

CITY OF UNION GAP, WASHINGTON
ORDINANCE NO. - 2982

AN ORDINANCE amending Chapter 17.08 of the Union Gap Municipal Code relating to signs and digital signs.

WHEREAS, a new chapter in the sign code relating to a definition and regulations of digital signs is proposed to be enacted; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to provide regulations specifically for digital signs to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Union Gap; and

WHEREAS, this proposed ordinance was reviewed by the planning commission on August 27, 2019 and October 22, 2019 and planning commission recommended this ordinance be forwarded to the Hearing Examiner for review; and

WHEREAS, this proposed amendment to Chapter 17.08 regarding digital signs was reviewed by the Hearing Examiner on December 11, 2019 and recommends approval with changes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNION GAP, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The following definition under 17.08.020 shall be deleted from the definitions: "Changing message center sign" means an electronically controlled sign where different automatic changing messages are shown on the lamp bank. This definition includes time and temperature displays.

SECTION 2. The following definition shall be added to the definition section under 17.08.020: "'Digital Signs" A sign or portion thereof that is visible from a right-of-way and that displays electronic, static images, static graphics or static pictures, with or without textual information, which are created by matrix elements which may include cathode ray tubes (CRTs), light emitting diodes (LEDs), liquid crystals (LCDs), plasma, fiber optics, light bulbs or other illumination devices within the display area, or are created by any reflective, refractive, digital light processing (DLP), holographic, stereoscopic, three dimensional, or any other device, process, product, application of technology, or by the appearance of any of such, within the display area, either alone or in varying combinations with each other or other elements. Digital signs are also known as "Electronic Messaging Centers" or "EMC's".

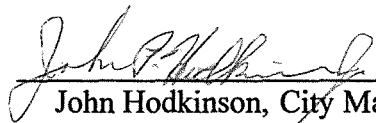
SECTION 3. 17.08.120 Signs in residential areas is recodified as 17.08.125
SECTION 4. 17.08.125 Permitted off-premise signs is recodified as 17.08.130
SECTION 5. 17.08.130 Repair and reconstruction of signs is recodified as 17.08.135
SECTION 6. 17.08.120 which is now a new section of the Union Gap Municipal Code is hereby enacted and created to read as follows:

17.08.120- Digital Signs


- a) The message rate shall not change at a rate faster than one message every 8 seconds, with a transition period of one second or less.
- b) Illumination Limits. The difference between off and solid message measurements using the EMC measurement criteria shall not exceed 0.3 foot-candles (or equivalent) at night.
- c) Dimming Capabilities. All permitted digital signs or EMCs shall be equipped with a sensor or other device that automatically determines the ambient illumination and be programmed to automatically dim according to ambient light conditions to comply with the 0.3 foot-candle measurements. Certification must be provided to the City of Union Gap demonstrating that the sign has been preset to automatically adjust the brightness to these levels. Re-inspection and recalibration may be periodically required by the City in its reasonable discretion, at the permittee's expense, to ensure that the specified brightness levels are maintained at all times.
- d) Digital signs shall have no flashing, or strobe like images.
- e) Zoning, size, location, type and use must conform to all regulations set forth in chapter 17.08 of the Union Gap Municipal Code.
- f) Only one Digital sign shall be allowed per 100 linear feet of street frontage.
- g) All sounds shall be prohibited.

SECTION 5. This ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after its passage and publication as required by law.


Ordained BY THE CITY COUNCIL this 27th day of January, 2020.


John Hodkinson, City Mayor

ATTEST:


Karen Clifton, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM


Bronson Brown, City Attorney