

THE BOROUGH OF AMBLER, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, PA

ORDINANCE NUMBER 1133

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE BOROUGH ZONING ORDINANCE, SECTIONS 27-2003 (DEFINITIONS), AND 27-2007 (SIGNS IN NON-RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS), REMOVING ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENT SIGNS AS A SEPARATE TYPE OF PERMITTED SIGN, REMOVING FLUSH WALL SIGNS TIED TO THE ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN OF THE BUILDING, CLARIFYING THAT THE SIZE LIMIT FOR PROJECTING SIGNS IS FIVE SQUARE FEET FOR EACH SIGN FACE, AND MAKING OTHER CHANGES TO THE WORDING OF THE ORDINANCE CONSISTENT THEREWITH; EFFECTIVE UPON APPROVAL OF THE MAYOR OR THE EARLIEST DATE OTHERWISE APPLICABLE; CONTAINING SEVERANCE AND REPEALER CLAUSES

WHEREAS, it has been determined that an applicant for a sign permit is entitled to a larger sign if it can be demonstrated that the sign is an "architectural element sign", a problem that is compounded by the subjectivity inherent in determining whether a particular sign is compatible with the architecture of the building,

Ambler Borough Council does hereby ORDAIN as follows:

1. In ordinance 27-2003, "Definitions", the term "Architectural Element Sign" and its definition are hereby deleted from the ordinance.
2. In ordinance 27-2003, "Definitions", the term "Small Additional Projecting Wall Sign" and its definition are hereby deleted and replaced with the following: "Small Projecting Sign – A projecting sign of 2.25 square feet per sign face or smaller."
3. Ordinance 27-2007.C.(1) is amended as follows:
 - a. The language in subparagraph (b) shall be hereby deleted and replaced with the following: "For building frontages of 50 or more linear feet: three (3) signs."
 - b. The language in subparagraph (c) shall be hereby deleted and replaced with the following: "One wall sign up to 50 square feet in area or 15% of the building front façade area, whichever is smaller. When a lot's gross area exceeds two acres and the setback to the wall on which the sign is affixed is 70 feet or greater, each wall sign may not exceed 20% of the wall area or 60 square feet, whichever is smaller."
 - c. The language in subparagraph (d) shall be hereby deleted and replaced with the following: "No wall sign shall exceed a sign height of 15 feet above the existing grade or project above any cornice, parapet wall, roof line or building facade."
 - d. The first two sentences of subparagraph (g) are deleted and replaced with the following language: "The maximum area for projecting signs is five square feet per sign face. Signs shall not project more than three feet from the building wall."
4. The existing language in ordinance 27-2007.C.(5) is deleted entirely and is replaced with the following language:

Small projecting signs shall be permitted. Additional Regulations:

 - (a) Logo or Image. In the interest of increasing the variety and quality of commercial signs, small projecting signs shall include a logo or image as a design element (the sign shall not be comprised exclusively of words on a plain background).
 - (b) Size. Small projecting signs shall be limited to 2.25 square feet (for example, 18 inches by 18 inches).
 - (c) Sign Projection. Small projecting signs may not project more than two feet from the building wall.

(d) Sign Clearance. A minimum clearance of seven feet required between the bottom of the sign and the sidewalk.

(e) No projecting sign shall exceed a sign height of 15 feet above the existing grade or project above any cornice, parapet wall, roof line or building facade.

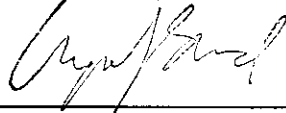
5. The figure 27-2007.C.(5) shall be amended such that the top right text box reads "Projecting Sign" and the right justified text box under it reads "Small Projecting Sign."
6. The language in ordinance 27-2007.C.(6)(o)6) is deleted and is replaced with the following: "A small projecting sign."

This ordinance is effective when approved by the Mayor or in the absence of mayoral approval on the earliest date applicable under the Pennsylvania Borough Code.

In the event that a court of competent jurisdiction declares any portion of this ordinance to be invalid, then to the extent possible the invalid portion shall be severed from the remainder of the ordinance, which shall remain in full force and effect.

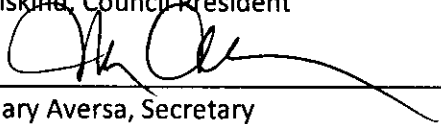
Any existing ordinance which is inconsistent with the terms of this ordinance is, to the extent of such inconsistency, repealed.

SO ORDAINED this 18th day of April, 2023.



Glynnis Siskind, Council President

Attest:



Mary Aversa, Secretary