

ORDINANCE NO. O-18-2026

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, AMENDING CHAPTER 125, SEC. 125-2. DEFINITIONS. OF THE CITY CODE TO ADD DEFINITIONS RELATED TO SIGNS; CHAPTER 125, SEC. 125-10. EXEMPT SIGNS. OF THE CITY CODE TO SIMPLIFY AND CLARIFY SIGN EXEMPTIONS; CHAPTER 125, SEC. 125-14. SIGN RESTRICTIONS. TO CLARIFY SIGN RESTRICTIONS AND TO STRIKE TEMPORARY BANNERS AND SPECIAL SIGNS FROM THIS SECTION; AND TO ADD UNDER CHAPTER 125, SEC. 125-25. TEMPORARY, SPECIAL, AND ADVERTISING SIGNS AND DISPLAYS; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS, SEVERABILITY AND SETTING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Code was adopted to promote the health, safety, morals and general welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to amend the Code to clarify requirements around signage; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires removal or clarification of confusing, conflicting, and/or repetitive language; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires the addition of images to enhance the understanding of sign definitions; and

WHEREAS, the Green Cove Springs City Council has determined that this amendment is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, is in the best interest of the public, and will promote the public health, safety and welfare of the city.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That the sections below shall be amended as follows:

Section 125-2. – Definitions.

- *Banner sign* means any sign composed of lightweight material either enclosed or not enclosed in a rigid ~~frame~~ or semi-rigid frame, secured or mounted so as to allow movement of the sign caused by movement of the atmosphere, possessing characters, letters, illustrations, or ornamentations applied to paper, flexible plastic, or fabric of any kind. For the purposes of this definition, feather signs or flags, sword signs or flags, or any such portable sign designed to move with the wind and to advertise a business, person, activity, good, product, commodity, service, or entertainment shall be

considered a banner sign and not a flag. Banner signs are temporary and portable signs. National flags and flags of political subdivisions shall also not be considered banners for the purpose of this code.



- Flag means a flexible, graphic device representing a government, business, organization, nationality, political subdivision, or other identifiable entity designed to move with the wind. Flags are typically attached on one side using rope, twine, or other flexible material to a flagpole or flag mount. For the purposes of this definition, feather signs or flags, sword signs or flags, or any such portable sign designed to move with the wind and advertise a business, person, activity, good, product, commodity, service, or entertainment shall be considered a banner sign and not a flag.



- *Ground sign* means any sign that is movable or permanently erected on a freestanding frame, mast, or pole and not attached to any building with a surface area of less than 100 square feet per side, exclusive of base, but including ornamentation.
- *Inflatable sign* means any sign which is temporary and portable, and is comprised of one or more air chambers that may be sealed or kept inflated by blowers. This phrase includes, but is not limited to balloons, tubes in motion, and inflatable sign structures. Inflatable signs are temporary and portable signs.
- *Mural, or wall mural* means any original work of visual art painted or applied directly to a fixed external façade or wall of a building or structure. Murals are intended as public art and exclude any commercial advertising or promotional messaging, including, but not limited to, the depiction of any related goods, services, commodities, products, or ideas as well as the depiction of any target audience for such goods, services, commodities, products, or ideas which may further an entity's interest or business.
- *Off-premises sign* means any sign identifying or advertising a business, person, activity, goods, product, commodity, service, or entertainment not related to the premises on which the sign is located. For the purposes of this definition, rights-of-way, easements, and other appurtenances shall be considered to be outside such premises, and any sign located or proposed to be located in a right-of-way, easement, or other appurtenance shall be considered an off-premises sign.
- *Permanent sign* means any sign which, when installed, is intended for permanent use. Signs shall be permanently embedded in the ground or affixed to a building or sign structure that is permanently embedded in the ground. For the purposes of this chapter, any sign with an intended useful life in excess of 3 months from the date of installation shall be deemed a permanent sign and must be compliant with all permanent sign regulations.
- *Portable sign* means any sign which is not permanently affixed to a building structure or the ground or which is attached to a vehicle or, whether on its own trailer, wheels, or otherwise, is designed or intended to be transported from one place to another. It is characteristic of a portable sign that the space provided for advertising messages may be changed at will by the replacement of lettering or symbols or by easily replacing or moving the entire sign at will.
- *Temporary sign* means a sign intended to display either commercial or noncommercial messages of a transitory or temporary nature. A portable sign or any sign not permanently embedded in the ground, or not permanently affixed to a building or a sign structure that is permanently embedded in the ground, is considered a temporary sign, excluding a window sign. Temporary signs shall have an intended useful life of three months or less.

Sec. 125-10. – Exempt signs.

The following signs are exempt from the operation of the sign regulations of this chapter, and from the requirement in this subpart, provided they are not placed or constructed so as to create a hazard of any kind:

- (1) Signs that are not designed or located so as to be visible from any street or adjoining property.
- (2) Identification signs of two square feet or less.
- (3) Legal notices.

- (4) Decorative flags or other decorative items, bunting and other types of signs ~~to not to~~ exceed 12 square feet for a celebration, convention, or commemoration of significance to the entire community ~~when authorized by the city manager or his designee for a prescribed period of time~~. Such decorations are permitted for both residential and non-residential uses and shall be permitted 30 days before and after such celebrations, conventions, or commemorations.
- (5) Religious displays.
- (6) Governmental signs for traffic control, street designation or directions to public facilities.
- (7) Under canopy signs less than four square feet.
- (8) Menu boards for drive-in facilities less than two in number for commercial enterprise. Boards in excess of two shall comply with all sign regulations of this chapter.
- (9) Memorial signs or tablets when cut into masonry.
- (10) Murals approved by the city council, and which do not advertise a business, person, political candidate, activity, good, product, commodity, service, or entertainment nor appeal to any target audience of such businesses, persons, political candidates, activities, goods, products, commodities, services, or entertainment. ~~propose a commercial transaction, but instead involve only the expression of ideas and beliefs.~~

Sec. 125-14. – Sign restrictions.

- (d) *Prohibited signs.* Certain signs are prohibited in the city, specifically: projecting signs, roof signs, signs located on trees, on telephone poles, temporary flashing lighted signs, and abandoned signs. Such signs include permanent, portable, and temporary signs. Sign locations which are prohibited include:
 - a. Any sign, including permanent, portable, or temporary, within a right-of-way or easement that:
 - i. Does not fall under the purview of section 125-10. – Exempt signs;
 - ii. Does not fall under the purview of section 125-12. – Nonconforming signs; and
 - iii. Is otherwise not permitted within a special zoning category or is not compliant with the regulations of the zoning category.
 - b. Any offsite sign.
- ~~(g) Temporary banners and special signs.~~
 - ~~(1) Temporary banners and special signs, not specifically provided for herein, may be erected noting public parade, public event, or public celebration of a period not to exceed 14 days; provided, however, the erection of such banner or special sign shall be approved by the administrator with a permit and displayed only at areas designated by the city manager or his designee under the following terms and conditions:~~
 - ~~a. Only county-based nonprofit organizations approved as section 501(c)(3) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code, county governmental entities and recognized churches located within the city limits may be allowed to erect temporary banners and special signs.~~
 - ~~b. An administrative fee must be paid to the city before erecting a temporary banner or special sign.~~

- ~~e. The size, shape and material of the banner or special sign shall not exceed 32 square feet for signs, and banners shall comply with current FDOT standards.~~
- ~~d. Temporary banners and special signs may be displayed for no longer than 14 days.~~
- ~~e. The applicant must sign a hold harmless agreement with the city for any and all damages related to the banner or special sign.~~
- ~~f. While the banner or special sign is installed, displayed and removed, the city shall be named as an additional insured on any general liability insurance policy held by the applicant.~~
- ~~g. The city reserves the right to limit the number of banners and special signs displayed at one time.~~
- ~~h. Acceptance of applications for the display of banners and special signs shall be first come, first served.~~
- ~~i. If banner or special sign are not picked up by the owner within 14 days, the banner or special sign will be destroyed.~~
- ~~(2) Temporary banners or special signs for city sponsored activities may be located in any city right of way.~~

Sec. 125-25. Temporary, special, and advertising signs and displays.

Temporary signs are permitted in all zoning districts and do not require a sign permit unless otherwise specified below. Temporary signs shall not be illuminated and shall comply with the following:

- (a) The City reserves the right to limit the number of temporary signs displayed at one time to maintain an orderly appearance on a street-by-street basis.
- (b) Display of temporary signs shall be first-come, first-served.
- (c) The City reserves the right to place temporary signs in any City right-of-way for City-sponsored activities.
- (d) Placement of temporary signs on private property may occur only with the expressed consent of the property owner.
- (e) It is prohibited and unlawful to place a temporary sign on or within public rights-of-way or public property unless the sign:
 - (1) Falls under the purview of section 125-10. – Exempt signs;
 - (2) Falls under the purview of section 125-12. – Nonconforming signs; and
 - (3) Is otherwise permitted within any form-based code zoning category, is compliant with the regulations of such zoning category, and has a hold harmless agreement with the City of Green Cove Springs.
 - (4) Has been approved as part of a Special Event permit by the City of Green Cove Springs.
- (f) Temporary signs shall be permitted up to the property line. No sign may be located within any sight triangle or the public right-of-way.
- (g) No sign shall hang over or extend into any roadway.
- (h) Within all residential zoning districts, the following signs shall be considered as temporary signs and must meet the following standards:
 - (1) Temporary signs, other than banners and inflatable signs

- a. Maximum number allowed per parcel: three;
 - b. Maximum square footage allowed per sign: four square feet;
 - c. Maximum height allowed: four feet; and
 - d. Duration allowed for each sign:
 1. Special event signs: 10 days or seven days prior and three days after the event, if applicable.
 2. Political signs: 90 days prior or seven days after a political event such as an election, fundraiser, rally, debate, town hall, convention, or other such event related to the political process, government, policy-making, or support of candidates running for office.
 3. All other signs shall be removed daily and are permitted to be returned the following day.
- (i) Within all non-residential zoning districts, the following signs shall be considered as temporary signs and must meet the following standards:
- (1) Temporary signs, other than banners and inflatable signs
 - a. Maximum number allowed per parcel: two;
 - b. Maximum square footage allowed per sign: 24 square feet;
 - c. Maximum height allowed: seven feet; and
 - d. Duration allowed for each sign:
 1. Special event signs, which shall include any event such as grand openings or sales events which do not require a special event permit from the City of Green Cove Springs: 60 days or 53 days prior and seven days after the event, if applicable.
 2. Political signs: 90 days prior or seven days after a political event such as an election, fundraiser, rally, debate, town hall, convention, or other such event related to the political process, government, policy-making, or support of candidates running for office.
 3. All other signs shall be removed daily and are permitted to be returned the following day.
 - (2) Banner signs are only allowed in non-residential zoning districts, subject to the following requirements:
 - a. Maximum number allowed per parcel: one banner or two feather signs;
 - b. Maximum square footage allowed per sign: 32 square feet;
 - c. Maximum number allowed for a multiple occupancy complex: two banners or four feather signs;
 - d. Duration allowed for each sign:
 1. Special event signs, which shall include any event such as grand openings or sales events which do not require a special event permit from the City of Green Cove Springs: 60 days or 53 days prior and seven days after the event, if applicable.

2. All other signs shall be removed daily and are permitted to be returned the following day.
- e. Maximum height for a freestanding banner sign (not including feather signs): 10 feet;
- f. Banner wall signs on multistory buildings are not allowed above the first floor; and
- g. Maximum height for a feather sign: 12 feet.
- h. Banner signs shall not hang over or extend into public rights-of-way unless:
 1. The banner sign is within a form-based code (FBC) zoning category;
 2. A hold harmless agreement with the City has been acquired.
- i. Banner signs shall be securely anchored to buildings, poles, or suitable structural supports and shall not be attached to the roof of a building or exceed the height of such building or structure.
- j. Banner signs shall not be attached to trees, public buildings or structures, utility poles or any type of utility structure or equipment, including lift stations, fire hydrants, and the like.
- k. The following material and design standards shall apply to banners:
 1. The sign and supports shall be constructed of durable material;
 2. Edges and corners must be clean, trimmed and reinforced by the manufacturer. Frayed, damaged, ripped, torn, shredded, or significantly faded banners shall be removed immediately;
 3. The banner shall be taut;
 4. Wind slits are prohibited;
 5. Signs shall be maintained in good condition, with no visible fading or surface irregularities (for example: warping); and
 6. Sign copy shall be printed by a professional sign manufacturer (for example: digitally or transfer printed).
- (3) Inflatable signs are only allowed in non-residential zoning districts, subject to the following requirements:
 - a. Maximum number allowed per parcel: one;
 - b. Duration allowed for sign:
 1. Special event signs, which shall include any event such as grand openings or sales events which do not require a special event permit from the City of Green Cove Springs: seven days or five days prior and two days after the event, if applicable.
 2. Political signs: seven days or five days prior and two days after a political event such as an election, fundraiser, rally, debate, town hall, convention, or other such event related to the political process, government, policy-making, or support of candidates running for office.
 3. Inflatable signs shall only be permitted during special or political events as described above. The use of an inflatable sign for either event type shall be only be permitted if no inflatable sign has been used within the parcel during the previous 60 days.

- c. Inflatable signs must be securely affixed to the ground and are not permitted to utilize support from any nearby trees, public buildings or structures, utility poles or any type of utility structure or equipment, including lift stations, fire hydrants and the like, nor be affixed to any rooftop.
- d. No inflatable signs shall be permitted within the public right-of-way.
- e. No inflatable signs shall be permitted underneath any structure or thing, nor within three feet of any aboveground utility lines.
- f. Maximum height permitted: 12 feet.
- g. Minimum clearance space required: no less than three feet surrounding the entire sign.

Section 2. Conflicts. If any portion of this Ordinance is in conflict with any other ordinance, then the provisions of this Ordinance shall govern.

Section 3. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, then said holding shall in no way affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

Section 4. Effective Date. Upon its adoption by the City Council, this ordinance shall become effective.

**INTRODUCED AND APPROVED AS TO FORM ONLY ON THE FIRST READING
BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA,
ON THIS 4TH DAY OF AUGUST 2026.**

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Darren Stutts, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk

**PASSED ON SECOND AND FINAL READING BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA, THIS 1st DAY OF SEPTEMBER
2026.**

CITY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

Darren Stutts, Mayor

ATTEST:

Erin West, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John Wallace, City Attorney