

Councilmember Dan Strand **introduced the following ordinance and moved for its adoption:**

**CITY OF CALUMET
ORDINANCE NO. 122**

**AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO SIGNS
WITHIN THE CITY OF CALUMET**

The City Council of Calumet, Minnesota, Ordains:

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SECTION 2: PERMITS REQUIRED

Zoning permits for both on-site and off-site signs shall be required and shall be subject to the requirements stated in this subchapter. Signs costing more than \$100 shall also require a building permit.

SECTION 3: EXEMPTION

Zoning permits shall not be required, and the regulations stated in this subchapter shall not apply to the following:

- (A) Signs mounted flush on a building wall or applied directly to a wall and not protruding beyond the wall and which are related to the activity within the building;
- (B) Signs not exceeding four square feet in area and bearing only property numbers, post box numbers, names of occupants, fire numbers or other identification of premises, not having commercial connotations;
- (C) Flags and insignias of any government except when displayed in connection with commercial promotion;
- (D) Legal notices, identification, information or directional signs erected or required by governmental bodies, as defined in M.S. § 173.02, Subd. 6, as it may be amended from time to time;

- (E) Integral decorative or architectural features of buildings, except letters, trademarks, moving parts or moving lights;
- (F) Signs directing and guiding traffic and parking on private property but bearing no advertising matter;
- (G) A temporary sign indicating real estate for rent or for sale, related to the premises only on which it is located, and not exceeding six square feet in area; and
- (H) Bed and Breakfast Homes.

SECTION 4: PROHIBITED SIGNS

No sign in the following category shall be erected or maintained:

- (A) Signs which purport to be or resemble an official traffic control device, sign or signal or railroad sign or signal; or which hide from view or interfere to any material degree with the effectiveness of any traffic control device, sign or signal or railroad sign or signal; or which obstructs or interferes with a driver’s view of approaching, merging or intersecting traffic for a distance not to exceed 500 feet;
- (B) Signs which prominently display the words “stop” or “danger;”
- (C) Signs which contain statements, words or pictures of an obscene, indecent or immoral character or such as offend public morals or decency;
- (D) Signs on trees or shrubs or which are painted or drawn upon rocks, other natural features, public utility poles or abandoned buildings;
- (E) Signs accessible only from a controlled access highway, but excluding adjacent frontage roads;
- (F) Signs which are structurally unsafe, in disrepair or are abandoned; and
- (G) Signs within the right-of-way of any public roadway.

SECTION 5: GENERAL REGULATIONS

The following regulation shall apply in all districts.

- (A) **Official Signs** Only official identification, directional or traffic control signs, as defined in M.S. § 173.02, Subd. 6 (a), (b) and (d), as it may be amended from time to time, and all acts amendatory thereof, shall be allowed within the public right-of-way.
- (B) **Setbacks** All signs shall be set back a minimum distance of ten feet from any front, side or rear lot line, except that normal required setbacks shall prevail in a Shoreland Overlay District where applicable.
- (C) **Lighting** Signs shall not be erected or maintained which contain, include or are illuminated by any flashing lights, except those giving public service information such as time, date, temperature, weather or news.

- (1) Signs shall not be erected or maintained which are not effectively shielded so as to prevent:
 - (a) Beams or rays of light from being directed at any portion of the traveled way of any roadway; or
 - (b) Beams of light of such intensity or brilliance as to cause glare or impair the vision of the operator of any motor vehicle.
- (2) No sign shall be erected or maintained which will be so placed or illuminated that it obscures or interferes with the effectiveness of any official traffic sign, device or signal or any official sign.
- (D) The change in advertising message, maintenance and repair or the use of extensions, cut-outs or embellishments upon an existing sign shall not be considered an enlargement, extension or structural alteration, provided that thereby the sign does not exceed any other limitation imposed by this chapter.

SECTION 6: ON-SITE SIGN REGULATIONS.

- (A) On-site signs within commercial or industrial zone districts shall be limited to not more than three display faces, each not to exceed 25 square feet in area for each 25 linear feet of total road frontage.
- (B) For the purpose of providing necessary direction or identification for approved commercial uses and industrial uses as listed in this chapter, one on-site sign per each use shall be permitted, provided such sign shall not exceed 68 square feet per each of two faces or sides or 128 square feet if only a one sided sign. No on-site sign shall be permitted for home occupations.

SECTION 7: OFF-SITE SIGN REGULATIONS

Off-site signs shall be permitted only in the City’s R-2 Central Business District, Industrial and Public Use Zones, provided the following standards and criteria are adhered to:

- (A) The maximum area of a sign face, whether a single sign face or each face of two back to back or V-type signs, shall not exceed 600 square feet, including border and trim, but excluding base and apron supports and other structural members. The maximum size limitation stated herein shall apply to each side of a sign structure, and signs may be placed back to back, side by side or in a V-type arrangement, provided that there shall be not more than two displays to each facing and such structure shall be considered as one sign;
- (B) Off-site signs shall not be erected or maintained in such a place or manner as to obscure or otherwise physically interfere with an official traffic control device or a railroad safety signal or sign or to obstruct or physically interfere with a driver’s view or approaching merging or intersecting traffic for a distance of 500 feet; and
- (C) No off-site sign shall be erected closer to any other off-site sign on the same side of the same roadway facing traffic proceeding in the same direction than 300 feet on any other highway or road.

(D) No off-site sign shall exceed 45 feet in height from road grade.

SECTION 8: POLITICAL POSTERS

All non-commercial signs of any size may be posted from August 1 in a state general election year until ten days following the state general election, and in the case of a special election, from 30 days before the special election to ten days after a special election.

SECTION 9: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall be effective upon its adoption and publication.

Passed by the City Council on the 9th day of Nov., 2023.

CITY OF CALUMET

BY: John Tuorila
JOHN TUORILA, Its Mayor

ATTEST

BY: April Serich
APRIL SERICH, Its Clerk

Councilmember Hernesman seconded the foregoing Ordinance and the following voted in favor thereof Tuorila, Zaren, Strand, Vaudrin, Hernesman.

Opposed: None.

Whereby the Ordinance was duly passed and adopted.

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