

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF MILLE LACS
PRINCETON TOWNSHIP**

ORDINANCE NO. 2021 - 5

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 401, ZONING ORDINANCE AS IT RELATES TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE; TO ALLOW ELECTRONIC SIGNS IN THE COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL C/I DISTRICT; TO INCLUDE CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 600:200 THROUGH SECTION 600:265; AND TO INCLUDE AMENDMENTS RELATING TO OFF-SITE BILLBOARD SIGNS IN SECTION 600:215

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PRINCETON TOWNSHIP
ORDAINS:**

SECTION 1. Section 200:205 is amended to add the following:

Changeable Copy Sign, Electronic and Manual - A sign or portion thereof that displays electronic, nonpictorial text information in which each alphanumeric character, graphic, or symbol is defined by a small number of matrix elements using different combinations of light emitting diodes (LEDs), fiber optics, light bulbs, or other illumination devices within the display area. Electronic changeable copy signs include computer programmable, microprocessor controlled electronic displays. Electronic changeable copy signs include projected images or messages with these characteristics onto buildings or objects. Electronic changeable copy signs do not include official signs. Manual signs include those with characters, letters, or illustrations that can be changed or rearranged manually without altering the face or the surface of the sign.

Dynamic Display - Any characteristics of a sign that appear to have movement or that appear to change, caused by any method other than physically removing and replacing the sign or its components, whether the apparent movement or change is in the display, the sign structure or any other component of the sign. This includes displays that incorporate technology or methods allowing the sign face to change the image without having to physically or mechanically replace the sign face or its components as well as any rotating, revolving, moving, flashing, blinking, or animated display and any display that incorporates rotating panels, LED lights manipulated through digital input, digital ink or any other method or technology that allows the sign face to present a series of images or displays.

Electronic Graphic Display Sign - A sign or portion thereof that displays electronic, static images, static graphics or static pictures, with or without text information, defined by a small number of matrix elements using different combinations of light

emitting diodes (LEDs), fiber optics, light bulbs or other illumination devices within the display area where the message change sequence is accomplished immediately or by means of fade, repixelization or dissolve modes. Electronic graphic display signs include computer programmable, microprocessor controlled electronic or digital displays. Electronic graphic display signs include projected images or messages with these characteristics onto buildings or other objects.

Multivision Sign - Any sign composed in whole or part of a series of vertical or horizontal slats or cylinders that are capable of being rotated at intervals so that partial rotation of the group of slats or cylinders produces a different image and when properly functioning allows on a single sign structure the display at any given time one of two (2) or more images.

Video Display Sign - A sign that changes its message or background in a manner or method of display characterized by motion or pictorial imagery, which may or may not include text and depicts action or a special effect to imitate movement, the presentation of pictorials or graphics displayed in a progression of frames that gives the illusion of motion, including, but not limited to, the illusion of moving objects, moving patterns or bands of light, or expanding or contracting shapes, not including electronic changeable copy signs. Video display signs include projected images or messages with these characteristics onto buildings or other objects.

SECTION 2. Section 600:215 is amended as follows:

600:215 OFF-SITE SIGNS. All signs located in the Commercial/Industrial Zoning District which are not located on the tract of land where the business advertised is located or situated, shall meet the following requirements.

1. The size of the sign shall a maximum size of 220 square feet.
2. The maximum height for an off-site sign shall be no more than twenty (20) feet above ground level.
3. The off-site signs may face on both sides, be back-to-back, or V-type.
4. Front, Rear and Side Setbacks. Signs shall meet the following setback requirements:
 - a. Front yard, highway or service road right-of-way shall not be less than 5 (five) feet from any portion of the sign or sign support.
 - b. Rear yard shall not be less than thirty-five (35) feet.
 - c. Rear yard adjacent to public bodies of water shall not be less than fifty (50) feet.

- d. Side yard shall not be less than twenty (20) feet.
- e. Rear and side yard adjacent to residential or agricultural zoned properties shall not be less than fifty (50) feet.
5. The horizontal distance between all off-site signs shall be at least six hundred (600) feet.
6. Changeable copy signs – manual and electronic, dynamic display signs, electronic graphic display signs, multivision signs and video display signs are prohibited as off-site signs.
7. All new offsite signs shall require Conditional Use Permit review as provided for in Section 300:230 of this Ordinance. A building permit fee shall be charged for each approved sign constructed. A fee schedule may be obtained from the Town Clerk.
8. Off-site signs existing at the time of enactment of this ordinance and not meeting the full requirements of this ordinance shall be deemed legal non-conforming entities.
9. All applications for off-site signs on State Highway 95 and State Highway 169 shall be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Transportation for required permitting. The approved permit shall be provided to the Township prior to building permit approval

SECTION 3. Section 600:225 is amended as follows:

600:225 ON-SITE SIGNS IN COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

1. The maximum size of a freestanding sign shall be ninety-six (96) square feet of face. Double sided signs are allowed with ninety-six (96) square feet on each side.
2. Only one free standing sign is permitted per site.
3. All commercial/industrial uses are allowed wall signs of two (2) square feet per lineal foot of wall not to exceed one hundred fifty (150) square feet. Signage may be increased for multi-tenant buildings by twenty (20) square feet per tenant. Wall signs affixed to the exterior wall, awning, or canopy of a building or structure, shall not project more than twelve (12) inches from the surface to which it is attached, or above said surface.
4. Double stacking of advertising signs is prohibited.

5. Maximum height for free standing signs shall be no more than twenty (20) feet above ground level.
6. Front, Rear and Side Setbacks. Signs shall meet the following setback requirements:
 - a. Front yard, highway or service road right-of-way shall not be less than 5 (five) feet from any portion of the sign or sign support.
 - b. Rear yard shall not be less than thirty-five (35) feet.
 - c. Rear yard adjacent to public bodies of water shall not be less than fifty (50) feet.
 - d. Side yard shall not be less than ten (10) feet.
 - e. Side yard adjacent to public bodies of water shall not be less than twenty (20) feet.
 - f. Rear and side yard adjacent to residential or agricultural zoned properties shall not be less than fifty (50) feet.
7. All light sources shall be diffused and directed toward the sign. Sign lighting shall be zero (0) foot candle at all non-roadside property lines. Signs with internal lighting shall include illumination of only the text and/or logo portion of the message.
8. One (1) pylon sign is permitted for each gasoline service station, provided that said sign does not exceed thirty (30) feet in height, is no more than sixty-four (64) square feet in sign area and maintains a minimum setback of ten (10) feet from any public right-of-way. Said gasoline service station pylon sign shall be allowed in addition to all other permitted signs.
9. Prohibited Signs in Commercial/Industrial District. The following signs are prohibited:
 - a. Abandoned Signs;
 - b. Roof Signs;
 - c. Off-premises Signs;
 - d. Stationary Vehicle Signs;

- e. Signs posted within the public right-of-ways and public property, excluding directional signs and signs expressly allowed herein and by other governmental agencies;
 - f. Portable signs;
 - g. Dynamic Display Signs;
 - h. Electronic Graphic Display Signs;
 - i. Multivision Signs; and
 - j. Video Display Signs.
10. Permitted Signs in Commercial/Industrial District. The following signs are permitted in commercial/industrial district. A sign permit is required for each sign.
- a. Signs on Construction Sites. Two signs shall be permitted upon a construction site. Each sign shall not exceed sixty-four (64) square feet in area per surface; shall be limited to a single surface; shall be located upon the subject construction site; shall be set back ten (10) feet from the right-of-way; and shall be removed upon completion of the construction site improvements and release of the financial guarantee.
 - b. Temporary Signs. No sign permit shall be issued for a temporary sign for a duration of more than twenty-one (21) days at one time or for more than three (3) twenty-one (21) day periods in any calendar year. Permit periods may run consecutively without interruption if approved by the Town Board. Only one (1) temporary sign shall be allowed on a property at one time. In cases of properties with multiple tenants, one (1) temporary sign per tenant shall be allowed at one time.
 - c. Changeable Copy Signs - Manual and Electronic.
 - 1) One (1) manual or electronic changeable copy sign shall be allowed per site provided that the changeable copy area is integrated into the allowed sign and subject to the following:
 - (a) Changeable copy signs shall be allowed on freestanding and wall signs.
 - (b) The sign shall not directly face a residentially zoned property and shall be set back at least fifty

(50) feet from any side or rear lot line abutting a residential or agricultural district.

(c) The changeable copy portion of the sign shall not occupy more than forty (40) percent or more than forty (40) square feet, whichever is greater, of the actual copy and graphic area of the sign.

(d) The sign message shall not change less than every eight (8) seconds. Hour, minute, date, or temperature information shall change not less than every three (3) seconds.

(e) Signs shall include prominent illumination of only the text and/or logo portion of the message, the background should be a dark or muted color.

2) Electronic Sign Illumination

(a) Electronic signs shall be shielded to prevent lights from being directed at oncoming traffic in such brilliance that it impairs the vision of the driver and may not interfere with or obscure traffic signs or signals. Lighting may not illuminate any adjacent properties, buildings, or streets.

(b) No sign incorporating LED lighting may be illuminated in any way so as to exceed a maximum intensity of five thousand (5,000) nits during daylight hours or five hundred (500) nits from sunset to sunrise measured at the sign face at maximum brightness.

(c) Signs using fluorescent, neon or incandescent light sources shall not exceed twelve (12) watts per square foot of sign surface area.

(d) All signs incorporating LED lighting installed shall be equipped with a mechanism that automatically adjusts the brightness to ambient lighting conditions to conform to the requirements of this subsection.

(e) The owner of any LED illuminated sign shall provide certification as to compliance with the

subsections of this section to the Township upon request by the Zoning Administrator.

11. Signs Permitted Without Sign Permit.
 - a. Temporary real estate or construction signs. Such signs shall be removed within thirty (30) days when property is sold, developed, or occupied.
 - b. Political signs per Minnesota Statute 160.27 or current state law.
 - c. Banners, sandwich boards or pennants commemorating a special event not connected with a business when installed not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the event and removed within five (5) days following the event. Sign allowance to be permitted three (3) times per calendar year.
 - d. Banners, sandwich boards or pennants for business anniversaries, grand openings, and other special events and promotions are allowed only for a maximum of fifteen (15) days. Sign allowance to be permitted five (5) times per calendar year.
 - e. Banners, sandwich boards or pennants for seasonal business shall be allowed during the time the seasonal business is open but shall be removed three (3) days following the close of the business.

SECTION 4. Section 600:235 is amended as follows:

600.235 ON-SITE SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL, AGRICULTURAL, RIVER CONSERVATION, AND RURAL RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS. No signs shall be permitted in Residential, Agricultural, River Conservation, and Rural Residential Zoning Districts with the following exceptions:

1. Home Occupation signs located on the property wherein the Home Occupation is engaged, shall be limited to no more than two signs each limited to eight (8) square and shall contain only the name and occupation of the occupant of the building. Home Occupations are occupations engaged in by the occupant of one's own dwelling, including also the office of a person engaged in a professional occupation and located in his or her own building, provided that the appearance of the dwelling may not be changed.
2. Signs not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area and pertaining to the lease, hire, or sale of a building or premises on which the sign is located. In the erection and maintenance of such signs, for purposes of setback requirements, the signs shall be deemed a building, which must comply with such setback requirements.
3. Agricultural farm related signs, provided they do not exceed eight (8) square feet, and no more than two (2) per parcel.

4. Signs for schools, churches or public buildings, provided they do not exceed eight (8) square feet, and no more than two (2) per parcel.
5. Front, Rear and Side Setbacks. Signs shall meet the followings setback requirements:
 - a. Front yard, highway or service road right-of-way shall not be less than five (5) feet from any portion of the sign or sign support.
 - b. Rear yard shall not be less than fifty (50) feet.
 - c. Side yard shall not be less than twenty (20) feet.


SECTION 5. The Planning Commission of Princeton Township held a public hearing at their October 4, 2021, meeting, took comments from the public, and recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve amendments to Chapter 401, Zoning Ordinance as it relates to the Sign Ordinance, to allow electronic signs in the Commercial/Industrial C/I District, to include clarifying amendments to Section 600:200 through Section 600:265 and to include amendments relating to off-site billboard signs in Section 600:215.

SECTION 6. The Board of Supervisors of Princeton Township held first reading of this Ordinance at their October 19, 2021, meeting and second reading at their November 16, 2021, meeting.

SECTION 7. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and publication.

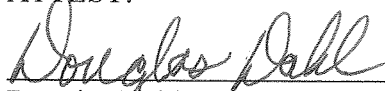
ADOPTED this 16th day of November 2021 by the Board of Supervisors of Princeton Township.

PRINCETON TOWNSHIP



Eugene Stoeckel, Board Chair

ATTEST:



Douglas Dahl, Town Clerk