall be six (6) inches.
 - (xiii) The display of video from a EMC sign is strictly prohibited regardless of applicant. Failure to abide by this ordinance will result in the revocation of an EMC permit.
 - (xiv) Types of screens permitted include Color and Monochrome in Light Emitting Diode (LED), Liquid Crystal Display (LCD), Plasma and other similar technology.
 - (xv) For LED signs no screen may have a density of less than 19 mm (Bulb Cluster Spacing on center) except for those signs meeting the requirements of subsection (x) above.
 - (xvi) All EMC signs shall have a switch or circuit breaker located on the property that allows electrical power to be turned off. The Owner of each EMC shall provide to the Planning and Zoning Department contact information for a 24-hour, 7-day/week contact person who has the authority and is able to turn off the sign promptly if a malfunction occurs. If at any time more than 40% of the digital display lights malfunction or

are no longer working properly, the owner of said EMC shall turn off the electronic display until repairs are made.

- (xvii) No EMC shall utilize, house or contain any interaction features or components or in any way function as an interactive sign.
 - (xviii) At the direction of the City Clerk, all permitted EMC signs shall publish public service announcements for the benefit of the citizens of the City of Lawrenceville. Public service announcements shall include, but are not limited to, dates and times of meetings of the Mayor and Council of the City, and the date, time, and place of City elections.
 - (xix) Malfunctioning or damaged EMC portions of legal non-conforming and legal conforming EMC signs may be replaced provided that the replacement must be equal to or better than the original display technology and the display area may not be any greater in size. The new EMC portion must be in compliance with current ordinance requirements regarding brightness levels and copy change time limitations.
 - (xx) All other signage located on the property upon which an EMC sign is to be located shall meet the current sign standards, including landscape and color requirements.
- (11) A-frame signs, sandwich board signs, sidewalk or curb signs are allowed in the Courthouse Square Sub-area, as defined in Attachment four (4) of the Zoning Ordinance, provided that the sign area does not exceed four and one-half (4 ½) feet by 3 and one-half (3 ½) feet, the height of the sign does not exceed five and one-half (5 ½) feet, and the sign does not impede the flow of pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Any a-frame, sandwich board, sidewalk or curb sign which does not meet the criteria listed above shall only be allowed upon approval of a permit by the City Council. An applicant seeking a permit shall file a regular sign permit application and a \$25.00 application fee with the Planning Department. The application shall include a description and/or sketch of the proposed sign and a sketch of the area in which the sign is to be located. The description sketch shall include dimensions and colors to be used on the sign. Upon receipt of the application, the staff shall prepare a

staff recommendation and place the application on the next regular City Council meeting agenda for consideration. In considering the applications for a permit, the Council shall consider the following factors:

- (i) If the sign will be located on public property;
- (ii) If the sign will be located on public property, can the sign be placed in such a location that it will not impede the flow of vehicular traffic or pedestrian traffic and will not pose a threat to the health and safety of the general public;
- (iii) Is the coloring and size of the sign appropriate for the location and will the sign create a visual clutter and be aesthetically unpleasing in its proposed location;
- (iv) Does the business proposing the sign have other adequate signage to allow for public identification of the business.

If the permit is approved, the Council may place conditions on the permit, including but not limited to specifying the exact location in which the sign may be placed, placing size and color restrictions on the sign, and placing time restrictions on when the sign may be displayed.

- (12) Window Signs which cover more than twenty percent (20%) of each window area as measured from the outermost points provided that the City Council has specifically approved a special use permit for the sign. An applicant seeking a permit shall file a regular sign permit application and a Twenty-Five Dollar (\$25.00) application fee with the Planning Department. Applications shall include a description and/or sketch of the proposed sign and a sketch showing the area of the window to be covered by the proposed sign. The description sketch shall include dimensions of the sign and the window and colors to be used on the sign. Upon receipt of the application, the staff shall prepare a staff recommendation and place the application on the next available City Council meeting agenda for consideration. In considering the application for a permit, the Council shall consider the following factors:

- (1) Is the coloring and size of the sign appropriate for the location and will the sign as proposed create visual

clutter or be aesthetically unpleasing.

- (2) Is the proposed sign consistent with the architectural features of the building and the surrounding area.
- (3) Does the business proposing the window sign have other adequate signage to allow for public identification of the business.

If the permit is approved, the Council may place conditions on the permit including but not limited to restricting the location, size and color of the sign and allowing the window sign in lieu of other signage that might otherwise be allowed at the location. Window signs of a temporary nature that are legally permissible as of the adoption of this provision shall come into compliance with the terms of this provision within six months of its adoption by the City Council.

¹⁷Section 10.6 SIGN REGULATIONS

A. Free Standing Sign:

- a. Number Allowed:
 - i. One (1) per road frontage, not to exceed two (2) per property.
 - ii. Where two (2) are allowed, the distance between the signs shall be a minimum of one hundred (100) feet.
- b. Setback: A free standing sign shall be set back at least five (5) feet from any lot line.
- c. Dimensions: Ground Signs shall be measured in accordance with Figure 10.1, and Double Post Signs shall be measured in accordance with Figure 10.2.
 - i. Ground Sign (*Figure 10.1*)
 1. Square Footage of Sign Display Area
 - a. 0.45 square feet per linear foot of road frontage
 - i. If the calculation is less than sixty-four (64) square feet, the square footage of the sign may be sixty-four (64) square feet.
 - ii. The maximum square footage of any sign shall be one hundred sixty-eight (168) square feet.
 - iii. The base and frame of the sign structure shall not be included in

calculating the total square footage but shall be included in calculating the height and width of the sign.

- b. If the property upon which the sign is located is a corner lot:
 - i. Calculate the front property as provided in subsection (i)(1)(a) above.
 - ii. Calculate the second road at 0.3375 square feet per linear foot of road frontage.
 - iii. Add the two numbers together, which will provide the total allowable square footage.
 - iv. The total square footage may be divided between two signs, provided that no ground sign may be larger than one hundred sixty-eight (168) square feet.

2. Height and Width: The maximum height of a ground sign shall be twelve (12) feet, and the maximum width shall be sixteen (16) feet. The supporting base shall be at least eighteen (18) inches in height and shall be at least six (6) inches wider on each side than the sign display area, including any frame. The sign to base ratio of any sign shall not exceed three to one (3:1). For example, if a sign is twelve (12) feet in height, the supporting base must be at least four (4) feet in height.

ii. Double Post Sign (*Figure 10.2*)

1. Square Footage of Sign Display Area

- a. 0.25 square feet per linear foot of road frontage
 - i. If the calculation is less than thirty-six (36) square feet, the square footage of the sign may be thirty-six (36) square feet.
 - ii. The maximum square footage of any sign shall be ninety-six (96) square feet.
- b. If the property upon which the sign is located is a corner lot:

- i. Calculate the front property as provided in subsection (ii)(1)(a) above.
 - ii. Calculate the second road at 0.1875 square feet per linear foot of road frontage.
 - iii. Add the two numbers together, which will provide the total allowable square footage.
 - iv. The total square footage may be divided between two signs, provided that no double post sign may be larger than forty-eight (48) square feet.
2. Height and Width: The maximum height of a double post sign shall be eight (8) feet, and the maximum width shall be eight (8) feet.

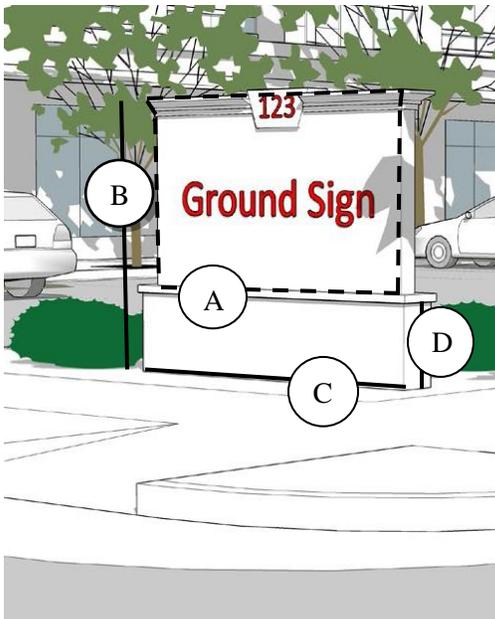


Figure 10.1

- Ⓐ Sign Display Area (max): 168 sq. ft.
- Ⓑ Height (max): 12 feet
- Ⓒ Width (max): 16 feet
8 feet
- Ⓓ Sign Base Height (min): 18 inches

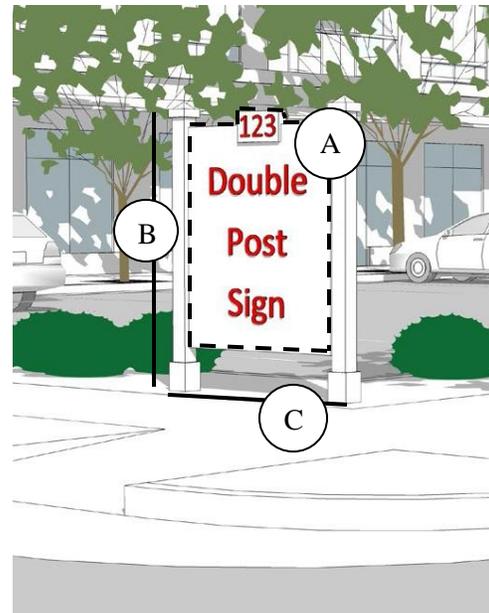


Figure 10.2

- Ⓐ Sign Display Area (max): 48 sq. ft.
- Ⓑ Height (max): 8 feet
- Ⓒ Width (max):

- B. Wall sign
 - a. Square footage of sign
 - i. Front façade shall not exceed 20% of the wall
 - ii. Side facades shall not exceed 15% of the wall
 - iii. Rear façade shall not exceed 5% of the wall
 - b. Total signage on a wall shall constitute one sign
 - c. Sign shall not extend above the wall

- C. Subdivision Sign
 - a. Number: 2 signs allowed per entrance
 - b. Square footage maximum is 32 sq ft per sign. Structure is not included in the square footage
 - c. Maximum height shall not exceed 6 feet
 - d. Setback is a minimum of 10 feet

Section 10.7 TEMPORARY SIGNS

right

- A. Temporary signs:
 - (1) Unless allowed under Section 10.3, the only temporary sign allowed is a banner or banners, inflatable signs, pennants, balloons and streamers.
 - (2) A sign permit is required for all temporary signs except pennants, balloons and streamers.
 - (3) The standards for a temporary sign permit are as follows:
 - (a) A temporary sign may not be displayed unless a permit is issued by the City of Lawrenceville for the temporary sign pursuant to the requirements of Section 10.11.
 - (b) A permit shall not be valid for longer than a period of fourteen (14) days from the date of issuance, after which time the owner of the temporary sign or owner of the premises shall remove the sign from the premises.
 - (c) No more than two (2) permits may be issued to the same premises in any one (1) calendar year. In the event a temporary sign is not removed within five (5) days after the expiration or revocation of the permit, no new permit will be issued for that premises for a period of the remainder of the calendar year.
 - (d) Placement: Temporary signs must be set back at least ten (10) feet from the property line. The placement of a

temporary sign in a parking space which is required to meet the minimum parking requirements for the premises is prohibited. The placement of a temporary sign in the public right-of-way is prohibited and will be cause for revocation of the permit.

- (e) Banner: A banner shall not exceed a maximum of thirty-two (32) square feet in area per face.

- B. Pennants, Balloons and Streamers: Pennants, Balloons and Streamers are allowed one (1) time only for a change in use or change in occupancy of the premises from two (2) weeks prior to the change in use or occupancy until two (2) weeks after the change in use or occupancy.

- C. Inflatable Signs (Static): Inflatable signs shall be allowed only one (1) time per year per premises, and for not more than seven (7) consecutive days. The inflatable sign shall not exceed a height of thirty (30) feet nor exceed a maximum of three hundred (300) square feet of sign area and be securely attached to the ground. A permit is required.

Section 10.8 BILLBOARDS

- A. Billboards shall be allowed only in LM and HM Zoning Districts under the City of Lawrenceville zoning classifications and provided that a Special Use Permit is obtained from the Lawrenceville City Council. The Special Use Permit shall be issued if the billboard and application meet all of the following conditions:
 - (1) (a) Within the City Limits of the City of Lawrenceville, a Special Use Permit may be applied for to allow the construction of a billboard within a corridor along Georgia Highway 316 (no further than one hundred (100) feet from the right-of-way line) between the intersection of Georgia Highway 316 and Georgia Highway 20/124 and the intersection of Georgia Highway 316 and High Hope Road.

 - (b) The Special Use Permit shall be applied for by filing a standard sign permit application with the Department of Planning and Zoning.

 - (c) The Special Use Permit may be granted only by the affirmative vote of the majority of the Mayor and Council after a review and recommendation from the

Planning Commission. The standard procedure for securing a Special Use Permit under Article IV, Section 4.19 of this Ordinance shall be followed.

- (2) In granting the Special Use Permit, the Mayor and Council shall be limited as follows:
 - (a) The maximum square footage of the face of the billboard may be six hundred seventy-two (672) square feet.
 - (b) The minimum space between billboards shall be no less than one thousand (1000) feet.
 - (c) The dimensions of the sign shall not exceed fourteen (14) feet in height by forty-eight (48) feet in length with or without trim. The height of the entire structure shall not exceed forty-five (45) feet.
- (3) Signs may only be located within one hundred (100) feet of Georgia Highway 316 R/W.
- (4) No billboard shall rotate or have any moving parts.
- (5) No billboard shall be located within 1,500 feet of any residentially zoned property.
- (6) In order to construct a billboard under the standards of this provision, the applicant is required to own a fee simple property interest in the site large enough for a Fall Zone. A Fall Zone is defined as an area large enough and set back far enough from any buildings, structures or property lines equal to one hundred thirty-three percent (133%) of the height of the entire structure in every direction. Within the Fall Zone, no buildings or other structures may be constructed.
- (7) Each billboard site shall have a designated driveway access point which is shown on the site plan presented with the application. The applicant shall have a property interest specifically providing for ingress and egress to the site. The ingress and egress driveway shall be paved and two (2) additional paved parking spaces shall be provided for inspection, maintenance and supervision of the billboard.

- (8) All billboard construction must meet engineering standards which are capable of withstanding one hundred twenty-five (125) mile per hour wind velocity.
- (9) All illuminated billboards other than EMC's must use base mounted florescent or mercury vapor lights and shall be activated by photocells. Any additional lights, including but not limited to, neon, animation or running lights is specifically prohibited by this Ordinance.
- (10) Any structure extending beyond the face of any billboard, excluding the aprons is specifically prohibited.
- (11) All billboard applications shall meet all of the other requirements set forth in the current Article 10 of this Ordinance.
- (12) Billboards may be an electronic message center if it satisfies the following provisions:
 - (a) EMCs shall not interfere with any public safety vehicle or traffic control device.
 - (b) EMCs shall have light sensors/monitors to control brightness as specified below for all times and all weather conditions; day, night, twilight, overcast skies and dark clouds. Excessive brightness is a distraction to vehicular traffic and as such is a hazard. Failure to control a sign's brightness will result in the sign being turned off until the brightness is within the standards.
 - (c) The City will from time to time check the brightness of each EMC to verify the levels specified in this ordinance are met. If the owner of a sign fails to control brightness within these limits the sign permit will be revoked. Should a permit be revoked the sign must be turned off immediately and remain off unless and until the sign is re-permitted. Re-permitting requires the owner to reapply in accordance with the procedures in place at the time of the new permit application, including paying fees required for a new permit.
 - (d) EMC light levels shall not increase lighting or brightness levels by more than 0.30 foot-candles above

ambient levels as measured using a standard foot-candle meter.

- (e) The sign owner and installer shall provide a letter to the Planning and Zoning Department certifying that the light sensors are operational and that the sign meets the brightness standards established in paragraph (vii).
- (f) Text messages shall not scroll or flash. All Text messages shall be static for a minimum of ten (10) seconds.
- (g) The display of video from an EMC is strictly prohibited regardless of applicant. Failure to abide by this ordinance will result in the revocation of an EMC permit.
- (h) Types of screens permitted include Color and Monochrome in Light Emitting Diode (LED).
 - (i) For LED signs no screen may have a density of less than 16 mm (Bulb Cluster Spacing on center).
 - (j) All EMCs shall have a switch or circuit breaker located on the property that allows electrical power to be turned off. The Owner of each EMC shall provide to the Planning and Zoning Department contact information for a 24-hour, 7-day/week contact person who has the authority and is able to turn off the sign promptly if a malfunction occurs. If at any time more than 40% of the digital display lights malfunction or are no longer working properly, the owner of said EMC shall turn off the electronic display until repairs are made.
 - (k) No EMC shall utilize, house or contain any interactive features or components or in any way function as an interactive sign.
 - (l) In considering the Special Use Permit, the City Council shall consider whether the applicant has agreed to publish public service announcements for the benefit of the citizens of the City of Lawrenceville. Public service

announcements shall include, but are not limited to, dates and times of meetings of the Mayor and Council of the City, and the date, time, and place of City elections. These announcements would be published in accordance with an agreement consented to by the applicant and made a part of the Special Use Permit.

- (m) All EMC Billboards shall meet all requirements of the Georgia Department of Transportation for construction, placement and operation of such billboards.
- B.
- (1) At the time of issuance of a special use permit for a billboard, the applicant shall complete a registration form that contains the name of the owner of the property, the tenants if the site is leased, the billboard company operating the billboard sign, addresses and telephone numbers of all interested parties, as well as, other contact information necessary to communicate with the billboard owners in the event of an emergency. The actual form of the registration shall be devised by the Planning Director.
 - (2) Should the City have a reasonable belief that the safety of a billboard may be in question, the Planning Director may request submission of an inspection report. The inspection report shall certify and guarantee that the billboard is being maintained in a sound and safe condition. It will certify that all the welds and structural components of the sign have been physically inspected within the last two (2) months by a Professional Engineer Registered in the State of Georgia. The certification shall guarantee and certify that there is no structural weakness in the sign and that it will withstand the wind conditions established for a new permit in the existing billboard sign Ordinance. This certification shall be in a form acceptable to the Planning and Zoning Director. The form shall contain a provision for the current operator to certify that it will hold harmless the City from

any structural defects not disclosed in the report and will indemnify the City, its agents, employees and related parties from any liability resulting from a failure that occurs after the inspection. The certification required by this provision shall be executed by a certified professional engineer.

- (3) When property is annexed into the City of Lawrenceville and the property to be annexed already has a billboard constructed on the property at the time the application is filed, the owner shall submit with the annexation petition a registration form pursuant to paragraph (a) above and an inspection report pursuant to paragraph (b) above before the annexation hearing. The Property shall not be annexed unless this inspection report shows the billboard meets all existing regulations and requirements of the City.

Section 10.9 GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. **Setback Distance:** Setback distance for all signs is the shortest horizontal distance from the property line to the nearest point of the signs or its supporting members, whichever is nearest to the property line.
- B. **Maintenance Standards:** All signs must be properly maintained in a state of good repair such that they do not create a threat to public safety.
- C. **Lighting:** Sign lights must be focused, directed, and arranged so as to avoid becoming a nuisance or a traffic, or safety hazard, flashing or pulsating lights are not permitted. All electrical signs shall comply with the requirements of the City's adopted electric code.

⁵Section 10.10 NONCONFORMING SIGNS

It is the policy of the City to encourage that all signs within the City be brought into compliance with the terms and requirements of this Ordinance.

- A. The City finds that non-conforming signs may adversely affect the public health, safety and welfare. Such signs adversely affect the aesthetic characteristics of the City and may adversely affect public

safety due to the visual impact of said signs. Accordingly, the following registration requirements are found to be necessary in order to minimize these possible adverse by establishing an inventory of all non-conforming signs and allowing the City to perform periodic inspections and to remain cognizant of the locations and maintenance of non-conforming signs.

- B. The owners of all non-conforming signs must register the non-conforming sign with the City of Lawrenceville within 90 days of their receipt of the written notice that the sign is non-conforming. Any non-conforming sign that does not comply with the registration requirements shall be deemed to be an illegal sign and shall be subject to all enforcement provisions of this Ordinance related to illegal signs. At the direction of the City Council, the Planning Director, shall identify and inventory non-conforming signs. Prior to taking any enforcement action against a non-conforming sign for failure to register the sign in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph, the Director shall first provide notice of the intention to take enforcement action to the owner in writing at least 15 days prior to the actual enforcement action. Should the owner of the sign register the sign as required by the provisions of this paragraph within the 15 day period between receiving notice of the violation and actual enforcement of the violation, the owner shall be deemed in compliance with the registration requirements of this paragraph. The Director shall promulgate a form for the registration of non-conforming signs and shall periodically inspect such signs to ensure that they continue in all of their aspects in conformity with all of the provisions of this ordinance, and any other applicable ordinance or regulations of the City. A registration fee may be assessed to cover the cost of administration of non-conforming signs in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.
- C. The Director may inspect existing signs in the City from time to time to determine if such signs conform to the provisions of this Ordinance.
- D. Any non-conforming sign located on property that remains vacant for a period of six (6) months or more loses its non-conforming status .shall be removed by the owner of the sign or the owner of the property.
- E. No change in shape, size or design, shall be permitted except to make a non-conforming sign comply with all requirements of this Ordinance.
- F. A non-conforming sign may not be replaced by another non-conforming sign.

Section 10.11 APPEALS

- A. Any person aggrieved by any order, requirement, decision or determination of the Administrative Official in the implementation or enforcement of this Ordinance may file a written appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals within ten (10) calendar days after rendition of the order, requirement, decision or determination by the Administrative Official to which the appeal is directed. The procedures for such an appeal are contained in 11.6.4 of the City of Lawrenceville Zoning Ordinance.

For purposes of review of appeals from this Sign Ordinance, the Lawrenceville Zoning Board of Appeals shall have forty-five (45) days in which to make a decision regarding the appeal. The Zoning Board of Appeals shall have the authority to approve, deny or remand the order, requirement, decision or determination by the administrative official. A remand in this case is an action to send a particular appeal to the Mayor and Council for modification of the Ordinance consistent with appropriate constitutional principles. Any person aggrieved by any order, requirement, decision or determination of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall have thirty (30) days in which to appeal such decision to the Superior Court of Gwinnett County by a Writ of Certiorari. Consistent with the decisions of the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia, an appeal from the Zoning Board of Appeals shall not be de novo and the records below shall be binding on all parties to the appeal.

- B. Any person denied a sign permit for signs by the Department of Planning and Zoning may file a written appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals within ten (10) calendar days after rendition of the denial. Any person aggrieved by any order, requirement, decision or determination of the Zoning Board of Appeals Any person aggrieved by any order, requirement, decision or determination of the Zoning Board of Appeals shall have thirty (30) days in which to appeal such decision to the Superior Court of Gwinnett County by a Writ of Certiorari. Consistent with the decisions of the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia, an appeal from the Zoning Board of Appeals shall not be de novo and the records below shall be binding on all parties to the appeal.

- C. Any person denied a Special Use Permit for a sign by the City Council shall have thirty (30) days in which to appeal such decision to the Superior Court of Gwinnett County by a Writ of Certiorari. Consistent with the decisions of the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia, an appeal of the denial by the City Council shall not be de novo and the records below shall be binding on all parties to the appeal.

Section 10.12 SIGN PERMITS REQUIRED

- A. Permits Required: Signs larger than six (6) square feet and A-frame signs require a sign permit. Face change for single tenant signs even though no structural modifications are proposed require a sign permit. No person shall erect, alter, repair or relocate any sign that requires a permit without first obtaining a sign permit for such work from the Department of Planning & Zoning of the City of Lawrenceville. No permit shall be issued until the Department of Planning & Zoning of the City of Lawrenceville determines that such work is in accordance with the requirements contained in this Ordinance, and the Department of Planning & Zoning of the City of Lawrenceville determines such work will not violate any building, electrical or other adopted codes of the City of Lawrenceville.
- B. Applications: All required sign permit applications shall be filed on forms supplied by the Department of Planning & Zoning of the City of Lawrenceville. The application shall contain the information and documents required in Section C of this paragraph and shall be accompanied by the required sign permit fee.
- C. Permit Contents: The completed application for a sign shall include the following applicable information:
- (1) The name, address and telephone number of the property owner.
 - (2) The name, address, telephone number and registration number of the engineer.
 - (3) The name, address, telephone number and license number of the sign contractor/manufacturer.
 - (4) The name and address of the business where the sign is to be erected. The zoning district, the building frontage of the tenant space and the road frontage of the parcel is also required.
 - (5) The types of sign, square footage, height and location of all signage currently displayed on the site.
 - (6) The type of sign, square footage, height and location of the sign or signs proposed to be erected on the site. If the sign is to be electrically lighted, additional information is to be provided regarding the Testing Laboratory or the ETL Number, and the name and address of the Electrical Contractor.
 - (7) A fully dimensioned site plan showing the lot frontage, building frontage, parking areas and location of all existing and

proposed signs. For ground signs, the sign plan must show the distance from the right-of-way and edge of pavement, and the street corner. Visibility calculations must be made to insure that the sign location does not block pedestrian traffic visibility.

- (8) Site plan (does not apply to temporary signs). The application shall:
 - (a) Provide a summary table listing location type and area of any existing and proposed signs.
 - (b) Provide fully dimensioned elevation drawing of any proposed sign, showing sign type, height and copy area.
 - (c) For façade signs, provide an elevation of the building, showing placement of any sign.
- (9) The type of construction, sign supports, electrical details.
- (10) Wind load calculations and footer details as required by the City's adopted building code.

D. Investigation/Time Limits: Upon the receipt of a completed sign permit application and upon payment of the appropriate sign permit fee by the applicant, the Department of Planning & Zoning of the City of Lawrenceville shall promptly conduct an investigation of the application, the proposed sign and the premises. The Director of Planning & Zoning or his designated representative of the Department of Planning & Zoning of the City of Lawrenceville shall grant or deny the sign permit application within thirty (30) days from the date the completed application with application fee was filed with the Department of Planning & Zoning of the City of Lawrenceville.

E. Issuance or Denial of Permit:

- (1) If, after review and investigation as required herein, the Director of Planning & Zoning or his designated representative determines that the application meets the requirements contained in this Ordinance and determines the proposed sign will not violate any building, electrical or other adopted codes of the City of Lawrenceville, the Director of Planning & Zoning or his designated representative shall issue the permit.
- (2) If, after review and investigation as required here, the Director of Planning & Zoning or his designated representative

determines that one (1) or more reasons for denial exist, the permit shall be denied and the Director of Planning & Zoning or his designated representative shall make a written report of the denial and the reasons therefore. A copy of the report shall be sent by certified mail to the designated return address of the applicant on the application. The application for a permit shall be denied if one or more of the following conditions are found to exist:

- (a) The application does not comply with the requirements of this Ordinance; or,
 - (b) The application would violate any building, electrical or other adopted codes of the City of Lawrenceville.
- (3) The sign permit application shall be deemed granted in the event the Director of Planning & Zoning or his designated representative of the Department of Planning & Zoning of the City of Lawrenceville fails to take action within thirty (30) days from the date the completed application with application fee was filed with the Department of Planning & Zoning of the City of Lawrenceville.
- (4) Any application for a Special Use Permit required under this Article shall be acted on by the City Council within sixty (60) days of receipt of a completed application with the required fee and supporting documentation. The application for a Special Use Permit shall be deemed granted if the City Council fails to take final action on the application within sixty (60) days of receipt of a completed application with application fee and supporting documentation unless the applicant specifically agrees in writing or on the public record of a meeting for action on the application to be tabled to a later date.
- F. Sign Permit-Fees: The sign permit fee for signs shall be determined pursuant to the sign permit fee schedule established by separate Ordinance.

Section 10.13 MAINTENANCE AND REMOVAL

Every sign, including those specifically exempt from this Code in respect to permits and permit fees, shall be maintained in good structural condition at all times. All signs shall be kept neatly painted, including all metal parts and supports thereof that are not galvanized or of rust-14 resistant material. The Planning Director or his authorized representative shall inspect and shall have the authority to order the painting, repair, alteration, or removal of a sign which

shall constitute a hazard to safety, health, or public welfare by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidation, or obsolescence.

- (1) Abandoned Signs: Any non-conforming sign that is located on property which becomes vacant or is unoccupied for a period of six (6) months or more shall be deemed abandoned. An abandoned sign is prohibited and shall be removed by the owner of the sign or the owner of the property.
- (2) Dangerous or Defective Signs: No person shall maintain or permit to be maintained any premises owned or controlled by him any sign which is in a dangerous or defective condition. Any such sign shall be removed or repaired by the owner of the sign or the owner of the premises.
- (3) Removal of Signs by the Planning Director: The Planning Director shall cause to be removed any sign in any road right-of-way which violates this Ordinance or endangers the public safety, such as a dangerous, or materially, electrically, or structurally defective sign, for which no permit has been issued.

Section 10.14 PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS

Violations of this Ordinance shall be punishable by the issuance of a citation and summons to Municipal Court. Any person found guilty of violating this Ordinance shall be fined an amount not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) and/or probation or community service. If the prohibited sign is not removed or corrected within ten (10) days of the disposition of any citation in Municipal Court, the owner or occupant shall be subject to multiple citations and fines in Municipal Court until the sign is removed or brought into compliance with this Ordinance.

Section 10.15 INTERPRETATION AND SEVERABILITY

(a) Nothing in this Article shall be construed to regulate the content of the message displayed on any sign. All signs may display a noncommercial message in addition to, or in lieu of, any other message.

(b) In the event any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Article shall be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional including but, not limited to, a declaration or adjudication that such section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of the Article relates to the content of any sign or in any way violates the constitutional provisions of free speech under the State of Georgia or United States Constitution, such adjudication shall in no manner effect the other sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or phrases of this Article, which shall remain in full force and effect

as if the section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase so declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional were not originally a part thereof. The City Council hereby declares it would have adopted the remaining parts of the Article if it had known that such part or parts thereof would be declared or adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. The provisions of this Article are declared severable to the maximum extent allowed by law.

¹ *Ordinance of the City of Lawrenceville, Georgia Mayor and Council to Amend the City of Lawrenceville's Zoning Ordinance Article X – General Provisions Pertaining to Signs Replacing the Prior Ordinance and Providing for Certain Changes Which Have Been Determined by the Mayor and Council to be Necessary to Improve the Enforceability of the Sign Ordinance and Regulations Within the City and for Providing for Interpretation, Codification, Conflicts, Severability and Effective Date was adopted on June 5, 2000.*

² *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville Zoning Ordinance was adopted on October 2, 2000.*

³ *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville's Zoning Ordinance with new Article X was adopted on August 4, 2003.*

⁴ *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville Zoning Ordinance Section 10.9(F)(17)- Maintenance and Removal- Billboard Biannual Registration and Inspections was adopted on November 11, 2002.*

⁵ *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville's Zoning Ordinance Section 10.10 – Sign Regulations was adopted on May 6, 2002.*

⁶ *Ordinance to Amend the Sections 10.4 and 10.5 of the City of Lawrenceville Zoning Ordinance was adopted on August 6, 2007.*

⁷ *Ordinance to Amend Article X of the City of Lawrenceville Zoning Ordinance was adopted on February 2, 2009.*

⁸ *Ordinance to Amend Article X of the City of Lawrenceville Zoning Ordinance was adopted on October 5, 2009, and replaces Article X in its entirety.*

⁹ *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville's Zoning Ordinance Sections 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.7, 10.9, 10.10, 10.11, 10.12, 10.13, 10.14 and 10.15 – Sign Regulations was adopted on June 7, 2011.*

¹⁰ *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville's Zoning Ordinance Sections 10.1-10.15– Sign Regulations was adopted on May 7, 2012.*

¹¹ *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville's Zoning Ordinance Sections 10.2-10.15– Sign Regulations to further restrict Window and Door Signs was adopted on July 1, 2013.*

¹² *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville's Zoning Ordinance Section 10.5(C)(11)(ix) Sign Regulations to increase allowable EMC sign area was adopted on February 3, 2014.*

¹³ *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville's Zoning Ordinance Article X Sections 10.2, 10.3 and 10.5 Sign Regulations to further define Window and Door sign regulations was adopted on February 3, 2014.*

¹⁴ *Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville's Zoning Ordinance Article X Sections 10.4 and 10.5 Sign Regulations to provide variance possibility for certain signs in the Courthouse Square Sub-Area of the Downtown 10.4 District was adopted on February 3, 2014.*

¹⁵ Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville’s Zoning Ordinance Article X Sign Regulations in response to Supreme Court decision Reed v. Town of Gilbert was adopted on August 19, 2015.

¹⁶ Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville’s Zoning Ordinance Article X Sign Regulations Section 10.5(C)(10)(ii) to revise area that EMC signs are allowed was adopted on September 09, 2015.

¹⁷ Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville’s Zoning Ordinance Article X Sign Regulations Section 10.6 to revise design standards for sign structures was adopted on December 07, 2015.

¹⁸ Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville’s Zoning Ordinance Article X Sign Regulations Section 10.6 to prohibit pole signs was adopted on April 4, 2016.

¹⁹ Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville’s Zoning Ordinance Article X Sign Regulations Section 10.5 to revise EMC regulations was adopted on May 2,

2016.²⁰ Ordinance to Amend the City of Lawrenceville’s Zoning Ordinance Article X Sign Regulations Section 10.3 to revise Signs Exempt From Permitting was adopted on January 4, 2019.