

**STATE OF GEORGIA
CITY OF WALNUT GROVE**

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-03

AN ORDINANCE TO REVISE ARTICLE XII (“SIGNS”) OF THE CITY ZONING ORDINANCE TO CREATE ITS REGULATIONS RELATED TO SIGNS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER LAWFUL PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City put moratoriums on accepting sign applications in place in order to study and update its sign ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City believes that by updating its sign ordinance, it will: Promote and protect the public health, safety and general welfare; Protect the character of the city’s historic commercial district and residential neighborhoods; Enhance the economy of the city by promoting the reasonable, orderly and effective display of signs; Balance the rights of the persons to convey their messages through signs and the right of the public to be protected against the unrestricted proliferation of signs; Restrict signs and lights which increase clutter or which increase the surroundings; Protect property values by minimizing the possible adverse effects and visual blight caused by signs; and Improve pedestrian and traffic safety and reduce traffic and pedestrian hazards.; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Walnut Grove, Georgia deem such ordinance to be for the betterment and general welfare of the City of Walnut Grove and its inhabitants;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council previously approved this at their May 11, 2023 meeting after a public hearing;

WHEREAS, the formal ordinance was never signed;

WHEREAS, the purpose of this is to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign this Ordinance; and

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

SECTION 1. Article XII of the Zoning Ordinances of the City of Walnut Grove is hereby deleted in its entirety and replaced with the language attached hereto as Exhibit “A”.

SECTION 2. The following definitions currently found in Article III: Definitions of the City Zoning Ordinance are hereby deleted to not conflict with the definitions found in this Sign Ordinance.

“95. Sign. Shall mean and include every outdoor advertising device, billboard, poster panel, statuary, free-standing ground sign, sign painted on a wall, window, marquee, awning or canopy, and shall include any announcement, declaration, demonstration, display, ribbon, banner, illustration or insignia used to advertise or promote any interests when the same is in view of the general public.

96. Sign, Animated. A sign with action, motion or changing colors. This definition does not include signs which indicate only time, temperature and date.

97. Sign, Area of. The area of a sign shall be computed as including the entire area within a regular geometric form or combinations of regular geometric forms, comprising all of the display area of the sign and including all of the elements of the matter displayed. Structural frames and members not bearing advertising matter shall not be included in computation of surface area.

98. Sign, Directional. A sign located within a development at a street intersection or private drive (other than an entrance) on which the name of a street and/or the institutionalized corporate/business names or other building identification with addresses indicating direction to their location. The purpose of this sign is to provide directions to the tenants.

99. Sign, Directory. A sign which is located within the boundary of a development, as defined by the approved Plat on which the address and name of the businesses, tenants and/or occupants of the development is placed. Directional information may also be placed on the sign (e.g., map of the project showing streets, etc.). 18

100. Sign, Double Faced. A sign which has two display areas against each other or where the interior angle formed by the display areas is 60 degrees or less, where one face is designed to be seen from one direction and the other face from another direction.

101. Sign Face. The part of a sign that is or can be used for display purposes.

102. Sign, Ground. A permanently affixed sign which is wholly independent of a building for support.

103. Sign, Ground; Height. The height from the elevation of the adjacent dedicated public street, edge of pavement, to the highest point of the sign structure. The height shall be measured from ground level at base of sign to the highest point of the sign structure. The ground shall not be altered for the purpose of additional sign height.

104. Sign, Illuminated Direct. A sign illuminated by an internal light source.

105. Sign, Illuminated Indirect. A sign illuminated by an external light source directed primarily toward such sign.

106. Sign, Marquee. A business sign painted on, attached to, or hung from a marquee.

107. Sign, Number. For the purposes of determining number of signs, Ground signs shall be equal to the number of sign structures. All other non-ground signs shall be considered to be a single display surface or display device containing elements organized, related and composed to form a unit. Where matter is displayed in a random manner without organized relationship of elements, such element shall be considered to be a single sign.

108. Sign, Planned Center. A serial sign which identifies the businesses, offices, professionals, or other entities in a planned center.

109. Sign, Political. Signs identifying or urging voter support for a particular election issue, political party or candidate for public office.

110. Sign, Portable. Signs attached to vehicles, trailers, movable structures, or attached to sign structures not 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 or other commercial advertisement attached to vehicles and trailers which offer products or services "For Sale" or announce when the "Sale" is to occur. Exceptions: Signs which are painted or attached to a vehicle stating only the name, address, business logo and telephone number of a business. 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. (Note: All vehicles must be parked in locations consistent with this Ordinance.)

111. Sign, Projecting. A sign projecting more than six inches from the outside wall of a building.

112. Sign, Real Estate. A temporary sign advertising the real property upon which the sign is located for rent or sale.

113. Sign, Roof. A sign projecting over the coping of a flat roof, or over the ridge of a gable, hip or gambrel roof, and supported by or attached to said roof.

114. Sign, Sidewalk or Sandwich. A moveable A-frame sign.

115. Sign Structure. Poles, posts, foundations, and the like, which provide structural support of the sign.

116. Sign, Surface Area. Includes all of the display area of the sign: structural frames and members not bearing advertising matter shall not be included in computation of surface area.

117. Sign, Temporary. A sign of a non-permanent nature.

118. Sign, Trailer. Any sign which is mounted on wheels and which may be moved from one location to another.

119. Sign, Wall. A sign applied to or mounted to the wall or surface of a structure, the display surface which does not project more than six inches from the outside wall. The total lettering on one side of a building or structure shall constitute one wall sign."

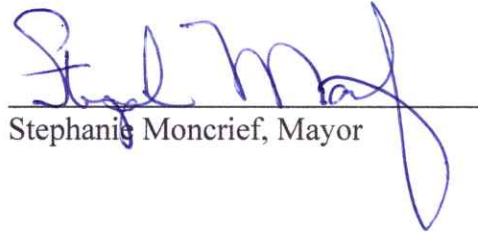
SECTION 3. Authorize the Mayor, City Clerk, and City Attorney to execute this document.

SECTION 4. Except as provided otherwise herein, all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

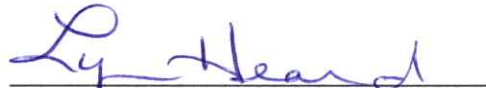
SECTION 4. This ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and Council of the City of Walnut Grove, Georgia.

SECTION 5. It is hereby declared that if any phrase, sentence, or paragraph hereof shall be found or declared unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining phrases, sentences and paragraphs hereof shall remain in full force and effect as if enacted without the phrase, sentence, or paragraph declared unconstitutional or invalid.

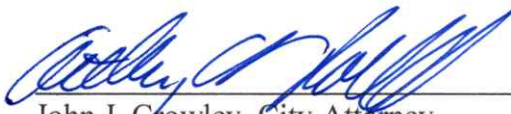
SO ORDAINED this 11th day of May 2023.


Stephanie Moncrief, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lynn Heard, Acting City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


John J. Crowley, City Attorney
Powell & Edwards, Attorneys at Law P.C.

Adopted by the City Council at a regular called meeting on May 11, 2023.

4 Council members voting in favor

0 Council members voting against

0 Council members abstaining