

**SHIPPENSBURG TOWNSHIP  
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA  
ORDINANCE NO. 2022- 62**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SHIPPENSBURG TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE OF 2008 BY REPLACING ARTICLE III (SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS), SECTION 325 (SIGN REGULATIONS) IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH NEW TEXT ADDRESSING REGULATIONS FOR SIGNS BY SIGN TYPE AND BY THEIR LOCATION WITHIN THE VARIOUS ZONING DISTRICTS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP; BY ADDING TO ARTICLE XIX (DEFINITIONS), SECTION 1900 (DEFINITIONS) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS APPLICABLE TO THE NEW SIGN ORDINANCE REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF THE PROVISIONS THEREOF; AND, PROVIDING FOR THE EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.**

**WHEREAS**, the Shippensburg Township Board of Supervisors previously duly enacted a Zoning Ordinance of 2008 of Shippensburg Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania ("Zoning Ordinance"), pursuant to its statutory authority under the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code("MPC"), Act 247 of 1968, as amended (53 P.S. § 10101 et seq);

**WHEREAS**, since its adoption, the Board of Supervisors has from time to time amended the Zoning Ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has met the procedural requirements of the MPC and of the Township's ordinances for the adoption of the proposed ordinance, including notice review, posting and holding a public hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors amends the Zoning Ordinance to add definition of mini-warehouse/storage unit facilities and business parks to Chapter 27 (Zoning), Part 3 (Definitions) and to add to Part 9 (C-2 Commercial District (Shopping Center)) mini-warehouse/storage unit facilities as permitted uses in the C-2 zoning district;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors, after due consideration of the proposed Ordinance Amendment, at a duly advertised public hearing, has determined that the health, safety, and general welfare of the residents of Shippensburg Township will be served by the proposed Ordinance amendment.

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is hereby enacted and ordained by the Board of Supervisors of Shippensburg Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania that the Shippensburg Township Zoning Ordinance of 2008, Ordinance No.2008-04, is amended as follows:

**SECTION 1.** In Article III (Supplemental Regulations), Section 325 (Sign Regulations), is amended by deleting all existing language in the Section and replacing it with the following language:

## **ARTICLE III Supplemental Regulations**

### **Section 325 Sign Regulations**

#### **I. General**

- A. Purpose. This Section is intended to: promote and maintain overall community aesthetic quality; establish time, place and manner of regulations for the exercise of free speech, without regulating content; promote traffic safety by avoiding distractions and sight distance obstructions; and protect property values and ensure compatibility with the character of neighboring uses.
- B. Permit Required. A zoning permit shall be required for all signs except for: (a) signs meeting the requirements of this section enumerating miscellaneous signs not requiring permits and (b) non-illuminated window signs constructed of paper, poster board or similar materials that are not of a permanent nature. Only types, sizes and heights that are specifically permitted by this Section within the applicable District shall be allowed.
- C. Changes on Signs. Any lawfully existing sign (including legally nonconforming signs) may be painted or repaired or changed in logo or message without a new permit under this Section, provided that the changes do not increase the sign area or otherwise result in noncompliance or an increased non-conformity with this Section.

#### **II. General Regulations for All Signs**

- A. Signs must be constructed of durable material and maintained in good condition.
- B. No sign shall be maintained within the Township in such a state of disrepair as to have the appearance of neglect, which is rotting or falling down, which is illegible, or has loose parts separated from original fastenings or presents a hazard to public safety.
- C. Whenever a sign becomes structurally unsafe or endangers the safety of the building or premise, or endangers the public safety, the Zoning Officer shall give written notice to the owner of the premises on which the sign is located that such sign shall be made safe or removed within five (5) days.
- D. Signs painted upon or displayed upon a barn or other building or structure shall be regarded as a flat wall sign and the regulations pertaining thereto shall apply.
- E. Each sign shall be removed when the circumstances leading to its erection no longer apply.
- F. Illuminated signs shall comply with the requirements of this Ordinance and may be interior lighted with non-glaring lights, or may be illuminated by floodlights or spotlights that are shielded so there is no direct light transmitted to other properties or public rights-of-way.

- G. Internally illuminated signs, designed to give forth artificial light directly or through transparent or translucent material from a source of light within such sign, unless otherwise prohibited, will be permitted providing that the light being emitted from the sign shall not cause a glare or emit light onto the surrounding area.
- H. Flashing, blinking, strobe, twinkling, or animated signs shall be prohibited, except that displays of time and temperature may be permitted. No advertising sign shall be erected or maintained which involves rapid motion or rotation of the structure or any part thereof except as to Electronic Variable Message Signs, which are permitted per the requirements of this Section. In addition, flashing lights visible from a street shall not be used to attract attention to a business. This restriction specifically includes window signs, but does not prohibit seasonal Christmas lighting or displays that comply with this Section.
- I. No sign shall be located so as to interfere with visibility for motorists at street or driveway intersections.
- J. No sign located within three hundred feet (300') of any traffic light shall be illuminated with red, green, or yellow lights.
- K. All electrically illuminated signs shall be constructed to the standards of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.
- L. Signs must be positioned so that they do not interfere with any clear sight triangle as defined herein;
- M. No loud, vulgar, indecent, or obscene advertising matter shall be displayed in any manner, including, but not limited to:
  - 1. Any graphic illustration pertaining to specified sexual activities, specified anatomical areas, or both; and,
  - 2. Scenes wherein artificial devices are employed to depict, or drawings are employed to portray any of the prohibited signs, photographs or graphic representations described above;
- N. No sign shall be erected or located as to prevent free ingress or egress from any window, door or fire escape.
- O. No sign shall be placed in such a position that it will obscure light or air from a building or which would create a traffic danger.
- P. Snipe signs are strictly prohibited.
- Q. Within the Floodplain Overlay District, no freestanding sign shall be permitted and no wall mounted sign shall exceed six (6) square feet.

- R. In the event that a symbol, trademark or other such figure is used as a sign post or standard which could be constructed to indicate or identify a particular use or business, that symbol, trademark or figure is to be computed as part of the total allowable sign area.
- S. Only those signs referring directly to services, materials or products made, sold, or displayed on the premises shall be permitted, except as otherwise provided in this Article.
- T. Except for flat wall signs, no point of any sign, including trim, border and supports, shall be located within ten (10) feet of any property line or street right-of-way.
- U. No sign shall emit smoke, visible vapors or particles, sound or odors.
- V. No sign shall contain information that states or implies that a lot may be used for any purpose not permitted under the applicable provisions of this Ordinance.
- W. No signs shall be of such character, form, shape or color that they imitate or resemble any official traffic sign, signal or device or that have any characteristics which are likely to confuse or distract the operator of a motor vehicle on a public street.
- X. No sign shall display words or images that are obscene or pornographic.
- Y. Any sign attached to a building shall not be placed on the roof, be higher than the highest point of the wall to which it is attached, or located on a parapet wall.
- Z. No sign shall be affixed to any motor vehicle or trailer in such a manner that the carrying of such sign is no longer incidental to the vehicle's primary purpose.
- AA. No sign or sign structure shall constitute a hazard to public safety or health, including a sign which fails in the determination of the Zoning Officer to properly shield its light source from providing unacceptable glare to a neighboring property or the public street.
- BB. No sign shall by reason of size, location, content, coloring or manner of illumination, obstruct the vision of drivers, either when leaving or entering a roadway from another roadway or driveway, or obstruct or detract from the visibility or effectiveness of any traffic sign or control device on public streets and roads.
- CC. No signs shall make use of words such as "stop", "look", "one-way," "danger," "yield" or any similar words, phrases, symbols, lights or characters in such a manner as to interfere with, mislead or confuse traffic.
- DD. No sign located on public property or a public right-of-way shall bear any commercial advertising or announcement.
- EE. No sign shall be painted on, attached to or supported by a tree, stone, cliff or other natural object.

- FF. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed as prohibiting signs intended for viewing principally from within a building or signs temporarily attached to the inside face of a display window, announcing a sale or similar feature, provided that the latter shall not occupy more than thirty-three and one-third percent (33 1/3%) of the total display window area for a period not to exceed ten days.
- GG. No sign shall be structurally altered, enlarged or relocated except in conformity with the provisions herein, including the requirement to obtain a proper permit, if required. Changes, repairs or maintenance to movable parts or components of a previously approved sign that is designed for such changes, or changes to the business name, lettering, sign face, colors, display or graphics, or the content of any sign shall not be deemed a structural alteration to a sign.

### **III. Determination of Size of Sign Area**

- A. The area of a sign shall be construed to include all lettering, wording and accompanying designs and symbols, together with the background, whether open or enclosed, on which they are displayed, including any border framing or decorative attachments, but not including any supporting framework or bracing incidental to the display itself. Where the sign consists of individual letters or symbols attached to a building, wall or window, the area of the sign shall be considered to be that of the smallest rectangle or other regular geometric shape which encompasses all of the letters and symbols.
- B. Where a sign has two (2) or more faces, the area of all faces shall be included in determining the area of the sign; provided, however, for a double-face sign, if the interior angle formed by the two faces of the double-face sign is less than forty-five degrees (45°) and the two faces are at no point no more than three feet (3') from one another, the area of only the larger face shall be used to determine the sign area.

### **IV. Miscellaneous Signs Not Requiring Permits**

The following sign shall not require permits as required by this Section, and unless otherwise indicated, are permitted by right in all zoning districts:

- A. Flag poles, flags, banners and pendants without an advertising message provided that no flag pole may be located within any right-of-way and shall not exceed a maximum of 30 feet in height. No more than two flags or flag poles shall be located on a residential lot and three flags or flag poles on a non-residential lot. The total area may not exceed 24 square feet in a residential district and 35 square feet in a non-residential district.
- B. Special sale signs including flags, banners and pendants that advertise a special sales event or grant opening at a lawful principal commercial business. No more than two special sale signs may be utilized and may be displayed for a maximum of seven days per event. Such signs may not flash or obstruct safe sight distances. The total sign area may not exceed 30 square feet on a non-residential district.

- C. Directional signs, provided they do not contain advertising (including logos), do not exceed eight square feet, or do not obstruct the sight triangles at internal intersections on the property.
- D. Barber pole: Revolving barbershop pole sign, provided that it does not exceed 36 inches in height and is erected only in conjunction with a barbershop on the property.
- E. Property addresses. All buildings in all zoning districts shall be required to display the address of the property in such a fashion as is clearly visible from the street and which is in accord with the provisions of this Ordinance. The area of an address sign shall be exempt from the computation of the total permitted sign area, provided the sign does not contain any advertising, trade names or logos.
- F. Professional accessory use or nameplate signs, provided that signs shall not be illuminated and shall not exceed two square feet in area. Not more than one sign shall be erected for each primary permitted use.
- G. Home security signs, not exceeding one square foot in area.
- H. Public service and information signs advertising the availability of public rest rooms, telephones or similar public conveniences, not exceeding three square feet in area.
- I. Menus and signs indicating business hours, provided signs shall not exceed two square feet in area and that signs shall be located in a permanently mounted display box on the façade of the building adjacent to the entrance, displayed within a window adjacent to the entrance, or at a podium that will be placed inside the restaurant upon closing.
- J. Personal expression signs, provided that they are not illuminated and are either freestanding, wall or window signs. Such signs may not exceed four square feet in area and, in the case of freestanding signs, four feet in height.
- K. "No trespassing" signs and signs indicating private ownership of roadways or other property, on the same property therewith, provided that the total sign area shall not exceed two square feet and shall not be spaced at intervals of less than 100 feet of street frontage.
- L. "No parking" signs and signs indicating private parking areas in residential districts, and are located on the same property therewith, provided that the total sign area shall not exceed one and one-half square feet and shall not exceed one sign per property.
- M. Art and murals, provided such signs do not contain any commercial messaging or advertisement.

- N. Athletic field signs, such as those commonly found on the inside of outfield walls and fences of baseball fields provided that the signs are only placed facing the inside of the ballfield.
- O. Christmas tree signs that advertise the seasonal sale of Christmas trees, provided that a maximum of two signs may be posted only during the season when they are actively sold. The total sign area may not exceed 8 square feet on a residential lot and 20 square feet on a non-residential lot.
- P. Charitable event signs that advertise a special event that is primarily held to benefit an established tax-exempt organization provided that a maximum of two signs may be posted which may be placed a maximum of 14 days prior to the event and must be removed no more than 4 days after the event. The total sign area may not exceed 4 square feet on a residential lot and 20 square feet on a non-residential lot.
- Q. Contractor signs that advertise a building tradesperson, engineer or architect who is actively conducting significant work on a particular lot that is not such person's place of business provided that only one sign per company working on the site is permitted, the sign will only be permitted while such work is actively and clearly underway and for a maximum of four days after work is completed. The sign may not be illuminated. The total sign area may not exceed 4 square feet on a residential lot and 20 square feet on a non-residential lot.
- R. Garage/Yard Sale Signs advertising a garage or yard sale or auction provided that no more than one sign may be posted which may be placed a maximum of 7 days prior to the event and must be removed no more than 24 hours after the event. The total sign area may not exceed 4 square feet on a residential or non-residential lot.
- S. A sign attached to, or placed on, a vehicle or trailer parked on a public or private property provided that the primary purpose of such vehicle or trailer is not the display of signs; the signs are magnetic, decals or painted upon an integral part of the vehicle or equipment as originally designed by the manufacturer, and do not break the silhouette of the vehicle; and the vehicle or trailer is in operating condition, currently registered and licensed to operate on public streets when applicable, and actively used or available for use in the daily function of the business to which such signs relate.
- T. An open house, for sale or rent sign, provided that the signs have been erected only on the property to which they relate, the total sign area does not exceed 4 square feet on a residential lot and 16 square feet on a non-residential lot. Not more than one sign shall be placed on any property held in single and separate ownership, except where the property fronts on more than one street in which two signs shall be permitted.
- U. A political sign advertising a person or party seeking political office or a political cause or opinion on a referendum or matter of political concern provided that the sign may be placed a maximum of 30 days prior to an election or scheduled vote or referendum to which the sign may relate and must be removed a maximum of seven days after such

election. A maximum of one sign per candidate or issue, with a total sign area not to exceed 4 square feet on a residential lot and 32 square feet on a non-residential lot shall be permitted.

- V. Roadside stand sign for the sale of agricultural farm products may be placed upon a farm property provided that no more than two signs may be posted with a total sign area not to exceed six square feet on a residential or non-residential lot.
- W. Time and temperature signs with the sole purpose to announce time and temperature and any non-profit or governmental public service message provided that the total sign area does not exceed 30 square feet on a non-residential lot and no advertising is included on the sign. If advertising is included, the requirements of this Section shall apply.
- X. An off-premises service organization or place of worship sign stating the name of a recognized incorporated service organization or place of worship as well as the place and times of meetings or services and/or an arrow directing persons to such location. No more than one off-premises sign is permitted with a total sign area not to exceed 4 square feet on a residential lot and 32 square feet on a non-residential lot.
- Y. Home occupation sign that advertises a permitted home occupation provided that no more than one sign per lot is permitted with a total sign area not to exceed 2 square feet in a residential or non-residential lot. Signs placed within a residential district may not be illuminated and shall be attached to the building or within a building window and shall not be freestanding.

#### **V. Signs Not Regulated by This Article**

- A. Historic Sign. A sign that memorializes an important historic place, event or person and that is specifically authorized by Shippensburg Township or Cumberland County, State or Federal agency.
- B. Holiday Decorations. Decorations that commemorate a holiday recognized by the Township, County, State or Federal Government and that does not include advertising.
- C. Not Readable Sign. A sign that is not readable from any public street or any exterior lot line.
- D. Official Sign. A sign erected by the State, Cumberland County, Shippensburg Township or other legally constituted governmental body, or specifically authorized by Township ordinance or resolution, and which exists for public purposes, such as but not limited to, identifying public transit stops.
- E. Required Sign. A sign that only includes information required to be posted outdoors by a government agency or Shippensburg Township.



- F. Right-of-Way Sign. A sign posted within the existing right-of-way of a public street and officially authorized by the Township or PennDOT.
- G. Government flag. An official federal, state or local government flag that does not include advertising shall not be considered a sign and shall not be regulated by the provisions of this Section. For regulations on flag poles see Article IV of this Section.

## **VI. Permitted Signs by Zoning District**

The following signs are permitted within the specified zoning districts, in compliance within the following regulations.

- A. The following signs are permitted in the A, R-1, R-2 and MU Zoning Districts.
  - 1. Any temporary sign, subject to the provisions in Subsection IX of this Section.
  - 2. Freestanding signs subject to the requirements in Subsection VII of this Section and the following regulations:
    - a. For subdivisions and apartment buildings containing more than ten units:
      - i. One sign may be located at the main entrance to the development, not to exceed 15 square feet in area or with a maximum height of eight feet.
      - ii. The sign shall be landscaped and in keeping with the character of the Township.
      - iii. The sign may be externally illuminated, consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.
    - b. For lawfully permitted home occupations:
      - i. One sign, not to exceed six (6) square feet in area.
      - ii. Signs shall have a maximum height of six (6) feet.
      - iii. The sign may not be illuminated, consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.
    - c. For commercial uses in the MU zoning district and institutional uses:
      - i. One sign not to exceed 24 square feet in area on lots less than two (2) acres and no more than 40 square feet in area on lots greater than two (2) acres.
      - ii. Signs shall have a maximum height of eight (8) feet.

- iii. Not more than one such sign shall be placed on any property held in single and separate ownership, unless such property fronts upon more than one street, in which event one such sign may be erected on each street frontage.
    - iv. The sign may be internally or externally illuminated, consistent with the provisions of this Section.
  - 3. Wall signs, projection signs, awning or canopy signs, or window signs, subject the requirements in Subsection VII of this Section and the following regulations:
    - a. For lawfully permitted home occupations:
      - i. One sign, not to exceed two (2) square feet in area.
      - ii. Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eaveline or the bottom of the second story window sill, whichever is lower.
      - iii. The sign may be externally illuminated, consistent with the provisions of this Section.
    - b. For commercial uses in the MU zoning district and institutional uses:
      - i. On lots less than two (2) acres, the total sign area shall not exceed five (5) percent of the total wall area for all walls that directly face a public street or parking lot to a maximum of 24 square feet in area.
      - ii. On lots greater than two (2) acres, the total sign area shall not exceed six (6) percent of the total wall area for all walls that directly face the public street or parking lot to a maximum of 36 square feet in area.
      - iii. Signs shall have a maximum height equal to the eaveline.
      - iv. Not more than one such sign shall be placed on any property held in single and separate ownership, unless such property fronts upon more than one street, in which event one such sign may be erected on each street frontage.
      - v. The sign may be internally or externally illuminated, consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.
  - 4. Sandwich boards in the MU zoning district, subject to the provisions in Subsection IX of this Section.
  - 5. Any sign not specifically permitted above or as provided in Article IV or V is a prohibited use in the A, R-1, R-2 or MU Zoning Districts.
- B. The following signs are permitted in the C-1, C-2 and U Zoning Districts:

1. Any sign permitted in any residential district shall be permitted, provided that the use to which it refers is permitted.
2. Freestanding signs subject to the requirements in Subsection VII of this Section and the following regulations:
  - a. Such signs shall be allowed one square foot of background area per every linear foot of property frontage under separate ownership to a maximum of 100 square feet plus an additional 10 square feet per tenant up to a maximum of 150 square feet. In addition to the aforementioned, for permitted drive-through establishments, two additional freestanding signs shall be permitted for advertising items for sale to users of the drive-through lane only.
  - b. Only one such sign shall be permitted for each street frontage, except that lots with 500 feet or more of property frontage on one street will be allowed two freestanding signs for each street frontage which is 500 feet or more.
  - c. Maximum height above grade for any freestanding sign shall be 20 feet.
  - d. Notwithstanding the forgoing, for any freestanding sign for a Regional Attraction, as defined in Article XIX, Section 1900 (relating to Definitions), the following regulations shall apply:
    - i. Such signs for a Regional Attraction shall be allowed two (2) square feet of background area for every linear foot of property frontage to a maximum of 400 square feet in area per sign face. Only one such sign shall be permitted for each such street frontage with no sign placed closer than 1,000 linear feet to another such freestanding sign. No more than three (3) such signs shall be permitted for each Regional Attraction.
    - ii. Maximum height above grade for any freestanding sign for a Regional Attraction shall be no more than 35 feet.
    - iii. An appeal may be taken to the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance to increase the sign size, the overall number of freestanding signs for each Regional Attraction or the number of signs on each street frontage.
  - e. The sign may be internally or externally illuminated, consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.
3. On-Premises wall signs, projection signs, awning or canopy signs, or window signs, subject the requirements in Subsection VII of this Section and the following regulations:

- a. The wall or awning sign may cover up to 10 percent of the vertical building façade to which the sign is attached, up to a maximum sign area of 200 square feet per tenant. This includes signs painted on or affixed to the inside or outside of windows or which consist of either an individual sign or letters that are attached to the building or otherwise directly affixed to the façade surface.
  - b. Permanent signs located within the interior of the building, but designed to be seen exclusively from the exterior of the building, should be considered as part of the maximum permitted sign area and included in making the 10 percent calculations.
  - c. On corner buildings or lots, where the building faces more than one street or other right-of-way, wall signs may be attached to any building wall that is facing the street or public right-of-way; provided, however, that the total permissible sign on one street frontage may not be aggregated and the total square footage of signs located on any one façade nor shall not exceed 10 percent of the total vertical area of that façade.
  - d. Wall signs may be placed on any side of the building that provides a public entrance facing a public street.
  - e. Notwithstanding the forgoing, for any wall sign for a Regional Attraction, as defined in Article XIX, Section 1900 (relating to Definitions), the following regulations shall apply:
    - i. A wall sign of up to 600 square feet will be permitted provided that only one such sign shall be permitted for each building face.
    - ii. In addition to the wall sign permitted above, a building façade may contain up to five additional signs; provided, however, that the total square footage of all such façade signs shall not exceed 15 percent of the building façade.
    - iii. An appeal may be taken to the Zoning Hearing Board for a variance to increase the sign size, the overall number of wall signs for each Regional Attraction.
  - f. The sign may be internally or externally illuminated, consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.
4. On-premises Electronic Variable Message Signs, subject to the provisions in Subsection X of this Section.
  5. Sandwich boards, subject to the provisions in Subsection IX of this Section.
  6. Directional signs, subject to the provisions in Subsection VII of this Section.

7. Any sign not specifically permitted pursuant to this section, or otherwise expressly permitted by this Ordinance, is a prohibited use.

C. The following signs are permitted in the I Zoning District.

1. Any sign permitted in any residential district shall be permitted, provided that the use to which it refers is permitted.
2. On-premises Freestanding Signs subject to the requirements in Subsection VII of this Section and the following regulations:
  - a. Such signs shall be allowed two square foot of background area per every linear foot of property frontage under separate ownership to a maximum of 150 square feet plus an additional 10 square feet per tenant up to a maximum of 300 square feet. In addition to the aforementioned, for permitted drive-through establishments, one additional freestanding sign shall be permitted for advertising items for sale to users of the drive-through lane only.
  - b. Only one such sign shall be permitted for each street frontage.
  - c. Maximum height above grade for any freestanding sign shall be 20 feet.
  - d. The sign may be internally or externally illuminated consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.
3. On-premises Wall Signs, Projection Signs, Awning or Canopy Signs, or Window Signs, subject the requirements in Subsection VII of this Section and the following regulations:
  - a. The wall sign may cover up to 10 percent of the vertical building façade to which the sign is attached. This includes signs painted on or affixed to the inside or outside of windows or which consist of either an individual sign or letters that are attached to the building or otherwise directly affixed to the façade surface.
  - b. A building façade may contain more than one wall or façade sign; provided, however, that the total square footage of all such wall signs shall not exceed 10 percent of the building façade.
  - c. Permanent signs located within the interior of the building, but designed to be seen exclusively from the exterior of the building, should be considered as part of the maximum permitted sign area and included in making the 10 percent calculations.
  - d. On corner buildings or lots, where the building faces more than one street or other right-of-way, wall signs may be attached to any building wall that is facing the street or public right-of-way; provided, however, that the total permissible sign

may not be aggregated and the total square footage of signs located on any one wall shall not exceed 10 percent of the total area of that wall.

- e. Wall signs may be placed on any side of the building that provides a public entrance facing a public street.
  - f. The sign may be internally or externally illuminated or back-lit letters, consistent with the provisions of this Ordinance.
- 4. On-premises Electronic Variable Message Signs, subject to the provisions in Subsection X of this Section.
  - 5. Electronic Variable Message Signs.
  - 6. Sandwich boards, subject to the provisions in Subsection IX of this Section.
  - 7. Directional signs, subject to the provisions in Subsection VII of this Section.
  - 8. Any sign not specifically permitted pursuant to this section, or otherwise expressly permitted by this Ordinance, is a prohibited use.

## **VII. On-Premises Signs**

- A. Signs advertising a permitted use located on the site may be erected in accordance with the following limitations:
  - 1. Square footage computation will be ascertained by reference to the background area of the sign, exclusive of supporting structure or incidental decorative trim which shall not exceed 25 percent of the copy area. Decorative trimming may not bear any copy. For freestanding double faced signs, only one display face shall be measured in computing total sign area where the sign faces are parallel or where the interior angle formed by the faces is 90 degrees or less.
  - 2. Square footage computation for individual letter displays or other graphic elements affixed to an existing structural background shall be made by reference to the copy area covered by such letters or elements. In computing copy area, straight lines drawn closest to copy extremities encompassing individual letters, words or other elements shall be used.
- B. Wall Signs
  - 1. No point of a wall sign shall be located less than eight (8) feet above the grade directly below the sign or extended out more than one foot from the building wall on which it is affixed; provided, however, that if the wall sign projects less than three inches from the building wall, the eight (8) foot requirements need not be met.

2. A wall sign shall not be placed upon a wall that faces onto a residential zoning district. This shall not prevent the placement of a wall sign on a building side that faces onto an abutting public street.
3. The maximum height of wall signs shall be equal to the top of a structural wall to which the sign is attached. A sign shall not be attached to a parapet wall or to a pitched or mansard roof.

#### C. Canopy or Awning Signs

1. A canopy or awning without advertising shall not be regulated as a sign.
2. Canopy or awning signs must be centered within or over architectural elements such as doors or windows.
3. The lowest edge of the canopy or awning sign shall be at least eight (8) feet above the finished grade.
4. No awning or canopy sign shall be wider than the building wall or tenant space it identifies.
5. Logos or emblems are permitted on the top or angled portion of the awning or canopy up to a maximum of three (3) square feet. No more than one emblem or logo is permitted per awning or canopy.
6. Any ground-floor awning projecting into a street right-of-way must be retractable. Awnings above the ground floor may be fixed, provided they do not project more than four (4) feet from the face of the building.
7. The square footage of any advertising on an awning or canopy shall be included for purposes of calculating the permitted wall sign area.
8. For multi-tenant buildings, all awning and canopy signs shall be similar in terms of height, projection, and style across all tenants in the building.
9. Under-canopy signs of six square feet in area or less are permitted at each entrance to the facility identified. Under-canopy signs shall be a minimum of eight (8) feet above the level of a public walkway over which it extends.

#### C. Projecting signs

1. A projecting sign may be used in lieu of a wall sign.
2. No portion of a projecting sign shall project more than four (4) feet from the face of the building.

3. The outermost portion of a projecting sign shall project no closer than five (5) feet from a curblin or shoulder of a public street.
4. The lowest edge of the projecting sign shall be at least eight (8) feet above the finished grade.

#### D. Freestanding signs

1. The lowest edge of any freestanding pole sign shall be either less than four (4) feet or greater than seven (7) feet above the ground.
2. Freestanding ground signs shall be supported and permanently placed by embedding, anchoring, or connecting the sign in such a manner as to incorporate it into the landscape or architectural design scheme.
3. All freestanding signs shall be set back five (5) feet from the right-of-way, except for official traffic signs and government/regulatory signs.
4. No freestanding sign may occupy an area designated for parking, loading, walkways, driveways, fire lane, easement, cartway of the right-of-way or other areas required to remain unobstructed.
5. Freestanding signs must be at least 25 feet from all property edges, with freestanding signs being at least 25 feet from any buildings. The distance of the sign from either a building or property line shall be measured from the nearest point of the sign façade.

#### E. Window signs

1. A window sign may be used in place of a wall sign.
2. The total sign area shall not exceed 24 square feet in area.
3. The sign shall be on the inside of windows or printed on the window itself.
4. Not more than one such sign shall be placed on any property held in single separate ownership, unless such property fronts upon more than one street, in which event one window sign may be erected on each street frontage.

#### F. Manual Changeable Copy Signs

Manual changeable copy signs are permitted only when integrated into a freestanding, marquee, or wall sign

#### G. Directional Signs

1. Directional signs may be used for traffic control as required on private property.



2. The sign may not exceed eight (8) square feet.
3. No advertising is permitted on a directional sign other than the name of the facility and tenants.

#### H. Directory signs

1. A directional sign may be used to orient traffic within an industrial park.
2. The sign may not to exceed 150 square feet and may contain only the name of the industrial firm and suitable directional graphics.
3. No more than 15 percent of the copy area may encompass the name of the industrial park.
4. No advertising other than the name of industrial park and tenants is permitted on directory signs.

### **VIII. Off-Premise Signs (Including Billboards)**

#### A. Purposes

Off-premise signs are regulated by this Article for the following purposes, to: ensure that a physical environment is maintained that is attractive to desirable types of development, especially light industrial and office parks; prevent visual pollution and protect property values, especially in consideration of the fact that most commercial areas of the Township are within close proximity to existing residences; prevent glare on adjacent property and streets; avoid the creation of additional visual distractions to motorists, especially along busy arterial streets that involve complex turning movements and numerous traffic hazards; recognize the numerous alternative forms of free speech available in the Township including existing nonconforming off-premise signs, on-premise signs and temporary signs and printed and electronic media.

#### B. Nonconforming Off-Premise Signs

This section is not intended to require the removal of an existing lawfully-placed off-premise sign that is in structurally sound condition.

#### C. PennDOT Sign

Signs erected and maintained by PennDOT are permitted by right in all Districts.

#### D. Permitted Off-Premises Signs

1. District. An off-premises sign is only permitted in the I District.

2. Location. An off-premises sign shall be setback a minimum of 25 feet from all non-residential lot lines and street rights-of-way. No off premises sign greater than 20 square feet shall be located within 200 feet of a lot line for a residential zoning district.
3. Maximum Sign Area. 200 square feet.
4. Spacing. Any off-premises sign shall be separated by a minimum of 1,500 feet from any other off-premise sign, including signs on either side of a street and including existing signs in other municipalities. No lot shall include more than one off-premises sign.
5. Maximum Height. 35 feet above the elevation of the adjacent street or highway, measured at the street or highway centerline.
6. Attached. No off-premises sign or sign face shall be attached in any way to any other off-premises sign, except that a sign may have 2 sign faces of 200 square feet each if they are placed approximately back-to-back.
7. Control of Lighting and Glare. See standards in this Ordinance.
8. No off-premises sign greater than 30 square feet in sign area shall be located within 200 feet from a lot line of an existing dwelling.
9. The sign shall be maintained in a good and safe condition. The area around the sign shall be kept free of debris.
10. Electronic Variable Message Signs may be used off-premises provided they meet the requirements contained herein.

**IX. Portable Signs (Including “Signs on Mobile Stands”) and Temporary Signs**

- A. Portable signs are prohibited in all districts, except for a sandwich board sign subject to the following regulations:
  1. Signs shall not exceed eight square feet in area.
  2. Signs are permissible within ten feet of the front of a building, not in a driveway or in a parking lot, provided a minimum walking distance of five feet shall be maintained to allow for a pathway for pedestrians.
  3. Only one sandwich board shall be permitted in front of the business it advertises.
  4. Signs shall contain copy set out in chalk, paint or print form which is easily changed but which is not removable lettering.

5. Sandwich boards shall be weighted at the base so that the sign cannot be moved by strong winds; however, no sign shall be chained, tied or otherwise affixed to any structure or object.
6. Sandwich boards shall be taken indoors at the close of business each day.

B. A temporary sign may be used where permitted, subject to the following provisions:

1. One large temporary sign, with maximum area of 32 square feet for a banner and 16 square feet for all other signs, per property if the property is five or more acres with 400 or more feet of street frontage, or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area, with a maximum height of eight feet in area for a ground sign and 24 feet in area for a banner.
2. One small temporary sign, with a maximum area six square feet, per property, with a maximum height of six feet two if the property is five plus acres with 400 plus feet of street frontage, or has more than 10,000 square feet of floor area,
3. No signs shall be attached to trees or utility poles.
4. Pennants and garland streamers are prohibited.
5. Temporary signs may be wall, window, freestanding or inflatable.
6. Temporary signs that comply with the requirements of this Section shall not be included in the determination of the type, number and area of signs allowed on a property.
7. Temporary signs may not be illuminated.
8. No temporary sign shall be exhibited without being firmly embedded in the ground, supported by other objects, mounted on wheels, or made easily movable in some other manner.

**X. Electronic Variable Message Signs**

A. Permitted Uses

1. Electronic Variable Message Signs are permitted in the C-1, C-2, U and I Zoning Districts.
2. Electronic Variable Message Signs are prohibited in the A, R-1, R-2, and MU Zoning Districts.

B. General Requirements

1. All Electronic Variable Message Signs shall meet all applicable sign requirements in this Section and must otherwise comply with standards and requirements set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
2. No sign shall be permitted which attempts or appears to attempt to direct the movement of traffic or which interferes with, imitates, or resembles any official traffic sign, signal or device.
3. No more than one (1) freestanding and one (1) wall or fascia Electronic Variable Message Sign is permitted per street frontage.
4. The face of the electronic variable message sign shall have only one advertising message per duration of the display.
5. Clocks and time and temperature signs are exempt from the requirements in this Section provided that they do not contain any advertising.
6. Electronic Variable Message Signs may be available for public emergency use including but not limited to Amber Alerts, emergency evacuations and road closures.
7. Signs which message sequence, flash, strobe, make noise or show pyrotechnics are not permitted.

#### C. Display Requirements

1. In the event of a malfunction, an Electronic Variable Message sign shall turn to a dark screen or freeze the sign in one position. The screen shall remain in a dark or frozen position until the malfunction is corrected.
2. Brightness Limitations.
  - a. Lighting from the message module shall not exceed 1,000 nits (candelas per square meter) between sunset and sunrise as measured from the sign's face except as to signs on lots that abut a residential district which shall not exceed 600 nits between sunrise and sunset.
  - b. Lighting from the message module shall not exceed 5,000 nits or three-tenths foot candles over the ambient light, whichever is lower, between sunrise and sunset as measured from the sign's face.
  - c. Automatic dimmers to maintain brightness measurements are required.
  - d. Light levels shall be certified by the applicant and submitted to the Township in writing prior to approval of any Electronic Variable Message sign permit. The

manufacturer's specification sheet and maximum nit rating shall be included with the certification.

4. Text. The text of a sign must be limited to ten words per sign or less to allow passing motorists to read the entire copy with minimal distraction.

#### D. Requirements for Sign Types

##### 1. Electronic Changeable Text Signs

- a. Must be located on premises.
- b. Setbacks:
  - i. 100 feet from A, R-1, R-2 and MU Zoning Districts.
  - ii. At least 50 feet from any other Electronic Variable Message sign.

##### 2. Electronic Changeable Image Sign

- a. May be located on premises, or off premises with written landowner consent.
- b. Setbacks shall be at least:
  - i. 100 feet from A, R-1, R-2 and MU Zoning Districts.
  - ii. 500 feet from an access point to any interstate highway or limited access highway.
  - iii. 50 feet from any other Electronic Variable Message sign as defined herein.

## **XI. Construction of Signs**

- A. Every sign (except allowed temporary signs) shall be constructed of durable materials. Every sign shall be kept in a safe condition and good repair at all times pursuant to the most recent version of the Property Maintenance Code.
- B. The Zoning Officer shall by written notice require a property owner or lessee to remove a sign constructed without a required permit or repair or remove a damaged, dilapidated or unsafe sign within a specified period of time. If such order is not complied with, the Township may repair or remove such sign at the expense of such owner or lessee.
- C. Sign materials shall be consistent with and complement the original construction materials and architectural style of the building façade on which they are displayed. All signs shall be constructed of only wood, metal, stone or other appropriate material with painted, engraved or raised messages.

- D. Detailed plans showing supporting structural members and foundations must be submitted to the Township for approval before issuance of a permit. The Zoning Officer is authorized to require additional construction documents to be prepared by a Pennsylvania registered design professional. The seal of the registered design professional shall be required on all such plans.

## **XII. Abandoned or Outdated Signs**

- A. Signs advertising a use no longer in existence shall be removed within 90 days of the cessation of such use. If the owner of a property does not remove such sign within 30 days after receiving a written notice from the Zoning Officer, the sign may be removed by the Township at the expense of the property owner.
- B. These time limits shall not apply to a sign intended to be reused with a new sign face serving a building that is clearly temporarily vacant and being offered to new tenants or for purchase.

## **XII. Location of Signs**

### **A. Setbacks**

- 1. A sign shall not intrude into or project over an existing street right-of-way, unless specifically authorized by a permit from the Township or PennDOT. The Police Department, Zoning Officer, his/her designee or the owner of a pole or tree shall have the authority to remove and dispose of signs attached to a utility pole or tree. The Board of Supervisors may approve a temporary banner over a street cartway to advertise a charitable event.
- 2. Unless specifically stated otherwise, a freestanding sign shall be setback a minimum of 5 feet from the street right-of-way. Unless specifically stated otherwise, a freestanding sign shall be setback a minimum of 10 feet from a lot occupied by a primarily residential use.
- 3. These setbacks shall not apply to Official Signs, Identification Signs on mailboxes, Public Service Signs and Directional Signs.
- 4. No freestanding sign may occupy an area designed for parking, loading, walkways, driveways, fire lanes, easements, or other areas required to be unobstructed.

### **B. Sight Clearance**

No sign shall be so located that it interferes with the sight clearance requirements of this Ordinance or otherwise endangers traffic on a street by interfering with official street signs or signals by virtue of color or location.

C. Off-Premises

No signs except permitted Off-Premise, Official, Political or Public Service Signs shall be erected on a property to which it does not relate.

D. Permission of Owner

No sign shall be posted on any property or sign pole or public utility pole, unless permission has been received from the owner.

**XIII. Permits to Build New Permanent Signs or Alter or Move Existing Permanent Signs**

- A. No permanent sign shall hereafter be erected, structurally altered or moved until the person proposing to erect, alter or move such sign shall have obtained a permit from the Zoning Officer unless the sign is specifically exempt from the permit requirements as outline in Subsections IV or V of this Section. Such permit shall be issued only when the Zoning Officer is satisfied that such sign will, in every respect, comply with all the applicable provisions of this Ordinance. The fee for granting such a permit shall be as per the schedule of officially approved fees.
- B. Any person desiring such a permit shall file an application on a form which shall contain or have attached thereto the following information:
1. The name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
  2. A map showing the location of the building, structure or lot to which the sign is to be attached or erected and showing the position of the sign in relation to lot lines, nearby buildings and thoroughfares; such a map must be to scale.
  3. A plan showing the design of the sign, materials used and method of construction and means of attachment to the building or the ground; such plans must be to scale.
  4. The name of the person, firm, corporation or association erecting, altering or moving said sign.
  5. The written consent of the owner of the land on which the sign is to be erected, altered or relocated.
  6. Any building permit required and issued for said sign under municipal ordinance.
  7. Provision for the electrical maintenance and repainting, cleaning or other maintenance of the sign.

8. Any other information as the Zoning Officer shall require in order to show full compliance with this Ordinance and all other applicable laws of Shippensburg Township.

#### **XIV. Permits for Temporary Signs**

- A. All temporary signs as they are defined in this Ordinance, except those signs enumerated as miscellaneous signs not requiring a permit, must have a permit.
- B. Application for a permit for a temporary sign shall be made on a form provided by the Zoning Officer. A permit for temporary signs must be kept on the premises where signs are displayed and must be shown to the Zoning Officer at request.
- C. The size, content and location of a temporary sign may be varied at any time so long as the variations remain within the overall restrictions of this Ordinance.
- D. Permits for temporary signs are valid for sixty (60) days but may be renewed for one (1) additional period for thirty (30) days.

**SECTION 2.** In Article XIX (Definitions), Section 1900 (Definitions), is amended by adding the underlined text and deleting the bracketed text. Ellipses indicates existing text in the Ordinance in which no amendments are proposed to be made.

### **ARTICLE XIX DEFINITIONS**

#### **Section 1900 Definitions**

\* \* \* \* \*

AWNING - A cloth, plastic, or other nonstructural covering that projects from a wall for the purpose of shielding a doorway or window. An awning is either permanently attached to a building or can be raised or retracted to a position against the building when not in use.

\* \* \* \* \*

BUILDING FRONTAGE - The maximum linear width of a building measured in a single straight line parallel, or essentially parallel, with the abutting public street or parking lot.

\* \* \* \* \*

CANOPY - A structure other than an awning made of fabric, metal, or other material that is supported by columns or posts affixed to the ground and may also be connected to a building.

\* \* \* \* \*



INSTITUTIONAL USES – An identification sign for schools, colleges, churches, hospitals and other institutions of a similar nature erected and maintained on the property to which the sign relates.

\* \* \* \* \*

MESSAGE SEQUENCING - A series of related text and /or images on an Electronic Variable Message Sign that involve two or more message displays. Message sequencing does not include scrolling.

\* \* \* \* \*

REGIONAL ATTRACTION - A university sports complex or stadium, a Category 1, 2, 3 or 4 gaming establishment licensed by the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

ENTERTAINMENT VENUE Shippensburg University Luhrs performing arts Center or other use only as approved by Shippensburg Township Zoning Hearing Board.

\* \* \* \* \*

SCROLL - A mode of message transition on an Electronic Variable Message Sign where the message is changed by the apparent vertical or horizontal movement of the letters or graphic elements of the message.

\* \* \* \* \*

SIGN, AWNING OR CANOPY [OR MARQUEE] - A sign that is mounted, painted or attached to an awning[, ] or canopy or marquee that is otherwise permitted by ordinance.

\* \* \* \* \*

**[SIGN, CHANGEABLE MESSAGE (CMS) - An advertising sign, display, or device which changes the message or copy on the sign by means of electronic rotation or panels or slats.]**

\* \* \* \* \*

SIGN, ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE IMAGE - A type of Electronic Variable Message Sign that displays static electronic images with or without text. The display is depicted by a small number of elements using light emitting diodes (LED), fiber optics, light bulbs or other illumination devices. The message change is accomplished by immediate or gradual fade to a new image, provided that there shall be no appearance of any fading in which any part of one electronic message/display appears simultaneously with any part of a second electronic message/display.

SIGN, ELECTRONIC CHANGEABLE TEXT - A type of Electronic Variable Message Sign that displays electronic text information. Each alphanumeric character is depicted by a small number of elements using light emitting diodes (LED), fiber optics, light bulbs or other

electronic message/display appears simultaneously with any part of a second electronic message/display.

SIGN, ELECTRONIC VARIABLE MESSAGE - A digital changeable message sign or portion thereof that displays electronic, images, graphics and/or text information, defined by a small number of matrix elements using different combinations of light emitting diodes (LED's), fiber optics, light bulbs or other illumination devices within the display area where the message change sequence is accomplished immediately or by means of fade. Electronic Variable Message Signs may be computer programmable, microprocessor controlled electronic or digital displays and include, but are not limited to, Electronic Changeable Image Signs and Electronic Changeable Text Signs.

\* \* \* \* \*

GOVERNMENT/REGULATORY SIGN - Any sign for the control of traffic or for identification purposes, street signs, warning signs, railroad crossing signs, and signs of public service companies indicating danger or construction, which are erected by or at the order of a public officer, employee or agent thereof, in the discharge of official duties.

\* \* \* \* \*

SIGN, MANUAL CHANGEABLE COPY - A sign or portion thereof on which the copy or symbols are changed manually through placement or drawing of letters or symbols on a sign face.

SIGN, MENU - A sign for displaying the bill of fare available at a restaurant, or other use serving food, or beverages.

\* \* \* \* \*

SIGN, ON-PREMISES - An outdoor sign whose message directs attention to a specific business, product, service, event or activity, or other commercial or noncommercial activity, or contains a non-commercial message about something that is not sold, produced, manufactured, furnished, or conducted on the premises upon which the sign is located.

SIGN, PORTABLE – A sign designed to be transported or moved and not permanently attached to the ground, a building, or other structure.

SIGN, PROJECTING - A double-sided sign with the two faces generally perpendicular to the building wall that is wholly or partly dependent upon a building for support and that projects more than 12 inches from such building.

\* \* \* \* \*

**[SIGN, SMARTBOARD TECHNOLOGY - An advertising sign, display, or device that changes the message or copy on the sign by means of a liquid crystal display. A digital form of Changeable Message Sign.]**

SIGN, SANDWICH BOARD - A type of freestanding, portable, temporary sign consisting of two faces connected and hinged at the top and whose message is targeted to pedestrians.

SIGN, SNIPE - A sign tacked, nailed, posted, pasted, glued, or otherwise attached to trees, poles, stakes, fences, public benches, streetlights, or other objects, or placed on any public property or in the public right-of-way or on any private property without the permission of the property owner.

SIGN, TEMPORARY - Any non-permanent sign or advertising display constructed of cloth fabric, plywood, or other light material that is located on private property and designed or intended to be displayed for no more than 60 consecutive days at one time, including but not limited to signs advertising services performed at the property, such as contractor or landscaping signs.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **SECTION 3. Repealer**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent herewith or in conflict with any of the specific terms enacted hereby, to the extent of said inconsistencies or conflicts, are hereby specifically repealed. All other provisions of the Shippensburg Township Ordinance of 2008 shall remain unchanged by this Ordinance.

### **SECTION 4. Severability**

In the event any provisions, sections, sentences, clause, or part of this Ordinance Amendment shall be held to be invalid, illegal or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity, illegality, or unconstitutionality shall not affect or impair the remaining provisions, sections, sentences, clauses, or parts of this Ordinance Amendment, it being the intent of the Board of Supervisors that the remainder of the Ordinance Amendment shall remain in full force and effect.

### **SECTION 5. Effective Date**

This Ordinance Amendment shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after its enactment by the Board of Supervisors of Shippensburg Township as provided by law.

**DULY ORDAINED and ENACTED** this 8 day of JULY, 2022, by the Board of Supervisors of Shippensburg Township, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, in lawful session duly assembled.

SHIPPENSBURG TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: 

Chairman

ATTEST:

By: 

Secretary