

ORDINANCE NO. 731

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, AMENDING PORTIONS OF SECTION 18.438.040 OF THE COLUMBIA FALLS MUNICIPAL CODE.

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend portions of Section 18.438.040 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that said amendments to the Columbia Falls Municipal Code are in the best interests of the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. Section Amended: Section 18.438.040 of the Columbia Falls Municipal Code is hereby amended to read as shown on Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

Section Two. Inconsistent Provisions: All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section Three. Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision.

Section Four. Effective Date: This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after its final passage and approval by the City Council of the City of Columbia Falls, Montana.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA THIS 4th DAY OF JUNE, 2012, THE COUNCIL VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

AYES: Shepard, Bates, Fisher, Karper, Petersen, Plevel, Barnhart

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

City Clerk

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR OF COLUMBIA FALLS, MONTANA, THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2012.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

18.438.040 On-site signs requiring a permit.

All on-site signs permitted as accessory uses in business and industrial districts require a permit and are subject to the following regulations:

A. PROJECTION:

1. Projection of wall signs shall not exceed two (2) feet measured from the face of the building.
2. No wall sign may project above the highest point of roof structure of the building to which it is attached.

B. SETBACK.:

1. No on-site, freestanding sign may be set nearer to the lot line adjacent to a street than the required minimum setback for the principal uses permitted in the district.
2. No freestanding sign may be erected or placed closer than fifty (50) feet from a side or rear lot line abutting a residential district.

C. ELECTRIC CHANGEABLE COPY SIGNS:

1. Such signs are allowed not to exceed twenty (20) square feet per face.
2. Such lighting shall be limited to bulbs up to eleven (11) watts and equivalent neon lighting. In no event may an illuminated sign be placed or directed to cause glare or reflection that constitutes a nuisance in residential areas or a traffic hazard.
3. All wiring, fittings, and materials used in the construction, connection, and operation of illuminated signs shall be in accordance with the state electrical code. Electronic changeable copy signs shall not be permitted in the CB-4 Districts.

D. HEIGHT:

1. No freestanding sign shall exceed twenty (20) feet in height.
2. In the CB-4 District no sign shall exceed ten (10) feet in height.

E. NUMBER OF SIGNS PERMITTED:

1. In business and industrial districts, one (1) freestanding sign per frontage, provided such sign meets all other requirements of this title.
2. Multiple freestanding signs on a lot shall have a minimum spacing of fifty (50) feet.
3. In addition, up to three (3) wall signs per building frontage may be installed provided the total area does not exceed the allowable area.
4. Where there are multiple businesses, each business shall be allowed one (1) wall sign provided the total allowable area does not exceed the other requirements in this title.

F. PERMITTED SURFACE AREA:

1. Freestanding Signs:
 - a. The total surface area of all freestanding signs on a property is limited to one hundred (100) square feet per side plus ten (10) square feet for each additional tenant in multi-tenant buildings or one (1) square feet for each five (5) feet of building frontage over one hundred (100) feet. In no case shall a single face of a freestanding sign exceed one hundred and fifty (150) square feet and in no case shall the total surface area exceed three hundred (300) square feet.
 - b. Each face of the sign is counted in the total surface area for free standing signs.
 - c. Freestanding signs in the CB-4 District are limited to fifty (50) square feet on any one side.

2. Wall signs:
 - a. Wall signs shall be permitted to cover twenty-five (25) percent of the exposed facade of the building on which they are mounted.
 - b. Wall signs in the CB-4 District are permitted to cover fifty (50) square feet.
 - c. Wall signs in the CB-2 District are permitted to cover fifty (50) square feet plus one (1) square foot for each one (1) foot of lineal building frontage in excess of fifty (50) feet.

G. PROJECTING SIGNS:

1. The sign shall be erected at right angles to the building face and be at least nine (9) feet above grade and shall not extend over any vehicular right-of-way.
2. The maximum area per sign face shall not exceed twenty (20) square feet plus one (1) square foot for every one (1) linear foot of building frontage.

H. MEASUREMENT OF SIGN AREA: Sign area for the purpose of measuring total square footage shall be measured as a total of all sign faces including multifaced signs.

1. Sign Copy With Background: Sign copy mounted, affixed or painted on a background panel or area distinctively painted, textured or constructed as a background for the sign copy, is measured as that area contained within the sum of the smallest rectangle(s) that will enclose both the sign copy and the distinctive background panel or area.
2. Individual Letters: Sign copy mounted as individual letters or graphics against a wall, fascia, mansard or parapet of a building or surface of another structure, that has not been painted, textured or otherwise altered to provide a distinctive background for a sign copy, is measured as a sum of the smallest rectangle(s) that will enclose each word and each graphic in the total sign.
3. Area Calculation: Sign area for the purpose of measuring total square footage shall be measured as a total of all sign faces including multi-faced signs

(Ord 689 § 2(part), 2007; Ord. 615 § 2(part), 1999; Ord. 523 §§ 1, 3(part), 1989)