

## AN ORDINANCE

### TO ENACT A MORATORIUM ON ERECTION OF ANY SIGNS OR BILLBOARDS WITHIN THE TOWN OF RUTH

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COMMISSIONERS OF  
RUTH, NORTH CAROLINA, THAT:

**Section 1:** Pursuant to authority granted under North Carolina General Statute 160A-381, the Town of Ruth hereby establishes a 60-day moratorium on the erection of any signs or billboards within Town limits. This ordinance expressly recognizes that:

- A) Problems or Conditions Necessitating Moratorium. Town Ordinance Number 1 entitled "Sign Regulation" needs review for possible modification by the Town. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is implementing plans to change locations and boundaries off major highways within town limits which requires the Town to consider revisions to its ordinance as to what types of signage is allowed and in what locations signage is allowed. Further, a rewrite of the ordinance may be necessary to further define clear, content-neutral standards as to time, place, and manner regulations. These requirements must be established in ordinance form. Multiple new billboards have now been erected without the Town's knowledge and consent with the possibility of additional ones, and without immediate action, the Town will be irreparably harmed by its inability to preserve the appearance and standards of the Town.
- B) Development Approvals Subject to Moratorium. Sign Permits will be subject to this moratorium. The moratorium is designed to allow the Town time to draft an ordinance that defines content-neutral standards for signs erected in the Town, especially in light of the changing nature of the highways located in the Town.
- C) Date for Termination. The moratorium will terminate on January 3rd, 2021. This timeframe is necessary to allow the Town a reasonably necessary period of time to research and draft acceptable content-neutral standards for signage within the Town.
- D) Proposed Actions and Schedule. Upon enactment of this moratorium, the Town shall immediately research and develop an acceptable and appropriate Sign Ordinance which is in the best interest of the Town. The Town Board of Commissioners will consider approval of a final ordinance at its January 5th, 2021 meeting, if not sooner.

E) This moratorium is necessary to promote health, safety, morals, and the general welfare of the town.

**Section 2:** This ordinance becomes effective this, the 3rd day of November 2020.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_