

**TOWN OF MORRISON, COLORADO  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ORDINANCE NO. 478**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 10 CHAPTER 1I OF  
THE MORRISON MUNICIPAL CODE CONCERNING  
OUTDOOR SIGNS**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Morrison is a Colorado home rule municipality operating under a Charter approved by the electorate pursuant to Article XX of the Colorado Constitution and governed by its elected Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees has authority pursuant to the Home Rule Charter and C.R.S. §31-16-101, et seq. to adopt and enforce all ordinances; and

**WHEREAS**, in the exercise of this authority, the Board of Trustees has previously enacted Chapter 1I of Title 10 of the Morrison Municipal Code, entitled Outdoor Signs.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Trustees of the Town of Morrison, Colorado, that:**

**Section 1. Municipal Code amended.** Subsections D, E, F, G, H and I of Section 10-1I-3 are amended as follows:

**CHAPTER 1 ARTICLE I OUTDOOR SIGNS**

10-1I-3: GENERAL STANDARDS:

D. Prohibited Sign Types: No flashing signs, rotating or moving signs, animated signs, signs with moving lights or signs which create the illusion of movement shall be permitted. NO SIGN OR SIGN LIGHTING SHALL CREATE A TRAFFIC HAZARD OR A DISTRACTION TO MOTORISTS OR PEDESTRIANS OR CREATE A PUBLIC NUISANCE. A sign whereon the current time and/or temperature are indicated by intermittent lighting shall not be deemed to be a flashing sign.

E. ~~Metal~~Signs CLEARANCE:

1. Signs ~~constructed of metal and~~ illuminated by a means requiring internal wiring or electrically wired accessory fixtures attached to a metal sign shall maintain a free clearance to grade of nine feet (9').
2. No ~~metal~~ground sign shall be located within eight feet (8') vertically and four feet (4') horizontally of electric wires or conductors. ~~in free air carrying more than forty-eight (48) volts, whether or not such wires or conductors are insulated or otherwise protected.~~

F. ~~Glass and Plastic~~Signs MATERIALS: Signs principally constructed of glass or glossy plastic materials shall be prohibited in all zone districts. Metallic signs shall be finished so as to eliminate any glare or reflection from the sign surface. No phosphorescent or reflective paint shall be used on any sign surface. All materials used shall be compatible with the historic character of the town and with surrounding uses and signage and shall, as nearly as possible, resemble natural materials.

G. Illumination:

1. Illumination may be provided externally by an indirect and concealed source or the sign may be internally lit ~~subject to the following limitations:~~ SIGN LIGHTING SHALL NOT EXCEED THE ILLUMINATION LEVELS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 8 OUTDOOR LIGHTING, EXCEPT:

- i. FREESTANDING SIGNS LESS THAN TEN (10) FEET IN HEIGHT MAY BE UPLIT PROVIDED THAT THE LIGHT DOES NOT EXTEND BEYOND THE FACE OF THE SIGN AND THE AREA AROUND THE BASE OF THE SIGN IS LANDSCAPED.
- ii. LANDMARK SIGNS SHALL PRODUCE NO MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED (300) LUMENS (APPROXIMATELY THE LIGHT EMITTED BY A FORTY [40] WATT INCANDESCENT BULB). IN ADDITION, ANY HISTORIC UNSHIELDED FIXTURES SHOULD BE DIFFUSED IF POSSIBLE (I.E., USING TRANSLUCENT GLASS INSTEAD OF TRANSPARENT GLASS), IF DIFFUSION IS CONSISTENT WITH HISTORICAL OR CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS.

~~2. a) no light shall shine directly beyond the lot on which the sign is located; b) neither direct nor reflected light shall create a traffic hazard or a distraction to motorists or pedestrians or create a public nuisance.~~

2. Gas lit tubing may be used for window signs otherwise meeting the requirements of the sign code in commercial districts.

3. LIGHTING FOR SIGNS SHALL BE HELD TO THE MINIMUM NEEDED TO CONVEY THE SIGN'S MESSAGE. UPLIGHTING OF SIGNS IS NOT ALLOWED, EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION G. SIGN LIGHTING SHALL NOT BE SO BRIGHT AND DISTRACTING AS TO BE A TRAFFIC HAZARD. EXTERNAL LIGHT SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF SIGN LIGHTING SHOULD BE PLACED IN AN INCONSPICUOUS LOCATION WHERE IT WILL NOT OBSCURE OTHER FEATURES OF THE BUILDING.

H. LANDMARK SIGNS.

1. A LANDMARK SIGN IS A NONCONFORMING SIGN ERECTED FIFTY (50) YEARS AGO OR MORE THAT HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE, OR IDENTIFY, A SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY LANDMARK.

2. THE TOWN MANAGER OR HER/HIS DESIGNEE SHALL CLASSIFY A SIGN AS A LANDMARK SIGN IF THE SIGN COMPLIES WITH ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:
    - i. THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE SIGN WAS INSTALLED ON OR BEFORE FIFTY (50) YEARS PRECEDING THE DATE OF SUBMITTAL FOR LANDMARK SIGN STATUS; AND
    - ii. THE SIGN IS, OR IDENTIFIES A USE OR BUSINESS THAT IS, GENERALLY RECOGNIZED AS A SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY LANDMARK; AND
    - iii. THE SIGN, THOUGH NONCONFORMING, IS IN HARMONY WITH THE PURPOSE AND INTENT OF THE SIGN REGULATIONS.
  3. A NONCONFORMING SIGN MAY CONTINUE TO EXIST IF IT IS DETERMINED BY THE TOWN MANAGER OR HER/HIS DESIGNEE THAT THE SIGN QUALIFIES AS A LANDMARK SIGN. ANY LANDMARK SIGN THAT UNDERGOES A NAME CHANGE, OR HAS TWENTY (20) PERCENT OR MORE OF THE TEXT OR STRUCTURE CHANGED SHALL BE BROUGHT INTO CONFORMANCE IMMEDIATELY WITH THE CURRENT SIGN CODE.
- I. LEGAL NONCONFORMING SIGNS. LEGAL NONCONFORMING SIGNS MAY CONTINUE TO EXIST EXCEPT AS FOLLOWS:
1. ANY LEGAL NONCONFORMING SIGN THAT UNDERGOES A NAME CHANGE, OR HAS TWENTY (20) PERCENT OR MORE OF THE SIGN FACE OR STRUCTURE CHANGED, SHALL BE BROUGHT INTO CONFORMANCE IMMEDIATELY WITH THE CURRENT SIGN CODE.
  2. ANY LEGAL NONCONFORMING SIGN THAT IS DAMAGED IN EXCESS OF FIFTY (50) PERCENT OF THE ORIGINAL VALUE OF THE SIGN SHALL BE BROUGHT INTO CONFORMANCE IMMEDIATELY WITH THE CURRENT SIGN CODE.
  3. ANY LEGAL NONCONFORMING SIGN THAT IS RELOCATED OR REPLACED SHALL BE BROUGHT INTO CONFORMANCE IMMEDIATELY WITH THE CURRENT SIGN CODE.
  4. LEGAL NONCONFORMING SIGNS MAY BE REMOVED FOR CLEANING AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE, I.E., REPAINTING, CLEANING, CHANGING OF LIGHTING AND WIRING, AND MAY BE REPLACED WITHOUT BEING BROUGHT INTO CONFORMANCE WITH THE CURRENT SIGN CODE.

**Section 2. Section 10-1I-4 of the Municipal Code is amended by revising subsection L and enacting new subsections Q and R, to read:**

#### 10-11-4: EXEMPTIONS

L. Site Signs: Site signs are freestanding signs constructed of vinyl, wood or metal that shall not exceed six (6) square feet per face and not more than forty-two inches (42") high. Site signs shall be set back a minimum of five feet (5') from any property line and are limited to one per street frontage. EXCEPT IN THE OLD TOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT, WHERE SITE SIGNS MAY BE SETBACK TWO (2) FEET FROM THE PROPERTY LINE WHEN BUILDINGS ARE SETBACK FROM THE SIDEWALK IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY.

Q. WALL SIGNS: WALL SIGNS ARE EXEMPTED FROM PERMITTING WHEN ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA ARE MET:

1. ARE ORIENTED TO PEDESTRIANS, NOT VEHICLES.
2. AFFIXED TO A STRUCTURE BELOW THE ROOFLINE OR PARAPET.
3. CONSTRUCTED OF VINYL, WOOD OR METAL.
4. SHALL NOT EXCEED SIX (6) SQUARE FEET IN AREA OR LETTER HEIGHTS OF TWELVE (12) INCHES.
5. SHALL NOT BE ILLUMINATED.

R. WINDOW SIGNS:

1. ARE ORIENTED TO PEDESTRIANS, NOT VEHICLES.
2. AFFIXED TO A STRUCTURE BELOW THE ROOFLINE OR PARAPET.
3. CONSTRUCTED OF VINYL, WOOD OR METAL.
4. SHALL NOT EXCEED SIX (6) SQUARE FEET IN AREA OR LETTER HEIGHTS OF TWELVE (12) INCHES.
5. SHALL NOT BE ILLUMINATED.

**Section 3. Section 10-11-6 of the Municipal Code is amended to read:**

#### 10-11-6: CT DISTRICT

- A. General: Signs may be erected, altered and maintained only for a permitted use in the district in which the signs are located; and shall be located on the same lot as the permitted use and shall be clearly incidental, customary and commonly associated with the operation of the permitted use.
- B. Number of Signs Permitted: Two (2) exterior signs, ONE (1) PRIMARY AND ONE (1) secondary sign, are allowed per business ~~on each wall, including projecting signs, roof signs and wall signs. In addition, one ground sign shall be permitted for each lot. In~~

addition, one ground sign shall be permitted for each lot where the building in which the business is located is setback ten (10) feet or more.

C. Maximum ~~Gross Surface~~ Sign Area:

1. ~~Wall signs, one hundred (100) square feet~~ Primary Sign. Each business is allowed one (1) primary sign not to exceed a size of FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THE FAÇADE AREA ON WHICH IT IS PLACED.
2. ~~Site signs, six (6) square feet; forty-two inches (42") in height; five-foot (5') setback limited to one per street frontage; no illumination~~ SECONDARY SIGN. EACH BUSINESS IS ALLOWED ONE (1) SECONDARY SIGN NOT TO EXCEED FIFTEEN (15) SQUARE FEET IN SIZE.
3. ~~All other signs~~ IF THE BUSINESS IS SETBACK TEN (10) OR MORE FEET FROM THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, A FREESTANDING SIGN MAY BE ALLOWED IF ITS LOCATION MAINTAINS CLEAR SIGHT AT DRIVEWAYS AND SHALL NOT EXCEED thirty-two (32) square feet PER SIGN FACE, NOT TO EXCEED TWO (2) SIGN FACES.

D. MAXIMUM LETTER HEIGHT: NO SIGN LETTER MAY EXCEED TWO (2) FEET IN HEIGHT.

E. Maximum Height: All signs, twenty feet (20'), EXCEPT WALL SIGNS SHALL NOT PROJECT BEYOND THE EXISTING ROOFLINE OR PARAPET.

F. Minimum ~~Height~~ Clearance: None; except, any sign hanging over any pedestrian walkway shall maintain a clearance to ground of at least seven feet (7').

G. Required Setback: None; however, no sign shall extend more than six feet (6') over any property line and if located within the right of way is subject to Town Manager approval.

H. DESIGN GUIDELINES FOR SIGNS IN THE OLD TOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT:

1. SIGNS MAY FEATURE ART AND BE HIGHLY GRAPHIC IN FORM, EXPRESSIVE, AND INDIVIDUALIZED. ENCOURAGE SIGNS TO INCORPORATE ART, EDUCATION, HISTORY, AND OTHER WHIMSICAL, CREATIVE, AND INFORMATIVE ELEMENTS.
2. THE LANDMARKING OF HISTORIC SIGNS IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED AND THE TOWN SUPPORTS COLLABORATIVE OPPORTUNITIES WITH LOCAL ARTISTS.
3. ENSURE THAT SIGNAGE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUSINESS AND COMPATIBLE WITH THE UNIQUE CHARACTER AND NATURAL BEAUTY OF THE TOWN OF MORRISON.
4. LIGHTING OF SIGNAGE SHALL BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER OF THE BUILDING AND THE SURROUNDING AREA; AND IS COMPATIBLE WITH SIGNS ON ADJOINING PREMISES.

**Section 4. Section 10-11-7 of the Municipal Code is amended to read:**

**10-11-7: C1 AND C2 DISTRICTS**

- A. General: Signs may be erected, altered and maintained only for a permitted use in the district in which the signs are located; and shall be located on the same lot as the permitted use and shall be clearly incidental, customary and commonly associated with the operation of the permitted use.
- B. Number of Signs Permitted: Two (2) ~~exterior~~ signs, ONE (1) PRIMARY AND ONE (1) A SECONDARY SIGN, ARE ALLOWED PER BUSINESS ~~on each wall, including projecting signs, roof signs and wall signs.~~ In addition, one ground sign shall be permitted for each lot WHERE THE BUILDING IN WHICH THE BUSINESS IS LOCATED IS SETBACK TEN (10) FEET OR MORE.
- C. Maximum Gross Surface Area:
  - 1. ~~Wall signs, one hundred (100) square feet.~~ PRIMARY SIGN. EACH BUSINESS IS ALLOWED ONE (1) PRIMARY SIGN NOT TO EXCEED A SIZE OF FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THE FAÇADE AREA ON WHICH IT IS PLACED.
  - 2. SECONDARY SIGN. EACH BUSINESS IS ALLOWED ONE (1) SECONDARY SIGN NOT TO EXCEED 15 SQUARE FEET IN SIZE.
  - 3. ~~All other signs~~ IF THE BUSINESS IS SETBACK TEN (10) OR MORE FEET FROM THE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY, A FREESTANDING SIGN MAY BE ALLOWED IF ITS LOCATION MAINTAINS CLEAR SIGHT AT DRIVEWAYS AND SHALL NOT EXCEED thirty-two (32) square feet PER SIGN FACE, NOT TO EXCEED TWO (2) SIGN FACES.
- D. MAXIMUM LETTER HEIGHT: NO SIGN LETTER MAY EXCEED TWO (2) FEET IN HEIGHT.
- E. Maximum Height: All signs, twenty feet (20'), EXCEPT WALL SIGNS SHALL NOT PROJECT BEYOND THE EXISTING ROOFLINE OR PARAPET. ~~No limitation for wall signs.~~
- F. Minimum Height CLEARANCE: ~~None; except,~~ Any sign hanging over any pedestrian walkway shall maintain a clearance to ground of at least seven feet (7').
- G. Illumination: Illuminated signs shall be illuminated only from an indirect and concealed source.
- H. Required Setback: ~~All signs, fifteen feet (15') from the front lot line.~~

**Section 5. Section 10-1N-15 of the Morrison Municipal Code is amended as follows:**

~~10-1N-15 Signage. - All signage in the Old Town Historic Overlay District shall be installed and maintained in accordance with the provisions of Article I of this Chapter. Canopies used for signage shall be consistent with the architectural style of the building. - Internally illuminated signs shall not~~

~~create observable glare as to avoid safety hazards. LED SIGNS ARE PROHIBITED IN THE OLD TOWN OVERLAY DISTRICT.~~

~~Section 6. - Section 10-IN-2 of the Morrison Municipal Code is amended by the addition of the following definition in the appropriate alphabetical location:~~

~~*LED Sign (Electronic Message Board):* Is a sign that is capable of displaying words, symbols, figures, still images, scrolling images, or moving images, including video and animation, utilizing a series or grid of lights that may be changed by remote or automatic means including cathode ray, light emitting diode (LED) display, plasma screen, liquid crystal display (LCD), fiber optic or other electronic media or technology~~

**Section 5. Effective date.** This Ordinance shall take effect fifteen (15) days after adoption and publication as provided by Section 3.14 of the Home Rule Charter.

**INTRODUCED, READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 2nd day of July, 2019, by a vote of 5 ayes and 1 nays.

**TOWN OF MORRISON:**

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Sean K. Forey, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

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Lyndsey Paavilainen, Town Clerk