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Section 3.3 Building permit required

For any monument sign or any sign connected to electrical power, it shall be a violation of this ordinance to post, display, substantially change, or erect a sign in the County without first having obtained a building permit, except for those signs specifically exempted in Section 4.4. The applicant for a building permit shall submit application materials as specified by the Chief Building Inspector, including a sketch or print drawn to scale showing pertinent information such as wind pressure requirements and display materials in accordance with the Standard Building Code. The modification of a sign with existing electrical power will not require a building permit if the applicant is a member of a listed testing agency and has included this information in their sign permit.

Section 3.4 Process for issuance of sign permits

The Director of Planning and Community Development shall be authorized to issue sign permits in accordance with the provisions of this ordinance. The County shall process all sign permit applications within thirty (30) business days of the County's actual receipt of both a complete sign permit application and a sign permit fee. For purposes of this section only, the term "process" shall mean to make a decision on sign permit applications that can be administratively approved. In no event, except with permission of the applicant, may the Director of Planning and Community Development delay acting upon a sign permit application. Any delay in excess of (45) forty-five days shall result in automatic issuance of a sign permit.

The Director of Planning and Community Development shall reject any application containing any false material statements or omissions. Any rejected application later resubmitted shall be deemed to have been submitted on the date of re-submission, instead of original submission. Should it be determined that a sign permit was issued pursuant to an application containing a false material statement or omission, the Director of Planning and Community Development shall revoke said application and the subject sign shall be removed. A revocation pursuant to this section shall be appealable pursuant to this ordinance.

Section 3.5 Sign permit expiration date

A sign permit shall become null and void if the sign for which the permit was issued has not been completed within twelve (12) months after the date of issuance. No refunds will be made for a permit after the permit is issued. If later an individual desires to erect a sign at the same location, a new application for the sign must be processed and another fee paid in accordance with the fee schedule applicable at such time.

Section 3.6 Sign permit fees

No sign permit shall be issued until the appropriate application has been filed with the Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development and fees have been paid as adopted from time to time by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

Section 3.7 Sign identification labels Enforcement Powers

~~With each sign permit, the Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development or his designee shall issue a sticker. It shall be the duty of the permittee or his agent to affix such sticker to the sign in the lower right hand area so it will be easily seen. The absence of a proper sticker shall be prima facie evidence that the sign has been, or is being, erected or operated in violation of the provisions of this ordinance.~~

The Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development, or his designee, shall inspect all existing signs in the County to determine if such signs conform to the provisions of this ordinance or other codes administered by the director, Director of Engineering, or Director of Water & Sewer. If an installed sign is of a type that required a County-issued permit prior to erection or installation, and if the County has no record of a sign application or permit and if owner is unable to produce a duly issued sign permit or other associated documentation, the absence of such documentation shall constitute prima facie evidence that a sign is unauthorized.