

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-22

AN AMENDMENT TO THE TAYLOR CITY CODE, CHAPTER 24 SIGNS, AMENDING SECTIONS 24-2, DEFINITIONS, AND SECTION 24-3, GENERAL PROVISIONS; PROVIDING A PENALTY FOR VIOLATION OF THE SIGN ORDINANCE AS AMENDED; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; PROVIDING A REPEALER CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING A SAVINGS CLAUSE.

WHEREAS, the City adopted Chapter 24 Signs, of the Taylor City Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the Taylor City Code, Chapter 24 Signs, by amending Section 24-2, Definitions, and Section 24-3, General Provisions, as set forth in this Ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAYLOR, TEXAS, THAT:

Section 1. All of the facts recited in the preamble to this Ordinance are hereby found by the City Council to be true and correct and are incorporated by reference herein and expressly made a part hereof, as if copied herein verbatim.

Section 2. Chapter 24, Section 24-2, Definitions is amended as follows:

The following definition is added to Section 24-2: *ETJ* means the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of the City as created and authorized under Chapter 42 of the Texas Local Government Code.

The following definition is added to Section 24-2: *Non-residential Property* means any land or buildings which are NOT located within the rezoning districts R1, R2, R3, MH, D, MF1 and MF2.

The following definition is added to Section 24-2: *Public Entity* means a federal, state, or local government entity and includes the City of Taylor, Williamson County, and Taylor Independent School District.

The following definition is added to Section 24-2: *Right of Way* means the land located between the property line and the edge of the pavement of a public thoroughfare or a utility easement in which a governmental entity has an interest.

The following definition is added to Section 24-2: *Calendar Year* means between January 1 and December 31 of each year.

The following definition is added to Section 24-2: *Residential Property* means a single-family residential dwelling, a town house, or a duplex with no more than two residential units per structure located within zoning districts R1, R2, R3, MH, and MF1. This definition does not include more than three residential units per structure or apartments.

The following definition is added to Section 24-2: *Neon Signage* means electric signs illuminated by small gas charged glass tubes containing neon or some other form of rarified gas.

The following definition is added to Section 24-2: *Faux Neon Signage* means signage created by using light emitting diodes (LEDs) which are strung closely together so that the light they emit overlaps and creates a steady source of light encased in plastic tubes.

Section 3. Chapter 24, Section 24-3 is amended as follows:

Section 24-3(o) is amended to add a section (10) to read:

(10) Any signs or banners attached to utility poles, streetlights, trees, shrubs, traffic signs or mailboxes or similar structures.

Section 24-3(o)(3) is amended to read:

(3) Off-premise signs, both commercial and non-commercial, except as provided by subsection 24-3(p).

Section 24-3(o)(9) is amended to read:

Banners are prohibited in residential zones.

Section 24-3(p) "Exempt Signs" is amended to add a section (15) to read:

(15) Signs at a Residential Property.

a. A property owner may place no more than three (3) signs on the residential property at any one time.

b. The maximum surface area of the sign shall not exceed three square feet.

c. No external or internal illumination is

permitted on the sign.

d. The sign shall not be located in, on or over a right of way or utility easement.

e. If ground mounted, the maximum height of the sign shall not exceed three feet above grade.

f. If attached to a building or structure, the maximum height of the sign shall not exceed six feet above grade.

g. The sign must be securely attached to a freestanding frame or securely fastened to a building, wall or fence and be well-maintained.

Section 24-3 (t)(4) b. is amended to delete the following:
See subsection (o)(9).

Section 24-3 (t) 5. c. is amended to read:
Internally illuminated signs. Not permitted, except for neon signage and faux neon signage.

Section 24-3 (u) **Temporary Special Event Signage** is added to read:

(u) Temporary sign(s) or banner(s) to advertise special events within the City Limits and the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) are permitted providing:

a. a sign permit is submitted prior to the display of any temporary sign(s) or banner(s) for the special event being advertised; and

b. all of the following conditions are met:

1. No more than three (3) temporary special event signs shall be displayed, at any one time, per non-residential property;

2. Maximum of ten (10) different non-residential locations within the City limits and ETJ for each special event;

3. No external or internal illuminations are permitted;

4. The temporary sign shall not be located in, on, or over a right of way or utility easement or on public property, unless the event is sponsored by the public entity whose property the temporary sign is located;

5. The maximum surface area of each temporary sign shall not exceed 32 square feet;

6. The maximum height of each temporary sign above grade shall not exceed five (5) feet;
7. The maximum duration for each temporary sign would be 21 days prior to the special event and shall be removed within 48 hours of the end of the special event;
8. Each temporary sign or banner shall be securely attached and fastened to a building, wall, fence, or freestanding frame; and
9. The event organizer has obtained prior authorization from each landowner and identified the position and size of each sign at each location before submitting the one sign permit for up to ten (10) different locations.

Section 24-3 is amended to add section 24-3(v) to read:

Banners - Banners are allowed only in non-residentially zoned locations. Applicants must apply for a banner sign permit prior to displaying the sign. Approved banner signs shall be displayed for a maximum of ninety (90) days per calendar year. The following organizations shall be exempt from paying the banner permit fee:

- a. Government/public agencies
- b. Faith-based organizations
- c. Non-profit organizations
- d. Service clubs

Section 4. Any person, firm or corporation violating any of the provisions or terms of this Ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be subjected to a fine not to exceed the sum of Five Hundred and No/100 Dollars (\$500.00) for each offense, except where a different penalty has been established by State law for such offense in which event the penalty shall be fixed by State law and if deemed a violation of any provision which governs fire safety, zoning or public health or sanitation shall be punished by a penalty of fine not to exceed the sum of Two Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$2,000.00) for each offense; and each and every day such violation is continued shall be deemed to constitute a separate offense.

Section 5. The Taylor City Code, Chapter 24 Signs, is amended to add this Ordinance.

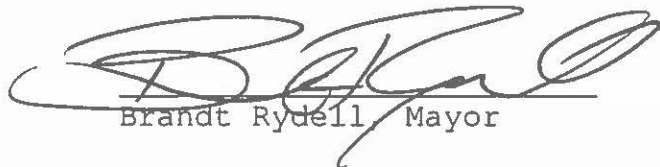
Section 6. This Ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after its passage and publication in accordance with the provisions of the Tex. Loc. Gov't. Code.

Section 7. If any article, paragraph, or part of a paragraph of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the same shall not invalidate or impair the validity, force or effect of any other article, paragraph, or part of a paragraph of this Ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. All provisions of any Ordinance of the City of Taylor, Texas, in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be, and the same are hereby repealed, and all other provisions not in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

In accordance with Article VIII, Section 1 of the City Charter, Ordinance No. 2021-22 was introduced before the Taylor City Council on the 23 day of September, 2021.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED on this 14 day of October, 2021.


Brandt Rydell, Mayor

ATTEST:


Dianna Barker, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ted W. Hejl, City Attorney

CERTIFICATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON

I, Dianna Barker, being the current City Clerk of the City of Taylor, Texas, do hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 2021-22, passed and approved by the City Council of the City of Taylor, Texas, on the ____ day of _____, 2021, and such Ordinance was duly introduced, passed, approved and adopted at meetings open to the public and notices of the meetings, giving the dates, places, and subject matter thereof, were posted as prescribed by Government Code Section 551.043.

Witness my hand and seal of office on this ____ day of _____, 2021.

Dianna Barker
City Clerk

Revised signage ordinance

1. Add to Definitions, Section 24.2:

ETJ Extraterritorial Jurisdiction of the City as created and authorized under Chapter 42 of the Texas Local Government Code.

Non residential property means any land or buildings which are NOT located within the zoning districts R1, R2, R3, MH, D, MF1 and MF2

Public Entity means a federal, state or local government entity and includes the City of Taylor, Williamson County and Taylor Independent School District.

Right of Way shall mean the land located between the property line and the edge of the pavement of a public thoroughfare or a utility easement in which a governmental entity has an interest.

Calendar year shall mean between January 1 to December 31 each year

Residential property shall mean a single family residential dwelling, a town house or a duplex with no more than two residential units per structure located within zoning district R1, R2, R3, MH and MF1. This definition does not include more than three residential units per structure or apartments.

Neon signage means electric signs illuminated by small gas charged glass tubes containing neon or some other form of rarified gas

Faux neon signage is created by using light emitting diodes (LEDs) which are strung closely together so that the light they emit overlaps and creates a steady source of light encased in plastic tubes.

2. Add to sign ordinance

2.1 Section 24.3 (u) Temporary Special Event signage to read:

Temporary sign(s) or banner(s) to advertise special events within the City Limits and the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) are permitted providing:

(1) a sign permit is submitted prior to the display of any temporary sign(s) or banner(s) for the special event being advertised and

(2) all the following conditions are met:

- i) Only one temporary sign, at any one time, per non - residential property
- ii) Maximum of 10 different locations within the City limits and ETJ for each special event
- iii) No external or internal illumination permitted

- iv) The temporary sign shall not be located in, on or over a right of way or utility easement or on public property unless the event is sponsored by the public entity whose property the temporary sign is located
- v) Maximum surface area of each temporary sign shall not exceed 32 sq ft
- vi) Maximum height of each temporary sign above grade shall not exceed 5 ft
- vii) Maximum duration for each temporary sign would be 21 days prior to the special event and shall be removed within 48 hours of the end of the special event
- viii) Each temporary sign or banner shall be securely attached and fastened to a building, wall, fence or freestanding frame.
- ix) The event organizer is required to obtain prior authorization from each landowner and identify the position and size of each sign at each location before submitting the one sign permit for up to 10 different locations

2.2 Add to **Section 24.3 (o) prohibited signs** – “any signs or banners attached to utility poles, street lights, trees, shrubs, traffic signs and mail boxes or similar structures”.

2.3 Add to **Section 24.3 (p) Exempt signs**. Create new heading 24.3 (p) (15) Signs at a Residential Property - to read:

- (i) A property owner may place one sign on the residential property at any one time
- (ii) Maximum surface area of the sign shall not exceed 3 square feet
- (iii) No external or internal illumination permitted
- (iv) The sign shall not be located in, on or over a right of way or a utility easement
- (v) If ground mounted, the maximum height of the sign shall not exceed 3 feet above grade
- (vi) If attached to a building or structure, the maximum height of the sign shall not exceed 6 feet above grade
- (vii) The sign must be securely attached to a freestanding frame or securely fastened to a building, wall or fence and well maintained.

2. Delete

2.1 **Section 24.3 (o) (9)** banners are prohibited.....service clubs

2.2 **Section 24.3 (o) (3)** off premise signs.....rights of way..... from time to time

3. Amend

3.1 **Section 24.3 (h)** – delete all current wording in section 24.3 (h) ‘noncommercial signs: political signs’ and replace with ‘Banners’ (so it complies with section 24.3 (a) h).

3.2 New wording for **banners** at **Section 24.3 (a) h** should read “Banners are allowed only in non- residentially zoned locations. Applicants must apply for a banner sign permit prior to

displaying the sign. Approved banner signs shall be displayed for a maximum of 90 days per calendar year. The following organizations shall be exempt from paying the banner permit fee:

- a. Government/public agencies
- b. Faith based organizations
- c. Non profit organizations
- d. Service Clubs”

3.3 Section 24.3 (t) (4) b Banner sign to read “Shall not exceed 16 square feet in area. Banner signs are for a temporary period only and shall be displayed for more than 90 days per calendar year.”

3.4 Amend the numbering of Section 24.3 (o) with the deletion of 24.3 (o) (3) and (9) and **addition 2.2 above**

3.5 Section 24.3 (t) 5 c amend to read: “Internally illuminated signs. Not permitted except for neon or faux neon signage”