

AN ORDINANCE

AMENDING THE CHARLESTON COUNTY ZONING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ORDINANCE, NUMBER 1202, AS AMENDED: CHAPTER 9, DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, AND CHAPTER 12, DEFINITIONS.

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994, Section 6-29-310 et seq., of the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, as amended, authorizes the County of Charleston to enact or amend its zoning and land development regulations to guide development in accordance with existing and future needs and in order to protect, promote and improve the public health, safety, and general welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Charleston County Planning Commission has reviewed the proposed amendments of the text of various chapters of the Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance (ZLDR) in accordance with the procedures established in State law and the ZLDR, and has recommended that the Charleston County Council adopt the proposed amendments of the text of the ZLDR as set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, upon receipt of the recommendation of the Planning Commission, County Council held at least 1 public hearing, and after close of the public hearing, County Council approves the proposed text amendments based on the Approval Criteria of Section 3.3.6 of Article 3.3 of the ZLDR; and

WHEREAS, the County Council has determined the proposed text amendments meet the following criteria:

- A. The proposed amendment corrects an error or inconsistency or meets the

challenge of a changing condition; and

- B. The proposed amendment is consistent with the adopted Charleston County Comprehensive Plan and goals as stated in Article 1.5; and
- C. The proposed amendment is to further the public welfare in any other regard specified by County Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, be ordained it by the Charleston County Council of Charleston, in meeting duly assembled, as follows:

SECTION I. FINDINGS INCORPORATED

The above recitals and findings are incorporated herein by reference and made a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION II. AMENDMENTS OF THE TEXT OF THE ZONING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ORDINANCE

The Charleston County Zoning and Land Development Regulations Ordinance is hereby amended to include the text amendments as attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and made part of this Ordinance by reference.

SECTION III. SEVERABILITY

If, for any reason, any part of this Ordinance is invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining portions of this Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective immediately following third reading by the County Council.

ADOPTED and APPROVED in meeting duly assembled this 22nd day of April, 2014.

CHARLESTON COUNTY COUNCIL

By:

Teddie E. Pryor, Sr.
Chairman of Charleston County Council

ATTEST:

By: _____

Beverly T. Craven
Clerk to Charleston County Council

First Reading: March 25, 2014
Second Reading: April 8, 2014
Third Reading: April 22, 2014

EXHIBIT "A"

AMENDING THE CHARLESTON COUNTY ZONING AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ORDINANCE, NUMBER 1202, AS AMENDED: CHAPTER 9, DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS, AND CHAPTER 12, DEFINITIONS.

I. Light Emitting Diode (LED) Message Board Signs

An LED Message Board may be permitted as part of a free standing sign provided that documentation has been submitted demonstrating that it complies with all applicable sections of this ordinance and the following standards:

1. The sign is within the Urban/Suburban Area of the County, as defined by the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), and is located on a parcel that:
 - a. Is zoned Community Commercial (CC) or Industrial (I) and is adjacent to (shares side property boundaries) one or more parcels in the Community Commercial (CC) or Industrial (I) Zoning District; or
 - b. Contains a legally established Civic/Institutional Use as its principal use, provided that if the parcel shares one or more side property boundaries with parcels that are zoned Single-Family Residential (R-4) or Special Management 3 (S-3) or that contain single family detached residential uses, the proposed LED sign shall comply with the Special Exception procedures contained in this Ordinance and all other requirements of this Ordinance.
2. The sign is not located within any of the Overlay or Special Purpose Districts as described in Chapter Five of this Ordinance.
3. The sign is monument style, maximum ten (10) feet in height and the electronic message board constitutes no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the overall allowable sign area as defined by Table 9.11.2.
4. The electronic message board will exhibit low intensity lighting and low intensity, night dimming red or amber text (no graphics) on a black background associated only with the business of the subject parcel and the text will not scroll, fade, or move except on and off.
5. The copy will not change at intervals less than eight (8) seconds on LED signs that front on roads with a speed limit of forty-five (45) mph or greater and fifteen (15) seconds on roads with a speed limit less than forty-five (45) mph. On corner or double frontage lots, the required time interval will be based upon the speed limit of the road which the parcel is addressed.

Add the following definitions to Chapter 12:

Civic/Institutional Use: A nonprofit or quasi-public use, such as a religious institution, library, public or private school, hospital, government-owned or government operated facility.

Low Intensity Lighting: Required lighting associated with LED electronic message boards. LED lighting shall automatically provide day and night dimming to reduce the illumination intensity of the sign from one hour after sunset to one hour prior to sunrise and provide adjustments in the light levels to a maximum of 0.3 foot candles over ambient light levels as measured head on (at a ninety (90) degree angle) 150 feet away from the sign.