

ORDINANCE NO. 867

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRESCENT CITY AMENDING CHAPTER 17.39, SIGNS, OF TITLE 17, ZONING, OF THE CRESCENT CITY MUNICIPAL CODE

WHEREAS, the City of Crescent City is a general law city subject to all California State laws of general applicability; and

WHEREAS, as a prominent part of the scenery, signs may attract the viewing public, affect the safety of vehicular and pedestrian traffic, and help set the tone and character of the community; and

WHEREAS, signs have an obvious impact on the character, quality and economic health of the City's scenery; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recommended allowing both changeable digital signs and off-site advertising be allowed within the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered the Planning Commission recommendations and adopted those recommendations with some amendments; and

WHEREAS, the current regulations only allow digital signs in the C-2 zone and schools within city limits have requested an amendment to allow them to also have digital signs; and

WHEREAS, a zoning amendment application was submitted to the Planning Commission, which following a public hearing made a recommendation to the City Council to amend Chapter 17.39 of the Crescent City Municipal Code to allow schools to erect digital signs regardless of what zoning district the school is located.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Crescent City does hereby ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. RECITALS. The City Council finds the above recitals to be true and correct and are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS. The City Council finds that the proposed amendments to the City's sign regulations further the purposes of Chapter 17.39 as set forth in Section 17.39.010 of the Crescent City Municipal Code.

SECTION 3. CODE AMENDMENT. Chapter 17.39, Signs, of Title 17, Zoning, of the Crescent City Municipal Code is hereby as described in this Section.

Note: Additions = red underlined text, Deletions = ~~red text with strikethrough~~.

3.01 DEFINITIONS. Section 17.39.030, Definitions, of Chapter 17.39, Signs, of Title 17, Zoning, of Crescent City Municipal Code is amended to include the following new definitions:

“School digital sign” means an LED digital display sign that may rotate images related solely to school activities, events, announcements, or other school purposes and is located on school property. School digital signs are permitted only for public or private elementary, junior high, and senior high schools, as defined in Section 17.04.430.

“Scoreboard display” means a board displaying the score of a game or match.

3.02 TYPES -- GENERALLY. Subsection K, Digital signs, of Section 17.39.040, Types -- Generally, of Chapter 17.39, Signs, of Title 17, Zoning, of Crescent City Municipal Code is amended as follows:

K. Digital signs.

1. Digital signs may contain static messages only. Signs may not display text which flashes, pulsates, moves or scrolls. Each complete message must fit on one screen.
2. Digital signs are limited to a maximum display size of 32 square feet.
3. Digital signs may not change message more than once every 15 seconds.
4. The content of a digital sign must transition by changing instantly (e.g., no fade-out or fade-in).
5. Any digital signs within 100 feet of HWY 101 must obtain any and all permits required from Caltrans.
6. Except for school digital signs, digital ~~Digital~~ signs must have a minimum distance of 1750 linear feet between them as measured along the streets and highways, regardless of which side of the street or highway the sign is located on.
7. School digital signs as defined in Section 17.39.030, may be either a single wall-mounted LED digital display with a maximum display area of 32 square feet or a double-sided monument sign with a maximum display area of 32 square feet per sign face (64 square feet total).

3.03 RESIDENTIAL ZONES. Subsection A of Section 17.39.110, Residential zones, of Chapter 17.39, Signs, of Title 17, Zoning, of Crescent City Municipal Code is amended as follows:

§ 17.39.110 Residential zones.

The following signs are permitted in the city's residentially zoned districts (R1, R2, R3):

A. 1. Institutional uses such as churches, schools, libraries, hospitals, community centers and/or public agency buildings such as fire or police stations may have wall, ground or monument signs with an area not to exceed one-half square foot of sign area for each linear foot of street frontage.

2. School digital signs as defined in Section 17.39.040(K).

~~2.~~ 3. For parcels with multiple street frontages the allowable sign area shall be one-half square foot for each linear foot of the longest street frontage plus one-quarter square foot for each additional linear foot of frontage.

~~3.~~ 4. A sign permit shall be required for these uses, unless the entity or agency is categorically exempt.

3.04 RESIDENTIAL-PROFESSIONAL ZONES. Section 17.39.120, Residential-professional Zones (RP), of Chapter 17.39, Signs, of Title 17, Zoning, of Crescent City Municipal Code is amended as follows:

§ 17.39.120 Residential-professional zones (RP)

A. Sign Types Permitted. The following signs are permitted for licensed businesses in the city's residential-professional zoned districts (RP):

1. Wall signs;

2. Canopy signs;

3. Monument or ground signs not to exceed five feet in height, and not to impede vehicle sight distance;

4. Institutional uses such as churches, schools, libraries, hospitals, community centers and/or public agency buildings such as fire or police stations may have a wall, ground or monument sign. A sign permit is required for these uses;

5. School digital signs as defined in Section 17.39.040(K).

~~5.~~ 6. Sandwich board signs or A-frame signs, with a valid business license or nonprofit business license exemption.

~~6.~~ 7. Pennant signs, with a valid business license or nonprofit business license exemption.

~~7.~~ 8. Exempt Signs. No permit required.

3.05 LIMITED COMMERCIAL ZONES. Section 17.39.130, Limited commercial (C1)

zones, of Chapter 17.39, Signs, of Title 17, Zoning, of Crescent City Municipal Code is amended as follows:

§ 17.39.130 Limited commercial (C1) zone.

A. Sign Types Permitted. The following signs are permitted for licensed businesses in the city's limited commercial and commercial-waterfront zoning districts (C1 and CW):

1. Wall signs;
2. Canopy signs;
3. Marquee signs;
4. Monument or ground signs not to exceed five feet in height;
5. Institutional uses such as churches, schools, libraries, hospitals, community centers and/or public agency buildings such as fire or police stations may have a ground or monument sign. A sign permit is required for these uses;

6. School digital signs as defined in Section 17.39.040(K).

- ~~6.~~ 7. Hanging signs;
- ~~7.~~ 8. Projecting signs;
- ~~8.~~ 9. Window signs;
- ~~9.~~ 10. Sandwich board signs or A-frame signs.
- ~~10.~~ 11. Pennant signs.
- ~~11.~~ 12. Exempt Signs. No permit required.

3.06 GENERAL COMMERCIAL, HIGHWAY SERVICE AND COMMERCIAL-MANUFACTURING ZONES. Subsection A (Sign Types Permitted) of Section 17.39.140, General commercial (C2), highway services (HS), and commercial-manufacturing (CM) zones, of Chapter 17.39, Signs, of Title 17, Zoning, of Crescent City Municipal Code is amended as follows:

A. Sign Types Permitted. The following signs are permitted for licensed businesses in the city's general commercial (C2), highway services (HS), and commercial-manufacturing (CM) zoning districts:

1. Wall signs;
2. Awning or canopy signs;

3. Marquee signs;
4. Monument or ground signs not to exceed ten feet in height;
5. Institutional uses such as churches, schools, libraries, hospitals, community centers and/or public agency buildings such as fire or police stations may have a ground or monument sign. A sign permit is required for these uses;
6. Hanging signs;
7. Projecting signs;
8. Window signs;
9. Changeable signs;
10. Pole signs;
11. Banners. One promotional banner per street frontage. The banner must be mounted flat against the building, and must be maintained in a good condition. Tattered or torn banners must be removed;
12. Sandwich board signs or A-frame signs.
13. Pennant signs.
14. Off-site advertising signs are allowed in the C-2 zone only.
15. Digital signs are allowed in the C-2 zone only.
16. School digital signs as defined in Section 17.39.040(K).
- ~~16.~~ 17. Exempt Signs. No permit required.

3.07 ILLUMINATION. Section 17.39.150, Illumination, of Chapter 17.39, Signs, of Title 17, Zoning, of Crescent City Municipal Code is amended as follows:

§ 17.39.150 Illumination.

All signs shall be subject to the following restrictions upon illumination:

A. Light from any illuminated sign shall be shaded, shielded or directed so that its intensity or brightness shall not be objectionable to surrounding areas and uses:

1. During daylight hours between sunrise and sunset, luminance is limited to 10,000 nits.
2. At all other times, luminance is limited to 160 nits.

3. Digital signs may produce no more than 0.3 foot-candle of light when measured from the distance using the following formula: Measurement Distance= (Area of Sign Sq. Ft. × 100)
 4. Each sign must have a light sensing device that will automatically adjust the brightness of the display as the natural ambient light conditions change.
- B. Except for public service signs such as time and temperature units and official traffic signs, no flashing lights, beacons or other interrupted illuminating devices shall be permitted, with the exception of permitted digital display signs.
- C. Except for school digital signs, illuminated illuminated signs are ~~prohibited except allowed only~~ in commercial districts.
- D. Except for school digital signs, illuminated illuminated signs shall not be lighted at night unless the service or product is available at that time.
- E. School digital signs may be lighted during school hours and during school-related activities before or after school hours.

3.08 EXEMPT SIGNS. Section 17.39.170, Exempt signs, of Chapter 17.39, Signs, of Title 17, Zoning, of the Crescent City Municipal Code is amended as follows:

§ 17.39.170 Exempt signs.

Except for the regulation relating to construction, maintenance, public nuisance and safety the following types of non-illuminated signs shall be allowed without a sign permit and shall not be included in the determination of the type, number or area of signs allowed per business or parcel, or by zoning district:

- A. Nameplates. Nameplate signs not exceeding two square feet in display surface, and which are attached flat against the building. One per residential dwelling unit, office or business;
 - B. Public Signs. Signs of a public, non-commercial nature which are placed by a duly recognized governmental agency, including, but not limited to directional signs, safety not block the views of vehicular traffic or obstruct the public right-of-way,
3. Campaign Signs in a Public Right-of-Way. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a campaign sign may be placed in the public right-of-way adjacent to a public street in commercially or industrially zoned areas or along prime or major arterials in residentially zoned areas subject to the following restrictions:
- a. No sign shall be attached to any utility pole, public structure, pole or structure supporting a traffic-control sign or device, or hydrant,
 - b. No sign shall be placed on any tree or shrub by any nail, tack, spike or other method

that will cause physical harm to the tree or shrub,

c. No sign shall be placed in such a manner as to obstruct the public use of the sidewalk or interfere with the visibility of persons operating motor vehicles or constitute a hazard to persons using the public road or right-of-way,

d. No sign shall be placed in the roadway or on the sidewalk,

e. No sign shall be placed in that portion of the public right-of-way or easement past the sidewalk without the consent of the adjoining property owner or person in possession if different from the owner,

4. No political sign shall be posted more than forty-five days prior to, or ten days following an election;

H. No Trespassing Signs. One sign per street frontage, not to exceed four square feet in area indicating limitation on the use of private property by other than the owners. If more than one sign per frontage is needed the property owner or business person may apply to the planning commission for a use permit;

I. Customer or Tenant Parking Only Signs. One sign per street frontage, not to exceed four square feet in area. The sign shall contain any of the following appropriate restrictions:

1. Customer parking only,

2. Tenant parking only, or

3. Private property, no parking, The sign shall also contain the telephone number of the city police department. The lettering on the sign must contrast with the background of the sign and be at least two inches high, and made with a one-half inch stroke. The sign shall also contain the words "Violators May Be Towed." If more than one sign per frontage is needed the property owners or business person may apply for a use permit;

J. Window signs;

K. Awning or canopy signs; L. Corporate flags and governmental flags;

M. Garage Sale, Moving Sale, or Yard Sale Signs. Signs announcing the date(s) and location of a garage sale, moving sale or yard sale. Such signs shall not be posted in a manner which will block a public right-of-way, or which will block the vision of vehicular traffic. The signs must be removed once the date of the sale is passed;

N. Banners. One banner advertising products or services for sale on the premises per street frontage per business;

O. Barbershop Poles. Barber poles projecting not over eighteen inches from the face of the building where the barbershop is located or not projecting into the public right-of way;

P. Holiday Decorations. Displays of a decorative, noncommercial nature for the purpose of celebrating a seasonal, political or religious holiday or a recognized community celebration, in season, for an aggregate period of not more than sixty days in one calendar year;

Q. Temporary or Seasonal Sales Booths. Signs including, but not limited to, fireworks stands, pumpkin sales, Christmas tree lots, community crafts fairs, temporary certified farmer's markets, and similar signs;

R. Community or Special Event Signs, Including Banners. Signs and banners for noncommercial promotional events of a civic, charitable, educational, religious or community service organizations provided any applicable encroachment permit has been obtained from other governmental entities having jurisdiction. The signs or banners must be removed within fourteen days after the event.

S. Scoreboard displays for school and park uses at athletic fields during athletic events.

3.09 MATRIX OF REGULATIONS. Section 17.39.200, Matrix of regulations, of Chapter 17.39, of Title 17, Zoning, of Crescent City Municipal Code is amended as follows:

17.39.200 Matrix of regulations.

SIZE REGULATIONS	Single-Family Res. Zones (R1, R1B,)	Multiple-Family Res. Zones (R2, R3)	Apts. of 4 or more units (R3)	Residential-Professional Zones (RP)	Limited Com. and Com. Wat. (C1, CW)	General Com. and Hwy. Services (C2, HS)	Commercial Manufacturing (CM)	Bed and Breakfast Establishments
Nameplates, 2 sq. ft. of sign area, nonilluminated	X	X	X	X				X
½ sq. ft. of sign area for each linear ft. of frontage				X				
½ sq. ft. of sign area for each linear ft. of frontage plus ¼ sq. ft. of sign area for each ft. of frontage for multiple frontages	X	X	X	X				
1 sq. ft. of sign					X			

SIZE REGULATIONS	Single-Family Res. Zones (R1, R1B,)	Multiple-Family Res. Zones (R2, R3)	Apts. of 4 or more units (R3)	Residential-Professional Zones (RP)	Limited Com. and Com. Wat. (C1, CW)	General Com. and Hwy. Services (C2, HS)	Commercial Manufacturing (CM)	Bed and Breakfast Establishments
area for each linear ft. of frontage								
1 sq. ft. of sign area for each linear ft. of frontage plus ½ sq. ft. of sign area for each ft. of frontage for multiple frontages					X			
1 and ½ sq. ft. of sign area for each linear ft. of frontage						X	X	
Projecting sign extending not more than 36 inches from building					X	X	X	
One sign not to exceed 20 sq. ft. in area								X
Maximum sign area 100 sq. ft. per face					X			
Maximum sign area 150 sq. ft. per face						X		
Construction signs not to exceed 32 sq. ft. in area					X	X	X	
Construction signs not to exceed 9 sq. ft. in area	X	X	X	X				X
Real estate signs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

SIZE REGULATIONS	Single-Family Res. Zones (R1, R1B,)	Multiple-Family Res. Zones (R2, R3)	Apts. of 4 or more units (R3)	Residential-Professional Zones (RP)	Limited Com. and Com. Wat. (C1, CW)	General Com. and Hwy. Services (C2, HS)	Commercial Manufacturing (CM)	Bed and Breakfast Establishments
not to exceed 9 sq. ft. in area and 3 ½ ft. in height								
HEIGHT REGULATIONS:								
30 foot maximum to top of pole sign						X	X	
14 ft. minimum to bottom of pole sign in a vehicular area						X	X	
10 ft. minimum to bottom of pole sign in a pedestrian area						X	X	
Ground or monument sign not to exceed 5 ft. in height and 20 sq. ft. in area								X
Ground or monument sign not to exceed 5 ft. in height and 24 sq. ft. in area			X					
Ground or monument sign not to exceed 5 ft. in height				X	X			
Ground or monument sign not to exceed 10 ft. in height						X	X	
One pole sign per parcel						X	X	
SIGN TYPE REGULATIONS:								
Wall signs			X		X	X	X	

SIZE REGULATIONS	Single-Family Res. Zones (R1, R1B,)	Multiple-Family Res. Zones (R2, R3)	Apts. of 4 or more units (R3)	Residential-Professional Zones (RP)	Limited Com. and Com. Wat. (C1, CW)	General Com. and Hwy. Services (C2, HS)	Commercial Manufacturing (CM)	Bed and Breakfast Establishments
Awning or canopy signs				X	X	X	X	
Marquee signs					X	X	X	
Monument or ground signs			X	X	X	X	X	
Hanging signs					X	X	X	
Projecting signs					X	X	X	
Sandwich Boards or A-frame signs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Pennant Signs	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Window signs				X	X	X	X	
Changeable copy signs						X	X	
Pole signs						X	X	
Banners						X	X	
Nameplate signs	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Illuminated signs					X	X	X	
Digital Signs						X (C2)		
<u>School Digital Signs</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	<u>X</u>	
Off-site Advertising						X (C2)		

[END TEXT AMENDMENT]

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY. If any part of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or inapplicable to any situation by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance or the applicability of this Ordinance to other situations.

SECTION 5. CEQA FINDINGS. This Ordinance has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the CEQA Guidelines, and has been found to be exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15061(b)(3) (common sense exemption).

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE & PUBLICATION. This Ordinance will become effective 30 days after the date of its adoption. The City Clerk shall cause this ordinance to be published within 15 days of its adoption in accordance with the requirements of Government Code Section 36933.

INTRODUCED by the City Council of the City of Crescent City at a regular meeting of the City Council held the 3rd day of August 2026.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Crescent City at a regular meeting of the City Council held this 17th day of August 2026 by the following polled vote:

AYES: Council Members Greenough, Shamblin, Tinkler, and Mayor Wright

NOES: Council Member Altman

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None



Isaiah Wright, Mayor

ATTEST:



Robin Altman, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Martha D. Rice, City Attorney