

Planning Commission Item

April 7, 2026



Item	Ordinance XXX: Amending Chapters 1 and 20, Updating Sign Definitions and Regulations	
File No.		Item No: C.3
Agenda Section	<u>PUBLIC HEARINGS</u>	
Prepared By	Rachel Arsenault, Associate Planner	
Applicant	City of Chanhassen	
Present Zoning		
Land Use		
Acerage		
Density		
Applicable Regulations	Section 1-2 Rules of Construction And Definitions Article 20-XXVI Signs	

SUGGESTED ACTION

"The Chanhassen Planning Commission recommends the City Council approve the ordinance as proposed to amend the sign code and associated definitions."

SUMMARY

The sign code ordinance was brought to the Planning Commission for discussion and public hearing on March 3rd, where staff received feedback on items to continue developing in the ordinance proposal.

The following revisions have been made based on planning commission discussion and public feedback at the March 3rd meeting:

1. Window signs are proposed to be allowed on 50% of a business's windows. A window sign may occupy up to 30% of each window.

2. Definition for "Window Covering" which is not to be considered a sign.
3. Allow for projecting, canopy, and awning signs in additional zoning districts beyond the Central Business District. The additional districts include Neighborhood Business, Highway Business, General Business, Fringe Business, and Office Institutional.

The proposed sign code ordinance has been previously reviewed by City Council for feedback at two work sessions. Staff will provide a review of community engagement efforts completed and the feedback received as part of its work session presentation. Staff has been working on the sign code ordinance so that the ordinance complies with federal law, clarifies language, creates efficiencies, and updates for the downtown design guidelines.

Conformance with federal law is achieved by updating definitions, removing unlawful regulations, and regulating based on construction rather than content. Staff has clarified language by removing outdated definitions and ensuring proper definitions for the code ordinance amendments. Staff is proposing to create efficiencies through the removal of temporary sign permits, which, based on permit data, contain repetitive requests. The proposed ordinance includes changes to implement the downtown design guidelines.

Staff would like to clarify that the images shown within the definition portion of the ordinance are larger than what would be officially published and that the size shown in the attachments is due to software limitations.

BACKGROUND

The current sign ordinance can be found in Article 20-XXVI of the zoning code. The sign regulations were written in 1995, amended multiple times since, most recently in 2022. Updating the sign code was a part of the Planning Department work plan for 2025. City staff has published a public hearing notice in the official newspaper for this public hearing at the April 7 Planning Commission meeting.

DISCUSSION

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Planning Commission recommend approval of the ordinance amendments as proposed.

ATTACHMENTS

[Sign Code Ordinance](#)

[Feb 23rd City Council Work Session Presentation](#)

[Public Comment](#)