

**CITY OF WALKER
KENT COUNTY, MI**

ORDINANCE NO. 11-595

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND **SECTION 94-412 COMMERCIAL SPECIAL EVENT SIGNS, COMMUNITY SPECIAL EVENT SIGNS, REALTOR SIGNS AND POLITICAL SIGNS** IN CHAPTER 94 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF WALKER.

THE CITY OF WALKER ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of Section Title.

That the Code of Ordinances, City of Walker, Michigan, is hereby amended by amending the title to Sec. 94-412 - Commercial special event signs, community special event signs, realtor signs and political signs, which such Section title shall read as follows:

Sec. 94-412. Temporary signs.

Section 2. Amendments to Section 94-412 (1) - Commercial Special Event Signs.

That the Code of Ordinances, City of Walker, Michigan, is hereby amended by amending Sec. 94-412 (1) - Commercial Special Event Signs, which such Section shall read as follows:

Section 94-412 (1) - Commercial Special Event Signs.

Commercial special event signs shall be classified according to the definitions noted in Section 94-5.

- a. Pedestrian signs and portable manual reader board signs are not allowed.
- b. Inflatable signs are allowed via a temporary sign permit.
- c. Flag and streamer signs are allowed without a temporary sign permit, subject to the following standards:
 - i. A minimum lot width of 300 feet
 - ii. A minimum setback from all lot lines of 5 feet
 - iii. A minimum height / clearance standard of 10 feet as measured from the ground immediately beneath the flag and streamer signs.
 - iv. A strand length equal to the front lot line multiplied by three, but not to exceed 1,500 feet of strand.
 - v. The lot must be zoned C-4 Outdoor Commercial.
- d. Banner signs, yard signs, and flag and streamer signs are permitted only in nonresidential zoning districts.
- e. Banner signs, yard signs and inflatable signs shall not be placed on any lot, parcel or premises unless a sign permit has been issued by the zoning administrator.

- f. Applications for banner signs, yard signs and inflatable signs shall include the following:
 - i. The name, mailing address, e-mail, fax number and telephone number of the property owner, business owner and applicant for the permit.
 - ii. Identification of the street address and parcel number of the parcel on which the sign is to be placed.
 - iii. A site plan, drawn to scale, accurately identifying the location of the proposed sign on the subject property.
 - iv. A scaled drawing which accurately depicts the dimensions and display area of the proposed sign.
 - v. Identification of the specific calendar dates on which the sign will be displayed.
 - vi. A nonrefundable application fee, in an amount established by resolution of the city commission.
- g. Commercial special event signs shall be located in compliance with Section 94-406.
- h. Commercial special event sign permits may authorize the display of the approved signs for up to seven consecutive days, except as noted herein for inflatable signs.
- i. A maximum of two commercial special event signs shall be authorized by a permit.
- j. In a non-multitenant building, up to ten (10) permits authorizing the valid display of approved commercial special event signs may be issued in a calendar year for any individual business, except for inflatable signs, which are limited to a total of fourteen (14) display days in a calendar year.
- k. In the case of a multitenant building, up to ten (10) permits authorizing the valid display of approved commercial special event signs may be issued in a calendar year for any individual business, except for inflatable signs, which are limited to a total of fourteen (14) display days in a calendar year.
- l. Yard signs shall not exceed 12 square feet in area or four feet in height and shall not be mounted higher than six feet above the surrounding ground level.
- m. Banner signs shall not exceed 30 square feet in area and shall not be mounted higher than the building roofline.
- n. Inflatable signs shall be subject to the following regulations:
 - i. Signs shall not be mounted on, or anchored to, any roof surface.
 - ii. An inflatable sign shall not be more than twenty (20) feet in height, as measured from the point where the sign rests on a surface or from the point of tie-down if it does not rest on a surface.
 - iii. Signs shall be securely anchored to the ground or to a building in accordance with the requirements of the Walker codes as amended.
 - iv. Any electrical motor, pump or similar device used to inflate the sign shall be installed in accordance with the requirements of the Walker codes as amended.

- v. Signs shall be setback a minimum distance of one and one-half (1-1/2) times its height from all property lines.
 - vi. Signs shall not interfere with traffic or pedestrian circulation or visibility.
 - vii. Signs shall not interfere with or obstruct fire lanes or utility lines.
 - viii. Signs shall not result in a reduction of the number of parking spaces required for the site on which the inflatable sign is located.
 - ix. All signs shall be equipped with a quick deflation system so that the sign will deflate instantly if it breaks loose from its anchor.
 - x. All signs shall be taken down if wind speeds exceed thirty (30) knots (35 mph). The installer of the sign shall be responsible for monitoring weather conditions.
 - xi. Signs may be illuminated from the inside or by exterior lights placed to direct light glare away from adjacent roadways and properties.
 - xii. Signs shall not have any flashing, colored or blinking lights.
 - xiii. An inflatable sign installer shall carry at least one million dollars in liability insurance coverage and shall provide proof of this to the Zoning Administrator prior to the issuance of the temporary sign permit.
- o. All commercial special event signs shall be removed by the applicant or property owner when the approved permit expires.
- p. Holiday periods: A single Banner sign, not to exceed 30 square feet in area, or a single Yard sign, not to exceed twelve (12) square feet in area or four (4) feet in height and not be mounted higher than six (6) feet above the surrounding ground level, shall be allowed for each tenant without a temporary sign permit in compliance with the following holiday periods:
- i. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and seven days prior;
 - ii. Valentine's Day and seven days prior;
 - iii. President's Day and seven days prior;
 - iv. Easter and seven days prior;
 - v. Memorial Day and seven days prior;
 - vi. July 4th and seven days prior;
 - vii. Labor Day and seven days prior;
 - viii. Halloween and seven days prior;
 - ix. Veteran's Day and seven days prior;
 - x. Thanksgiving and seven days prior and through January 2nd.

The single Banner sign or single Yard sign shall be located in compliance with Section 94-406, shall not be mounted higher than the building roofline and must be removed by the end of the first working day after the holiday period ends.

Section 3. Amendments to Section 94-412 (2) - Community Special Event Signs.

That the Code of Ordinances, City of Walker, Michigan, is hereby amended by amending Sec. 94-412 (2) - Community Special Event Signs, which such Section shall read as follows:

Section 94-412 (2) - Community Special Event Signs.

- a. Community special event signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. A community special event sign may be located either on or off the lot on which the special event is to be held.
- c. The maximum number, size and height of community special event signs shall be as follows:
 - i. A maximum of two community special event signs shall be permitted for a special event.
 - ii. The display of community special event signs shall be limited to the 14 days immediately preceding and including the date of the special event.
 - iii. Each community special event sign shall have a maximum size of 24 square feet in area.
 - iv. Each community special event sign shall be located in compliance with Section 94-406.
 - v. Each community special event sign shall not be mounted or displayed higher than 25 feet above the ground immediately under the sign.
 - vi. All community special event signs shall be removed within 48 hours of the conclusion of the special event which is being advertised.

Section 4. Amendments to Section 94-412 (3) - Realtor Signs.

That the Code of Ordinances, City of Walker, Michigan, is hereby amended by amending Sec. 94-412 (3) - Realtor Signs, which such Section shall read as follows:

Section 94-412 (3) - Realtor Signs.

- a. Realtor signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. A realtor sign may only be located on a lot offered for sale, lease or rent.
- c. The maximum number, size and height of realtor signs shall be as follows:
 - i. A maximum of two realtor signs shall be permitted for a specific lot.
 - ii. In non-residential zoning districts, each realtor sign may have a maximum size of sixteen (16) square feet in area.
 - iii. In residential zoning districts, each realtor sign may have a maximum size of six (6) square feet in area.
 - iv. Ground-mounted realtor signs may not exceed a maximum height above ground level of four feet.
 - v. Each realtor sign shall be located in compliance with Section 94-406.
 - vi. All realtor signs shall be removed within 48 hours of the conclusion of the sale, lease or rental which is being advertised.

Section 5. Amendments to Section 94-412 (4) - Political Signs.

That the Code of Ordinances, City of Walker, Michigan, is hereby amended by amending Sec. 94-412 (4) - Political Signs, which such Section shall read as follows:

Section 94-412 (4) - *Political Signs.*

- a. Political signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. Each political sign shall be located in compliance with Section 94-406.
- c. For lots zoned residential or agricultural, no more than one political sign per candidate or issue is allowed on a lot, a political sign may not exceed six (6) square feet in area, and a political sign may not be mounted higher than four (4) feet above the surrounding ground level.
- d. For lots zoned commercial, office or industrial, no more than one political sign per candidate or issue is allowed on a lot, a political sign may not exceed sixteen (16) square feet in area, and a political sign may not be mounted higher than six (6) feet above the surrounding ground level.

Section 6. Addition of Section 94-412 (5) - *Contractor Signs.*

That the Code of Ordinances, City of Walker, Michigan, is hereby amended by adding Sec. 94-412 (5) - Contractor Signs, which such Section shall read as follows:

Section 94-412 (5) - *Contractor Signs.*

- a. Contractor signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. A Contractor sign may only be located on a lot where the contractor is conducting work.
- c. The maximum number, size and height of Contractor signs shall be as follows:
 - i. One Contractor sign per business shall be permitted on a specific lot.
 - ii. Each Contractor sign may have a maximum size of twelve (12) square feet in area.
 - iii. Ground-mounted Contractor signs may not exceed a maximum height above ground level of four (4) feet.
 - iv. Each Contractor sign shall be located in compliance with Section 94-406.
 - v. All Contractor signs shall be removed within two (2) weeks of the completion of onsite work.

Section 7. Addition to Section 94-5 – *Definitions and interpretations of terms.*

That the Code of Ordinances, City of Walker, Michigan, is hereby amended by adding the following definition to Sec. 94-5 Definitions and interpretations of terms, which such addition shall read as follows:

Definition to Sec. 94-5 for *Contractor Sign*

Contractor sign means a temporary sign intended to be displayed for a limited time that identifies an onsite builder, landscaper, architect or other tradesperson.

Section 8. Addition of Section 94-412 (6) – Temporary Construction Site Signs

That the Code of Ordinances, City of Walker, Michigan, is hereby amended by adding Sec. 94-412 (6) – Temporary Construction Site Signs, which such Section shall read as follows:

Section 94-412 (6) – Temporary Construction Site Signs

- a. Temporary Construction Site Signs are permitted in any zoning district without a sign permit.
- b. A Temporary Construction Site Sign may only be located on a lot where a development project has been approved by the city.
- c. The maximum number, size and height of Temporary Construction Site Signs shall be as follows:
 - i. A maximum of two (2) signs shall be permitted within the boundaries of a specific development project.
 - ii. Each sign may have a maximum size of 32 square feet in area.
 - iii. Ground-mounted signs may not exceed a maximum height above ground level of six (6) feet.
 - iv. Each sign shall be located in compliance with Section 94-406.
 - v. All signs shall be removed within two (2) weeks of the completion of the development project that is being advertised.

Section 9. Deletion of Current Section 94-414 - Temporary Construction Signs.

That the Code of Ordinances, City of Walker, Michigan, is hereby amended by deleting the current Sec. 94-414 - Temporary Construction Signs.

Section 10. Severability. The various parts, sections, and clauses of this Ordinance are declared to be severable. If any part, sentence, paragraph, section, or clause is determined invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be thereby affected.

Section 11. Effective Date. This Ordinance will become effective upon the expiration of seven days after publication of a notice of ordinance adoption in a newspaper of general circulation within the City of Walker.

First reading: March 14, 2011

Second reading: March 28, 2011

Effective date: April 12, 2011

Robert J. VerHeulen, Mayor

Sarah J. Bydalek, City Clerk