

SIGN APPLICATION

CITY OF WATSEKA

DATE: _____ PERMIT NO: _____

This is not a Building Permit. Building Permits must be obtained from the Building Inspector before construction. This application must be submitted at least three (3) days prior to receiving a Sign Permit and or Building Permit.

APPLICATION FOR: (Circle as appropriate)

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1) On-Site Sign | A) Wall Mounted Sign | E) Billboard |
| 2) Off-Site Sign | B) Projecting Sign | F) Banner, Pennants |
| | C) Marquee or Electric Sign | G) Flag/Flag Pole |
| | D) Free Standing or In ground post Sign | H) Other |

PLEASE PRINT:

ADDRESS FOR SIGN LOCATION: _____

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. NUMBER OF SIGNS TO BE INSTALLED _____

2. TOTAL AREA OF SIGN (S) (SQUARE FOOTAGE): _____

3. HEIGHT OF SIGN (TOP OR BOTTOM OF SIGN TO GRADE): _____

4. WILL SIGN (S) BE ILLUMINATED OR HAVE MOVING ELEMENTS: _____

IF YES EXPLAIN: _____

4A: WILL ILLUMINATED SIGN BE CONSTRUCTED TO U.S. ELECTRIC CODE: _____

4B: IF ILLUMINATED WHO IS THE ELECTRIC CONTRACTOR: _____

5. WILL SIGN BE PERMANENTLY ANCHORED TO BUILDING OR GROUND: _____

SIGN OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____

PROPERTY OWNER: _____ ADDRESS: _____

SIGN INSTALLER: _____ ADDRESS: _____

I hereby acknowledge that this application is correct and I agree to comply with all City of Watseka zoning codes regarding signs. I understand that this sign should not be erected without full knowledge and agreement of the property owner. I further understand that the issuance of this permit is not valid until the fee is paid and that work under this application must be completed within six (6) months, or the application must be renewed.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

PROPERTY OWNER OR AGENT

SIGN(S) PERMIT FEE: _____ CHECK AMOUNT AND #: _____

Article XIII
Signs, Billboards, Canopies and Awnings

Sec. 39-146: (Short Title) This article shall hereafter be known as cited as the "Sign and Awning Code".

Sec. 39-147: (Definitions) As used in this article, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

“Awning” shall mean and include any structure made of cloth or metal with a metal frame attached to a building and projecting over a thoroughfare, when the same is so erected as to permit its being raised to a position flat against the building when not in use.

“Canopy” shall mean and include any structure, other than an awning, made of cloth or metal with metal frames attached to a building, projecting over a thoroughfare, and carried by a frame supported by the ground or sidewalk.

“Erect” shall mean to build, construct, attach, hang, place, suspend, or affix, and also shall include the painting of wall signs.

“Facing” or “Surface” shall mean the surface of the sign upon, against, or through which the message is displayed or illustrated on the sign.

“Illuminated Sign” shall mean any sign which has characters, letters, figures, designs or outlines illuminated by electric lights or luminous tubes as a part of the sign proper.

“Incombustible Material” shall mean any material which will not ignite at or below a temperature of 1200 degrees Fahrenheit and will not continue to burn or glow at that temperature.

“Person” shall mean and include any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, company or organization of any kind.

“Public Way” is any thoroughfare or place for public vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

“Sign” shall mean and include every sign, billboard, ground sign, wall sign, roof sign, illuminated sign, projecting sign, temporary sign, marquee, awning and canopy and shall include any announcement, declaration, demonstration, display illustration or insignia used to advertise or promote the interests of any person when the same is placed out of doors in view of the general public.

“Structural Trim” shall mean the molding, battens, cappings, nailing strips, latticing, and plat forms which are attached to the sign structure.

Sec. 39-148: (Signs, Requirements) Signs securely fastened may be suspended over sidewalks not exceeding six feet from the line of the building or lot, and at a height not less than ten feet above the sidewalk at the lowest point thereof. No new signs shall be erected within the fire limits of the City, except fireproof electric signs or signs constructed of fireproof materials.

Sec. 39-149: (Signs in Streets Prohibited) It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, have or maintain any sign post in front of their places of business, in the streets or

over sidewalks, except barber poles of reasonable size and so located as not to interfere with the free use of such sidewalks. It shall be unlawful to place, erect, have or maintain any sign on any public way, street, parking area or sidewalk and such signs are prohibited. Nor shall any person place or suspend, or cause to be placed or suspended, from any building, structure, lot or place, any sign which shall extend or project from the wall or front of such building or structure over a street or alley, except in accordance with this article. Any sign over any sidewalk shall not extend to or be within two feet of the curb or other edge of said sidewalk.

Sec. 39-150: (Permits Required) It shall be unlawful for any person to erect, repair, alter, relocate or maintain within the City any sign or other advertising structure as defined in this article, without first obtaining an erection permit from the Building Official and making payment of the fee required by Section 39-154 hereof. All illuminated signs shall, in addition, be subject to the provisions of the Electrical Code, and the permit fees required thereunder.

Sec. 39-151: (Application for Erection Permit) Application for erection permits shall be made upon blanks provided by the City and shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:

- (1) Name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
- (2) Location of building, structure, or lot to which or upon which the sign or other advertising structure is to be attached or erected.
- (3) Position of the sign or other advertising structure in relation to nearby buildings or structures.
- (4) Two blueprints or ink drawings of the plans and specifications and method of construction and attachment to the building or in the ground.
- (5) Copy of stress sheets and calculations showing the structure is designed for dead load and wind pressure in any direction in the amount required by this and all other laws and ordinances of the City.
- (6) Name of person, firm, corporation or association erecting structure.
- (7) Written consent of the owner of the building, structure or land to which or on which the structure is to be erected.
- (8) Any electrical permit required and issued for said sign.

Sec. 39-152: (Illuminated Signs; Approval by Electrical inspector) The application for a permit for erection of a sign or other advertising structure in which electrical wiring and connections are to be used shall be submitted to the Electrical Inspector. The Electrical Inspector shall examine the plans and specifications respecting

all wiring and connections to determine if the same complies with the Electrical Code of the City, and he shall approve said permit, if the said plans and specifications comply with said code, or disapprove the application if non-compliance with said code is found. This said action of the Electrical Inspector shall be taken prior to submission of the application to the Building Official for final approval or disapproval of the erection permit.

Sec. 39-153: (Permit Issued if Application in Order) It shall be the duty of the Building Official, upon the filing of an application for an erection permit, to examine such plans and specifications and other data and the premises upon which it is proposed to erect the sign or other advertising structure, and if it shall appear that the proposed structure is in compliance with all the requirements of this article and all other laws and ordinances of the City, he shall then issue the erection permit. If the work authorized under an erection permit has not been completed within six (6) months after date of issuance, the said permit shall become null and void.

Sec. 39-154: (Permit Fees) Every applicant before being granted a permit hereunder shall pay to the Building Official a fee of \$10 for all signs and canopies or other advertising structure regulated by this article.

Sec. 39-155: (Unsafe and Unlawful Signs) If the Building Official shall find that any sign or other advertising structure regulated herein is unsafe or insecure, or is a menace to the public, or has been constructed or erected or is being maintained in violation of the provisions of this article, he shall give written notice to the permittee thereof. If the permittee fails to remove or alter the structure so as to comply with the standards herein set forth within ten (10) days after such notice, such sign or other advertising structure may be removed and permit revoked. The Building Official may cause any sign or other advertising structure which is an immediate peril to persons or property to be removed summarily and without notice.

Sec. 39-156: (Electric Signs) Electric signs and canopies may be suspended securely from buildings and may extend over sidewalks not closer than within two feet of the curb line. Such signs shall be strongly and securely fastened by supports to the building to which they are attached, and shall be placed at least ten feet above the surface of the sidewalk, and the portion of such sign nearest to the building against which it is placed shall not be more than one foot distant from such building.

Any person or corporation violating any provision of this section shall, upon conviction thereof, be subject to a fine of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) nor more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each offense, and each day that any such sign shall remain contrary to the provisions hereof after notice to remove the same has been given to the permittee or owner of said sign shall constitute and be a separate offense.

Sec. 39-157: (Number, Date and Voltage to be on Sign) Every sign or other advertising structure hereafter erected shall have painted in a conspicuous place thereon,

in letters not less than one inch in height, the date of erection, the permit number and the voltage of any electrical apparatus used in connection therewith.

Sec. 39-158: (Painting Required Every Two Years) The owner of any sign as defined and regulated by this article shall paint at least once every two years all parts and supports of the said sign, unless the same are galvanized or otherwise treated to prevent rust.

Sec. 39-159: (Wind Pressure and Dead Load Requirements) All signs and other advertising structures shall be designed and constructed to withstand a wind pressure of not less than forty (40) pounds per square foot of area; and shall be constructed to receive dead loads as required in the Building Code or other ordinances of the City.

Sec. 39-160: (Exemptions) The provisions and regulations of this article shall not apply to the following signs, except that said exempted signs shall be subject to the provisions of Section 39-155:

- (1) Real estate signs not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area which advertise the sale, rental or lease of the premises upon which said signs are located only.
- (2) Professional name plates not exceeding eight (8) square feet in area.
- (3) Signs painted on the exterior surface of a building or structure, but if said signs have raised borders, letters, characters, decorations or lighting appliances, they shall be subject to the provisions of Section 39-168 and all other applicable provisions of this article.
- (4) Bulletin boards not over twenty (20) square feet in area for public, charitable or religious institutions when the same are located on the premises of the institutions.
- (5) Signs denoting the architect, engineer or contractor when placed upon work under construction and not exceeding sixteen (16) square feet in area.
- (6) Occupational signs denoting only the name and profession of an occupant in a commercial building, public institutional building or dwelling house, and not exceeding two (2) square feet in area.
- (7) Memorial signs or tablets, names of buildings and date of erection when cut into any masonry surface or when constructed of bronze or other incombustible materials.
- (8) Traffic or other municipal signs, legal notices, railroad crossing signs, danger, and such temporary, emergency or non-advertising signs as may be approved by the City Council.

Sec. 39-161: (Obstructions to Doors, Windows or Fire Escapes) No sign shall be erected, relocated or maintained so as to prevent free ingress to or egress from any door, window or fire escape. No sign of any kind shall be attached to a stand pipe or fire escape.

Sec. 39-162: (Signs Not to Constitute Traffic Hazard) No sign or other advertising structure as regulated by this article shall be erected at the intersection of any streets in such a manner as to obstruct free and clear vision; or at any location where, by reason of the position, shape or color, it may interfere with, obstruct the view of or be confused with any authorized traffic sign, signal or device; or which makes use of the words "STOP", "LOOK", "DRIVE-IN", "DANGER" or any other word, phrase, symbol or character in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.

Sec. 39-163: (Face of Sign Shall be Smooth) All signs or other advertising structures which are constructed on street lines, or within five (5) feet thereof, shall have a smooth surface and no nails, tacks or wires shall be permitted to protrude therefrom, except electrical reflectors and devices which may extend over the top and in front of the advertising structures.

Sec. 39-164: (Goose Neck Reflectors) Goose neck reflectors and lights shall be permitted on ground signs, roof signs, and wall signs, but reflectors shall be provided with proper glass lenses concentrating the illumination upon the area of the sign so as to prevent glare upon the street or adjacent property.

Sec. 39-165: (Spotlights and Floodlights Prohibited) It shall be unlawful for any person to maintain any sign which extends over public property which is wholly or partially illuminated by floodlights or spotlights.

Sec. 39-166: (Obscene Matter Prohibited) It shall be unlawful for any person to display upon any sign or other advertising structure any obscene, indecent or immoral matter.

Sec. 39-167: (Ground Signs) Ground sign as regulated by this article shall include any sign supported by uprights or braces placed upon the ground, and not attached to any building.

(a) Construction.

- (1) MATERIALS REQUIRED. All ground signs, for which a permit is required under this article, shall have a surface or facing of incombustible material, but combustible structural trim may be used thereon.
- (2) LETTERS, ETC., TO BE SECURED. All letters, figures, characters or representations in cut-out or irregular form, maintained in conjunction with, attached to, or superimposed upon any sign shall be safely and

securely built or attached to the sign structure and shall comply with all requirements in Section 39-163

(b) Location

- (1) **HEIGHT LIMITATION.** It shall be unlawful to erect any ground sign whose total height is greater than thirty-five feet above the level of the street upon which the sign faces, or above the adjoining ground level, if such ground level is above the street level.
- (2) **SPACE BETWEEN SIGN AND OTHER SIGNS AND STRUCTURES.** No ground sign shall be nearer than two (2) feet to any other sign, building or structure.
- (3) **SET BACK LINE.** No ground sign shall be nearer the street than the property line.
- (4) **PREMISES TO BE KEPT FREE OF WEEDS AND RUBBISH.** All ground signs and the premises surrounding the same shall be maintained by the owner in a clean, sanitary, and inoffensive condition, and free and clear of all obnoxious substances, rubbish and weeds.

Sec. 39-168: (Wall Signs) Wall signs as regulated by this article shall include all flat signs of solid face construction which are placed against a building or other structure and attached to the exterior front, rear, or side wall of any building, or other structure.

(a) Construction

- (1) MATERIALS REQUIRED. All wall signs, for which a permit is required under this article, shall have a surface or facing of incombustible material; but a combustible structural trim may be used thereon.

(b) Location.

- (1) LIMITATION ON PLACEMENT AND AREA. No wall sign shall cover wholly or partially any wall opening, nor project beyond the ends or top of the wall to which it is attached. No wall sign shall exceed an area of five hundred (500) square feet.
- (2) PROJECTION ABOVE SIDEWALK AND SET-BACK LINE. No wall sign shall be permitted to extend more than six (6) inches beyond the building line, and shall not be attached to a wall at a height of less than ten (10) feet above the sidewalk or ground.
- (3) OBSTRUCTIONS TO DOOR, WINDOWS OR FIRE ESCAPES. No wall sign shall be erected, relocated or maintained so as to prevent free ingress to or egress from any door, window or fire escape.

(c) Erection.

- (1) SUPPORTS AND ATTACHMENT. All wall signs shall be safely and securely attached to the building wall by means of metal anchors, bolts, or expansion screws of not less than 3/8 inch in diameter embedded in said wall for at least five (5) inches. But such signs may rest in, or be bolted to strong, heavy metal brackets or saddles set not over six (6) feet apart, each of which shall be securely affixed to the wall as hereinbefore provided. In no case shall any wall sign be secured with wire, strips of wood or nails.
- (2) WIND PRESSURE AND DEAD LOAD REQUIREMENTS. All wall signs shall conform to the requirements of Section 39-159.

Sec. 39-169: (Roof Signs) Roof signs as regulated by this article shall mean any sign erected, constructed and maintained wholly upon or over the roof of any building with the principal support on the roof structure.

(a) Construction.

- (1) MATERIALS REQUIRED. Every roof sign, including the upright supports and braces thereof, shall be constructed entirely of incombustible materials, but combustible structural trim may be used thereon.

(b) Location.

- (1) HEIGHT AND AREA LIMITATIONS. No roof sign shall have a surface or facing exceeding three hundred (300) square feet, nor have its highest point extended more than twenty (20) feet above the roof level.
- (2) SET-BACK FROM ROOF EDGE. No roof sign shall be erected or maintained with the face thereof nearer than five (5) feet to the outside wall toward which the sign faces.
- (3) SPACE BETWEEN SIGN AND ROOF. All roof signs shall have a space at least five (5) feet in height between the base of the sign and the roof level, and have at least five (5) feet clearance between the vertical supports thereof.
- (4) PROHIBITED OBSTRUCTIONS. No roof sign shall be placed on the roof of any building or structure in such manner as to prevent free passage from one part of said roof to any other part thereof or interfere with openings in said roof and shall comply with the provisions of Section 39-161 hereof.

(c) Erection

- (1) BRACING, ANCHORAGE AND SUPPORTS. Every roof sign shall be thoroughly secured to the building by iron or other metal anchors, bolts, supports, rods, or braces. When erected upon buildings which are not constructed entirely of fireproof materials, the bearing plates of said sign shall bear directly upon masonry walls and intermediate steel columns in the building. No roof sign shall be supported or anchored to the wooden framework of a building.
- (2) WIND PRESSURE, AND DEAD LOAD REQUIREMENTS. All roof signs shall conform to the requirements of Section 39-159 of this article.

Sec. 39-170: (Projecting Signs) Projecting sign as regulated by this article shall include any sign which is attached to a building or other structure and extends beyond the

line of the said building or structure or beyond the surface of that portion of the building or structure to which it is attached. All projecting signs shall be illuminated signs, as defined by this article.

Horizontal projecting sign means any sign which is greater in width than in height.

Vertical projecting sign means any sign which is greater in height than in width.

(a) Construction.

- (1) DESIGN AND APPROVAL. Every projecting sign, including the frames, braces and supports thereof, shall be designed by a structural engineer or manufacturer, and shall be approved by the Building Official as in compliance with the Building Code of the City and by the Electrical Inspector as in compliance with the Electrical Code of the City. Each such sign shall be constructed of incombustible materials, shall be illuminated and shall be two faced.
- (2) ILLUMINATION. The reflectors shall be provided with the proper glass lenses concentrating the illumination upon the area of the sign and preventing glare upon the street or adjacent property. No floodlight or spotlight and no reflectors of the goose neck type shall be permitted on projecting signs.
- (3) LIMITATION OF GLASS. The lettering or advertising designs to be illuminated may be composed of glass or other transparent or semi-transparent incombustible matter. Any glass forming a part of any sign shall be safety glass or plate glass at least 1/4 inch thick, and in case any single piece or pane of glass has an area exceeding three (3) square feet, it shall be wired glass. One section, not exceeding three (3) square feet in area, constructed of wire glass or safety glass shall be permitted on each side of a sign.
- (4) MOVABLE PARTS TO BE SECURED. Any movable part of a projecting sign such as the cover of a service opening shall be securely fastened by chains or hinges.
- (5) AREA LIMITATIONS. Except by permission of the City Council, projecting signs shall be limited in area as follows:
 - a. Horizontal projecting signs fifty (50) square feet on each side.
 - b. Vertical projecting signs one hundred (100) square feet on each side.

(6) THICKNESS LIMITATION. The distance measured between the principal faces of any projecting sign shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches.

(b) Location.

(1) PROJECTION OVER PUBLIC PROPERTY. Every projecting sign shall be placed at least ten (10) feet above the public sidewalk over which it is erected, and at a distance of not greater than one foot from the face of the wall to which it is attached, measuring from the point of the sign nearest thereto; nor shall any sign or part thereof extend nearer the curb line than two (2) feet. Every projecting sign erected over public driveways, alleys, and thoroughfares shall be placed not less than fifteen (15) feet above the level of same.

(2) OBSTRUCTIONS AND TRAFFIC HAZARDS. Every projecting sign shall be erected in full compliance with Sections 39-161 and 39-162 of this article.

(c) Erection.

(1) BRACING, ANCHORAGE AND SUPPORTS. Projecting signs exceeding ten (10) square feet in area or fifty (50) pounds in weight shall not be attached to nor supported by frame buildings nor the wooden framework of a building. Said signs shall be attached to masonry walls with galvanized expansion bolts of at least 3/8 inch in diameter, shall be affixed to the wall by means of bolts extending through the wall, shall contain proper size metal washer or plate on the inside of the wall, and shall comply with Section 39-159 hereof.

(2) ANCHORAGE WITH WIRE, WOOD OR NAILS PROHIBITED. No projecting sign shall be secured with wire, strips of wood or nails. No projecting sign shall be hung or secured to any other sign.

(d) Signs Prohibited

(1) V-SHAPED SIGNS PROHIBITED. V-shaped signs, consisting of two single faced signs erected with a roof or ceiling, shall not be permitted.

Sec. 39-171: (Awnings and Canopies)

(a) Construction

(1) MATERIALS, AWNINGS. Awnings may be constructed of cloth or metal, but all frames and supports shall be of metal.

(2) MATERIALS, CANOPIES. Canopies may be constructed of cloth or metal hood, but all frames and supports shall be of metal.

(b) Location

(1) HEIGHT ABOVE SIDEWALK, AWNINGS. All awnings shall be constructed and erected so that the lowest portion thereof shall be not less than eight (8) feet above the level of the sidewalk or public thoroughfare.

(2) HEIGHT ABOVE SIDEWALK, CANOPIES. All canopies shall be constructed and erected so that the lowest portion thereof shall be not less than nine (9) feet above the level of the sidewalk or public thoroughfare.

(3) SET-BACK FROM CURB LINE, AWNINGS AND CANOPIES. No awning or canopy shall be permitted to extend beyond a point two (2) feet inside the curb line.

(4) WIDTH, AWNINGS AND CANOPIES. No limitation on the width of awnings is hereby imposed, but full compliance by awnings with Section 39-159 is required. No canopy shall be permitted to exceed eight (8) feet in width in its projection over any public way.

(c) Erection.

(1) AWNINGS, SUPPORT. Every awning shall be securely attached to and supported by the building. Posts or columns beyond the building line shall not be permitted for awnings. No awning shall be attached to the wood jambs, frames, or other wood members of a building (frame buildings excepted) when such building is less than ten (10) feet from public property.

(2) CANOPIES, SUPPORT. The framework of all canopies shall be designed by a structural engineer and be approved by the Building Official as in compliance with the Building Code of the City. All frames and supports shall be of metal and designed to withstand a wind pressure as provided in Section 39-159 of this article.

(d) Advertising.

No advertising shall be placed on any awning or canopy, except that the name of the owner and the business, industry or pursuit conducted within the premises may be painted or otherwise permanently placed in a space not exceeding eight (8) inches in height on the front and side portions thereof.

(e) Permits.