

ORDINANCE NO. O2023-06.B

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF POOLER CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 66 – SIGN REGULATIONS, SECTION 4 – REQUIREMENTS THAT APPLY TO ALL SIGNS IN GENERAL AND SECTION 10 – SIGN PERMITS; REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES TO AMEND SIGN PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS; TO REPEAL ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the City of Pooler that the Code of Ordinances of the City of Pooler, Georgia are hereby amended as follows:

I

That CHAPTER 66 – SIGN REGULATIONS, Section 66-4 – Requirements That Apply to All Signs in General be amended by deleting the strikethrough language and adding the underlined text as follows:

Section 66-4. Requirements That Apply to All Signs in General.

(a) Compliance with other codes, laws and regulations.

(1) Any sign that will be erected, replaced, reconstructed, repaired, altered, relocated or maintained within the city shall conform to the requirements of the International Building Code, Appendix H, and to the requirements of the National Electrical Code, Chapter 600, "Electrical Signs and Outdoor Lighting", as adopted with amendments by the State of Georgia.

(2) In accordance with the National Electrical Code specifications, all signs shall be located in such a way that they maintain horizontal and vertical clearance from all overhead utilities. In no case shall any sign be installed within three feet horizontally or vertically from any overhead utility line or utility guy wire. In no case shall any sign be installed within ten feet from any underground utilities.

(3) Any sign that will be erected, replaced, reconstructed, repaired, altered or relocated within the city shall conform to all other provisions of this chapter and other ordinances of the City of Pooler. In the event of conflict between the provisions of this chapter and other city ordinances or adopted regulations, the most stringent requirements shall prevail and be controlling.

(4) Wind pressure.

a. Freestanding signs shall be capable of withstanding horizontal wind pressure amounting to 30 pounds per square foot. In assuming or determining the pressure on any sign, the wind shall be assumed to be blowing from the direction which will produce the maximum stress.

b. All signs that are newly erected, replaced, reconstructed, repaired, altered or relocated within the city having an area of greater than 35 square feet shall be designed to withstand a wind load created by a 120 miles per hour wind in accordance with the current Building Code, as adopted by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. Any applicant for a sign permit shall include the current wind load in effect on the application.

(5) All signs shall conform with all state requirements including, but not limited to, signs used by retail distilled spirits dealers, signs advertising Georgia Lottery, O.C.G.A. § 3-4-3; control of signs and signals, O.C.G.A. § 32-6-50 et seq.; unlawful placement of signs within right-of-way of public road, O.C.G.A. § 32-6-51.

(6) If applicable, signs within the flight control zone of the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport must submit a "determination of no hazard to air navigation" approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) prior to issuance of a sign permit by the city.

II

That CHAPTER 66 – SIGN REGULATIONS, Section 66-10 – Sign Permits; Requirements and Procedures be amended by deleting the strikethrough language and adding the underlined text as follows:

Section 66-10. Sign Permits; Requirements and Procedures.

(c) Application for a permanent or temporary sign permit.

(1) An application for a sign permit (and accompanying building or electrical permit, if required) shall be made using the forms provided by the building official, shall be filled in with all information required, and shall be submitted in the number of copies as required. Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant within seven days without further review as though no application had been received.

(2) An application for a sign permit must include the following:

a. The type and description of the sign.

b. The value of the sign.

c. The street address of the property upon which such sign is to be located and the proposed location of such sign on such property. In the absence of a street address, a method of location acceptable to the building official shall be used.

d. The name and address of the owner of the real property upon which the sign is to be located.

e. Written consent of the owner or his agent of the real property upon which the sign is to be located granting permission for the placement or maintenance of such sign.

f. Name, address, phone number and business license number of the sign contractor.

g. If applicable, a copy of a "determination of no hazard to air navigation" approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

(3) Sign permit applications for a permanent sign shall be accompanied by a dimensioned scale drawing of each proposed sign; a site plan and elevation for freestanding signs, a utility plan showing the proposed sign location at least ten feet from underground utilities, or and if applicable, a drawing of the facade of the building showing proposed placement of each building sign. The drawing must include:

- a. The square foot area of each sign face and the height of the sign structure. Signs over 35 feet in height will be required to have a state registered engineer's stamp or seal;
- b. Materials proposed for the sign surfaces that are required to be "architecturally treated".
- c. Pertinent information such as wind pressure requirements and display materials in accordance with the standard building code; and
- d. Any other information that the building official may require to ensure compliance with this chapter or in the exercise of sound discretion in acting upon the application.

(4) Any person performing new electrical work relating to signs must apply for an electrical permit and hold a valid electrician's trade license issued by the State of Georgia to perform such work. If the electrical wiring exists from a previous sign and no new electrical wiring is necessary for illumination, the sign company may connect the electrical service.

(5) Use of foreign languages.

- a. For any sign for which a sign permit is required that uses words in a language other than English, the English translation of the sign shall be provided on the sign permit application. See also subsection 66-4(f) regarding business names, and street numbers.
- b. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of foreign words or characters as long as they do not contain obscene language or advertise an illegal activity.

(d) Process for sign permit approval. Upon acceptance of a complete and proper application in accordance with subsection 66-10(c)(1), the following procedure will be followed for issuance of a sign permit.

(1) Applicants for freestanding sign permits shall flag the foundation location of the proposed sign in the field so that Staff can review the location with respect to existing underground utilities.

~~(4)~~ (2) If the plans, specifications and intended use of the proposed sign or part thereof conform in all respects to the applicable provisions of this chapter and the Pooler Building Code and Electrical Code, as applicable, a sign permit shall be issued.

~~(2)~~ (3) Review time period. The application will be reviewed and a sign permit will be issued or denied within the following time periods:

- a. For a temporary sign: 14 days.
- b. For a permanent sign: 42 days.

If no decision is made by the building official within the applicable time period, then the permit shall be deemed to be approved.

~~(3)~~ (4) If after review and investigation by the building official, it is determined that the application fails to meet the applicable provisions of this chapter or the Pooler Building or Electrical Codes, the permit shall be denied, and the building official shall notify the applicant in writing of the denial and reasons for denial.

III

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the ordinance are hereby repealed.

IV

If any section, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

V

This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its adoption by the Mayor and City Council of Pooler, Georgia.

1st Reading: 7/17/23
2nd Reading: 8/7/23

This 11th day of August, 2023.

CITY OF POOLER, GEORGIA

Rebecca C. Benton

Rebecca C. Benton, Mayor

Attest:

[Signature]
Kiley Fusco, City Clerk

Date: 8/11/23

