



City of Isanti, Minnesota

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CITY ORDINANCE

You are hereby notified that the following Proposed Ordinance will be considered by the City Council of the City of Isanti, MN at the following meeting:

City Council Meeting: June 2, 2026

DATE POSTED: May 20, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. XXX

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 445 ADOPTED OCTOBER 21, 2008, ORDINANCE NO. 446 ADOPTED NOVEMBER 18, 2008, ORDINANCE NO. 465 ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 15, 2009, ORDINANCE NO. 470 ADOPTED NOVEMBER 17, 2009, ORDINANCE NO. 491 ADOPTED OCTOBER 19, 2010, ORDINANCE NO. 501 ADOPTED MARCH 15, 2011, ORDINANCE NO. 505 ADOPTED APRIL 19, 2011, ORDINANCE NO. 512 ADOPTED JULY 5, 2011, ORDINANCE NO. 541 ADOPTED NOVEMBER 20, 2012, ORDINANCE NO. 564 ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 17, 2013, ORDINANCE NO. 568 ADOPTED NOVEMBER 19, 2013, ORDINANCE NO. 574 ADOPTED APRIL 1, 2014, ORDINANCE NO. 583 ADOPTED AUGUST 19, 2014, ORDINANCE NO. 592 ADOPTED JANUARY 20, 2015, ORDINANCE NO. 594 ADOPTED FEBRUARY 17, 2015, ORDINANCE NO. 595 ADOPTED MARCH 17, 2015, ORDINANCE NO. 609 ADOPTED MAY 19, 2015, ORDINANCE NO. 644 ADOPTED MAY 17, 2016, ORDINANCE NO. 714 ADOPTED JUNE 18, 2019, ORDINANCE NO. 734 ADOPTED JULY 7, 2020, ORDINANCE NO. 735 ADOPTED JULY 7, 2020, ORDINANCE NO. 751 ADOPTED JANUARY 5, 2021, ORDINANCE NO. 756 ADOPTED FEBRUARY 16, 2021, ORDINANCE NO. 782 ADOPTED JANUARY 17, 2023, ORDINANCE NO. 808 ADOPTED MARCH 14, 2024, ORDINANCE NO. 833 ADOPTED JANUARY 21, 2025, ORDINANCE NO. 834 ADOPTED JANUARY 21, 2025 AND ARTICLES TITLED ESTABLISHMENT OF DISTRICTS USE REGULATIONS, TIER ONE ZONING, AND SIGNS.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ISANTI DOES ORDAIN:

Section 1- Amendment. Ordinance No. 834; Ordinance No. 833; Ordinance No. 808; Ordinance No. 782; Ordinance No. 756; Ordinance No. 751; Ordinance No. 735; Ordinance No. 734; Ordinance No. 714; Ordinance No. 644; Ordinance No. 609; Ordinance No. 595; Ordinance No. 594; Ordinance No. 592; Ordinance No. 583; Ordinance No. 574; Ordinance No. 568; Ordinance No. 564; Ordinance No. 541; Ordinance No. 512; Ordinance No. 505; Ordinance No. 501; Ordinance No. 491; Ordinance No. 470; Ordinance No. 465; Ordinance No. 446; Ordinance No. 445 codified in Chapter 350 Zoning of City Code shall be hereby amended as follows:

Chapter 350

Zoning

ARTICLE 3: ESTABLISHMENT OF ZONING DISTRICTS

Subdivision 1: Intent

The following Zoning Districts are hereby established to meet the intent and purposes of the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance are created for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, and general welfare of the of the City of Isanti. For the purposes of this Ordinance, the City of Isanti is hereby divided and classified into the following zoning districts:

Residential Districts

R-1	Single Family Residential District.
R-1A	Rural Residential District (<i>Ord No. 735</i>)
R-2	Single Family Residential District.
R-3A	Low Density Multiple Family Residential District.
R-3B	Medium Density Multiple Family Residential District.
R-4	Multiple Family Dwelling District.

Business Districts

B-1	Central Business District (CBD)
B-2	General Business District (GBD)
B-3	Neighborhood Business District (NB)

Industrial Districts

I-1	Industrial Park District
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Special Purpose Districts

RC	Recreational Commercial District
CBT	Central Business Transitional District
PUD	Planned Unit Development District

Overlay Districts

D-1	Downtown Overlay District
S-1	Rum River Scenic Overlay District
FP	Flood Plain Overlay District
OSP	Open Space and Parks Overlay District

Subdivision 2: Zoning Map

The location and boundaries of the districts established by this Ordinance are hereby set forth on the zoning maps entitled the "City of Isanti Zoning Map", a copy of which is on file with the Zoning Administrator. Said maps and all of the notifications, references, and other information shown thereon shall have the same force and effect as if fully set forth herein and thereby made a part of this Ordinance by reference.

Subdivision 3: Zoning of Annexation or Detachment Areas

- A. In the event of changes to the City limits that remove territory from the City, district boundaries shall be constructed as to move with City limits.
- B. In the event of annexation of new areas to the City or in the event the City is given exclusive zoning jurisdiction of an area which is not annexed or within the City limits, such areas shall be considered to be in the "R-1" Single Family Residential District, unless the Ordinance annexing such property designates otherwise. If the area is not designated at the time of annexation, such "R-1" Single Family Residential Zoning shall be maintained, until such time as the property owner requests a rezoning of the property. A public hearing before the Planning Commission requesting a particular zoning designation shall be held upon proper application to the City with final approval granted by the City Council.

Subdivision 4: Zoning District Boundaries

- A. Boundaries indicated as approximately following the center lines of streets, highways, alleys, or railroad lines shall be construed to follow such center lines.
- B. Boundaries indicated as approximately following platted lot lines shall be construed as following such lot lines.
- C. Boundaries indicated as following shorelines shall be construed to follow such shore lines, and in the event of change in the shore line shall be construed as moving with the actual shore line; boundaries indicated as approximately following the center lines of streams, rivers, lakes, or other bodies of water shall be construed to follow such lines.
- D. Boundaries indicated as approximately following the city limits shall be construed as following such city limits.
- E. Where a zoning district boundary divides a lot, resulting in differing and non-uniform requirements (split-lot zoning) for two or more portions of the lot, each portion shall be subject to the regulations applicable to the specific zoning district shown for that portion of the lot.
- F. The exact location of all district boundaries shall be interpreted by the Zoning Administrator, subject to appeal as provided in Section 21 of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE 13: USE REGULATIONS

SECTION THREE: USE REGULATIONS IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS

Subdivision 1: Land Alterations

- A. City approval shall be required in all cases where excavation, grading, and filling of any land would result in a substantial alteration of existing ground contour or would change existing drainage or would cause flooding or erosion or would deprive an adjoining property owner of lateral support and would remove or destroy the present ground cover resulting in less beneficial cover for present and proposed development. Substantial alteration shall be defined as the extraction, grading or filling of land involving movement of earth and materials in excess of twenty-five (25) cubic yards. The Zoning Administrator or Building Official may exempt cubic yard restrictions for foundation excavation and grading for new residential units and for the landscaping requirements for residential units per City ordinance.
- B. The City Engineer shall review all cases in which more than twenty-five (25) cubic yards of land is altered. In matters of land alteration related to a preliminary plat, final plat or site plan review the Planning Commission will review and recommend to the City Council and the City Council will make a final determination on the grading within the entire development request. A grading permit will be issued upon the City Engineers review of the items detailed in B, C & D below and any other additional information that is requested to ensure that all City, State and other laws and regulations are met. The grading permit will be issued to the property owner after City Council approval of a preliminary plat, final plat or site plan review. The grading permit will be signed by the City Engineer and City Clerk.
- C. In all other requests to alter land in excess of twenty-five (25) cubic yards a conditional use permit shall be required. The application shall be submitted with the required items as detailed in B, C & D below for review along with any other requested additional information, including, but not limited to the requirements of a Conditional Use Permit section of ordinance. The required items are to ensure that all City, State and other laws and regulations are met. The Planning Commission will review and recommend to the City Council and City Council will make the final determination on the request. The signed Conditional Use Permit shall constitute the grading permit.
- D. Applications for a grading permit shall contain the following additional information:
1. Legal description of land to be altered.
 2. Nature of proposed alteration and future use of the property.
 3. Starting date and approximate completion date of the operation.
 4. The names of all owners of the land to be altered.
 5. The names and addresses of all owners and occupants of the adjoining land that may be effected by said land alterations.
 6. A construction plan showing existing and proposed elevations.
 7. The City Council may require adequate proof of bonding in the form of a performance bond, sufficient in value to cover the expense of the completion of the development plan or to bring such portion of the completed project to safe grade and elevation so as to be healthful and safe to the general public and to provide safe and adequate drainage to the site.
- E. If, during the land alteration work, it becomes necessary for the person altering the land to create a condition of grade or drainage not in the interest of health or safety, it shall become the person's duty to correct, immediately, the dangerous situation created, as well as fence or screen the area from the public upon order of the City Engineer.
- F. The person responsible for the proposed land alteration shall agree to replace cover that has been removed, by seeding or sodding, such cover to be replaced in accordance with the MPCA NPDES Phase 2 Permit requirements after completion of grading. The City will require an escrow or letter of credit to cover development related activities before a grading permit will be issued unless the escrow or letter of credited amount is covered within in a Development Agreement and its associated escrow or letter of credited amounts. Where construction of homes or buildings is being done over an extended period of time, the City may require replacement of ground cover on a portion of the area before the entire project is complete.

Subdivision 2: Community Gardens (Ord No. 491)

A. Zoning districts.

Community gardens are permitted in those zoning districts as designated, which include: R-1 Single Family Residential District, R-2 Single Family Residential District, R-3A Low Density Multiple Family District, R-3B Medium Density Residential District, R-4 Multiple Dwelling District, B-1 Central Business District, B-2 General Business District, B-3 Neighborhood Business District, RC Recreational Commercial District, CBT Central Business Transitional District,

B. Operation standards.

1. Community gardeners shall have an established set of operating rules addressing the governance structure of the garden, hours of operation, maintenance and security requirements and responsibilities, funding plan, and garden design plan. The garden design plan shall identify the layout and dimensions of garden plots, location of water sources, parking and access locations to the garden, and locations of other buildings, fencing, and obstructions.
2. A garden coordinator to perform the coordinating role for the management of the community garden shall be identified. The name and contact information of the garden coordinator and a copy of the operating rules and other associated materials identified within (B)(1) shall be kept on file with the City of Isanti Parks and Recreation Department.
3. Community gardens are required to have a non-profit entity or neighborhood association group to act as the garden coordinator.
4. The City of Isanti is not responsible for the garden itself; or to anything pertaining to the garden. Each member of the community garden must sign a waiver of liability.
5. Should the community garden group decide to no longer maintain their space, the group is responsible for proposing a plan to restore the area to the satisfaction of the City.

C. Site standards.

1. Overhead lighting is prohibited.
2. A garden must be located within one hundred (100) feet of a functioning water source, to include the public water system or private sand point well. The use of fire hydrants or drinking fountains is not permitted.
3. The site shall be designed and maintained so that water and fertilizer will not drain onto adjacent properties.
4. Nets or other similar types of shade structures are not permitted within the garden area.
5. There shall be no retail sales on-site.

D. Signage.

All signs shall meet the requirements of the zoning district in which the sign is located and shall meet the requirements of Section 16 Signs of the Zoning Ordinance.

E. Accessory Buildings, Structures, and Fences.

No fence or building shall be constructed without review and approval by the City Council, so that best efforts can be taken to ensure that the fence and/or structure are compatible in appearance and placement with the character of surrounding properties.

1. Sheds for the storage of tools limited in size to one hundred seventy (170) square feet.
2. Greenhouses that consist of buildings made of glass, plastic, or fiberglass in which plants are cultivated shall not exceed five hundred eighty (580) square feet in floor area.
3. Benches, bike racks, raised/accessible planting beds, compost or waste bins, picnic tables, and rain barrels or water reservoir systems are permitted on-site.
4. Setbacks for accessory buildings and fencing as defined within this Ordinance are applicable.
5. Fences shall not exceed four (4) feet in height, shall have an opaqueness of no greater than 50%, and shall be constructed of wood or ornamental metal.

ARTICLE 16: SIGNS

Subdivision 1: Purpose and Findings (*Ord No. 574*)

A. Purpose.

1. It is the purpose of this Section to: (1) regulate the number, location, size, type, illumination and other physical characteristics of signs within the City in order to promote the public health, safety, and welfare of the community; (2) maintain, enhance, and improve the aesthetic environment of the City by preventing visual clutter; (3) improve the visual appearance of the City while providing for effective means of communication, consistent with constitutional guarantees and the City's goals of public safety and aesthetics; and (4) provide for fair and consistent enforcement of sign regulations set forth herein under the zoning authority of the City.
2. It is not the purpose of this Section to regulate the message displayed on any sign; nor is it the purpose of this Section to regulate any building design or any display not defined as a sign, or any sign which cannot be viewed from outside a building.

B. Findings.

The City Council hereby finds it necessary for the promotion and preservation of the public health, safety, and general welfare as well as the aesthetics of the community that the construction, location, size, and maintenance of signs be controlled. Further, the City finds that:

1. Permanent and temporary signs have a direct impact on and relationship to the image of the community;
2. The manner of installation, location, and maintenance of signs affects the public health, safety, and general welfare as well as the aesthetics of the community;
3. An opportunity for visible identification of community businesses and institutions must be established;
4. The safety of motorists, cyclists, pedestrians, and other users of public streets and property is affected by the number, size, location and appearance of signs that unduly divert the attention of drivers;
5. Uncontrolled and unlimited signs adversely impact the image and aesthetic attractiveness of the community and thereby undermine economic value and growth;
6. Uncontrolled and unlimited signs, particularly temporary signs which are located within or adjacent to the public right-of-way or are located at driveway/street intersections, result in roadside clutter and obstructions of views of oncoming traffic. This creates a hazard to drivers and pedestrians and also adversely impacts a logical flow of information; and
7. The right to express noncommercial opinions in any zoning district must be protected, subject to reasonable restrictions on size, height, location, and number of signs.

Subdivision 2: Measurement Standards (*Ord No. 574*)

A. Sign Area and Dimensions.

1. Wall Signs.
 - a. For signs that are framed, outlined, painted or otherwise prepared and intended to provide a background for a sign display, the area and dimensions shall include the entire portion within the frame or background.
 - b. For signs comprised of individual letters, figures, or elements on a wall or similar surface of the building or structure, the area and dimensions of the sign shall encompass a regular geometric shape (rectangle, triangle, square, circle, etc.) or a combination of regular geometric shapes, which approximate, the perimeter of all elements of the sign, the frame and any applied background that is not part of the building architecture. Minor appendages to a particular regular shape, as determined by the Zoning Administrator or their designee shall not be included in the total sign area.
2. Freestanding Signs.

The sign area shall include the face of the sign panel and the sign frame, if any, but shall not include: (1) a pole or other structural support unless the pole or structural support is internally illuminated or otherwise so design to constitute a display device, or a part of the display device and (2) architectural features that are either part of the building or part of a freestanding structure and not an integral part of the sign, and which may consist of landscaping, building or structural forms complementing the site in general. (*Ord No. 714*)

3. All Other Signs.
The area in square feet of all faces of a sign panel, including the frame shall be used to calculate the square footage.
- B. Sign Height.
The height of the sign shall be calculated as the vertical distance measured from the base of the sign at grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign.
 - C. Sign Setback.
Signs shall be setback a minimum of ten (10) feet from the property line. Signs should not be in locations that would interfere with safe vehicular and pedestrian circulation or public safety signals. Signs shall meet the provisions of Section 4, Subdivision 3 with regards to the Vision Clearance Triangle.
 - D. Building Frontage Determination. (*Ord No. 808*)
 1. The length of any primary or secondary building frontage shall be the sum of all wall lengths parallel or nearly parallel to such frontage. The Zoning Administrator or their designee shall determine if such wall meets the criteria to be considered frontage.
 2. For buildings that are identified as having two or more frontages, the length of the wall and allowable sign area shall be calculated separately for each such building frontage.
 3. The building frontage for a building unit shall be measured from the centerline of the party walls defining the building unit.

Subdivision 3: Establishment of Sign Overlay Districts (*Ord No. 574*)

- A. Findings.
The City has determined that property zoned “B-2” General Business District have frontage along the Heritage Boulevard and Trunk Highway 65 corridors; each of which present a unique set of conditions that may be distinguished from all other similarly zoned property within the City because of increased roadway capacity in terms of design, size, and traffic volume and speed. As a result, the City finds that it is in the public interest to create a Heritage Boulevard Sign Overlay District and a TH 65 Sign Overlay District; in order to provide for special regulations that allow appropriate sign dimensions and types as well as to encourage economic development that fits the character of the roadway and protects the overall character of the community.
- B. Establishment of the Heritage Boulevard Sign Overlay District.
The Heritage Boulevard Sign Overlay District is hereby established and consists of those parcels or lots that are located within the “B-2” General Business District of the City, as shown on the Zoning Map, as amended, which have frontage on Heritage Boulevard also known as County Road 5.
- C. Establishment of the Trunk Highway 65 Sign Overlay District.
The Trunk Highway 65 Overlay District is hereby established and consists of those parcels or lots that are located within the “B-2” General Business District of the City, as shown on the Zoning Map, as amended, which have frontage on Trunk Highway 65.
- D. For those properties having frontage along both Trunk Highway 65 and Heritage Blvd; the more restrictive requirements will take effect.
- E. For properties having no frontage on either corridor (Heritage Blvd or TH 65), the standard requirements provided for the “B-2” General Business District shall be met.

Subdivision 4: Permitted and Conditional Signs (*Ord No. 574*)

	R	B-1	B-2			B-3	I-1	RC	CBT	POS
			Standard	Heritage	TH 65					
Awning/Canopy		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Billboard					C					
Changeable Copy		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Dynamic	C		P	C	P		P	C		C

Exempt	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Freestanding	P		P	P	P	P	P	P		
Ground	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Monument	P		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Off-Premise			P	P	P		P			
Projecting		P	P	P	P	P		P	P	
Pylon			P		P		P			
Temporary	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
Wall		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Mural		C								

**The sign would be generally permitted within the zoning district designation as provided. In multiple tenant centers, each business is not entitled to its own freestanding sign. In those instances, the freestanding sign would identify the entire center or development.

Subdivision 5: Development Standards (Ord No. 808)

A. Wall signs.

1. Wall signs shall be located a minimum of one (1) foot from the side of the building or unit line.
2. The minimum sign area for each building or tenant shall be not less than twenty-five (25) square feet.
3. The maximum wall sign area is to be no greater than three hundred (300) square feet per business or unit regardless of wall size.
4. One (1) wall sign per building or unit is permitted on the primary frontage. Additional wall signage may be permitted on the secondary frontage.
5. Wall signs shall not exceed the number of square feet for every lineal frontage of building or unit wall in which the sign is to be located, for the district in which it is located, as provided:

Zoning District	Square feet of Sign Area
B-1	1 x 1 Lineal Foot of Frontage
CBT, B-3, RC, POS	1.5 x 1 Lineal Foot of Frontage
Heritage Blvd Overlay, I-1	1.75 x 1 Lineal Foot of Frontage
B-2	2 x 1 Lineal Foot of Frontage
TH 65 Overlay	2.5 x 1 Lineal Foot of Frontage

6. Wall signs shall not project more than eighteen (18) inches from the façade of the building.
7. Illumination. The light source shall be either internal or shielded external to minimize glare and light spilling unto neighboring properties. The illumination of signs shall not interfere with surrounding uses.

B. Projecting Signs.

1. The maximum area of a projecting sign is twelve (12) square feet.
2. The sign shall not project more than four (4) feet from the wall or 2/3 the width of the sidewalk, whichever is greater.
3. The minimum spacing between projecting signs is twenty (20) feet.
4. A minimum eight (8) foot clearance must be between the sidewalk and the bottom of the sign.

C. Freestanding Signs.

1. Two (2) freestanding signs are permitted. One (1) freestanding sign per one hundred fifty (150) feet of zoning lot frontage may be located not less than one hundred fifty (150) feet from any other freestanding sign for the same center.
2. The maximum area and height of a freestanding sign are shown below for the zoning district in which the sign is located.

Zoning District	Square feet of Sign Area	Height
R-1, R-2, R-3A, R-3B	8	4
R-4	24	4
B-2	120	35
TH 65 Overlay	200	45
B-3, RC	100	12
I-1	100	25
Heritage Overlay	110	30

3. No part of a freestanding sign shall be within ten (10) feet of the property line.
- D. Pylon Signs. Pylon signs must meet the requirements as defined for freestanding signs for the district in which the sign will be located. (*Ord. No. 595*)
- E. Awnings. When permitted within the zoning district, awnings shall meet the following requirements:
1. An awning may project over a public sidewalk provided that it is at least eight (8) feet above grade and does not project more than two-thirds (2/3) the width of the public sidewalk as measured from the building.
 2. Awnings and canopies should be made of high-quality materials that complement the overall design, colors, and materials of the building. Brightly colored awnings shall be compatible with the colors used on the main building.
 3. Awnings must be constructed of a durable, water-repellent material such as canvas or metal. Plastic or fiberglass awnings are not permitted.
 4. Retractable or fixed awnings may be used.
 5. Awnings shall not extend across multiple storefronts and/or multiple buildings. Long expanses of awnings should be broken into segments that reflect the door or window openings located beneath.
 6. Awnings and canopies deteriorate over time; regular maintenance and replacement is required.
 7. Signage on awnings is permitted. Lettering size shall be proportional to the space available and shall meet the requirements as provided for wall signs.
 8. Color renderings showing the location, size, color, and any proposed signage shall be submitted for review by the Planning Commission. Awnings that encroach within or above the public right-of-way shall receive approval by the City Council prior to construction of the awning.
- F. Ground sign (sandwich board signs).
A sign mounted at ground level, the face of which is no more than thirty-six (36) inches wide. Ground signs must be brought inside each evening at the completion of business hours. Ground signs may not be located in such a way to impede pedestrian traffic. If business owner desires ground sign to be located on a sidewalk or trail, approval must be given by City Council prior to the sign being erected.
- G. Billboards.
Off-premise signs which are generally for hire. Billboards shall meet the following conditions:
1. Billboard shall only be allowed in the commercial and industrial zones, provided that they are adjacent to the right-of-way of Highway 65 or a Highway 65 frontage road. No billboard shall be allowed within a "B-1" district.
 2. The applicant must provide written permission from the property owner where the billboard is proposed to be located, at the time of making application for a conditional use permit.
 3. The applicant must provide proof of having obtained a permit from the Minnesota Department of Transportation, prior to being issued a conditional use permit.
 4. Billboards located a minimum of 100 ft. from the nearest advertising device as outlined in Minnesota State Statute Chapter 173 and shall follow all requirements set forth.

5. Billboards along HWY 65 require additional permitting from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.
- H. Off-Premise Signs.
The signs shall meet the requirements for the property and district in which the sign is located. The permit must be accompanied by written documentation from the owner of the property on which the sign is located.
- I. Monument Sign. When permitted within the zoning district, the following requirements shall be met:
1. Signs constructed in commercial, industrial, mixed use and overlay areas shall not exceed the square feet of sign area and height requirements as shown for freestanding signs.
 2. Signs intended to permanently identify a single-family residential development or a multi-family residential development shall be permitted with the following conditions:
 - a) Signs shall not exceed one hundred (100) square feet in sign face area and shall not exceed 8 feet in height as measured from natural grade.
 - b) Signs shall be either single-faced or double-faced.
 - c) The total number of signs permitted shall be subject to review by city staff depending upon the number of entryways into the development.
 - d) The location of the sign shall not interfere with the safe movement and visibility of traffic or street maintenance operations. Signs shall be setback a minimum of five (5) feet from all property lines. Size, location, and configuration of the sign may result in a greater setback requirement.
 - e) The City shall not be responsible for the maintenance of the sign. An entity shall be established to the satisfaction of the City such as a homeowner's association or a dedicated permanent easement with a homeowner's association shall be identified as responsible for perpetual maintenance of the sign.
 - f) Signs may be externally illuminated.
- J. Murals. When permitted within the zoning district, murals shall meet the following requirements:
- a) Murals are solely permitted by conditional use permit within the "B-1" Central Business District
 - b) Color renderings showing the location, size, and color shall be submitted for review by the Planning Commission.

Subdivision 6: Dynamic and Changeable Copy Signs (Ord No. 808)

- A. Dynamic Signs.
Any characteristics of a sign that appear to have movement or that appear to change, caused by any method other than physically removing and replacing the sign or its components, whether the apparent movement or change is in the display, the sign structure itself, or any other component of the sign. This includes display that incorporates a technology or method allowing the sign face to change the image without having to physically or mechanically replace the sign face or its components. This also includes any rotating, revolving, flashing, blinking or animated display and any display that incorporates rotating panels, LED lights manipulated through digital input, "digital ink" or any other method of technology that allows a sign face to present a series of images or displays.
1. Findings. Studies show that there is a correlation between dynamic displays on signs and the distraction of highway drivers. Distraction can lead to traffic accidents. Drivers can be distracted not only by a changing message, but also by knowing that the sign has a changing message. Drivers may watch a sign waiting for the next change to occur. Additionally, drivers are more distracted by special effects used to change the message, such as fade-ins and fade-outs. Time and temperature signs appear to be an exception to these concerns because the messages are short, easily absorbed, and become inaccurate without frequent changes. Despite these public safety concerns, there is merit to allowing new technologies to easily update messages. Except as prohibited by state or federal law, sign owners should have the opportunity to use these technologies with certain restrictions. The restrictions are intended to minimize potential driver distraction and to minimize proliferation in residential districts where signs can adversely impact residential character. The City finds that dynamic displays should be allowed on signs but with significant controls to minimize their proliferation and their potential threats to public safety.
 2. Permitted sign type and locations. Dynamic displays are solely permitted as freestanding signs and only within the , "B-2" General Business District, "B-3" Neighborhood Business District, "RC" Recreational Commercial District, and "I-1" Industrial Park District.

3. Duration of Image. A dynamic display image, or any portion thereof, may not change more than once every twenty (20) seconds, except one for which changes are necessary to correct hour-and-minute, date, or temperature information. A display of time, date, or temperature must remain for at least twenty (20) seconds before changing to a different display, but the time, date, or temperature information itself may change not more often than once every three (3) seconds.
 4. Transition. If a dynamic display's image or any portion thereof changes, the change sequence must be instantaneous without any special effects.
 5. Prohibition on Video Display. No portion of a dynamic display may change any part of its sign face by a method of display characterized by motion or pictorial imagery, or depict action or a special effect to imitate movement, or display pictorials or graphics in a progression of frames that gives the illusion of motion of any kind.
 6. Prohibition of fluctuating or flashing illumination. No portion of a dynamic display image may fluctuate in light intensity or use intermittent, strobe or moving light, or light that changes in intensity in sudden transitory bursts, streams, zooms, twinkles, sparkles or any other manner that creates the illusion of movement.
 7. Audio. Dynamic displays shall not be equipped with audio speakers.
 8. Malfunctions. Dynamic displays must be designed and equipped to freeze the sign face in one position if a malfunction occurs. Dynamic displays must be equipped with a means to immediately discontinue the display if it malfunctions and the sign owner or operator must immediately turn off the display when notified by the City that it is not complying with the standards of this Ordinance.
 9. Brightness. All dynamic displays shall meet the following brightness standards:
 - a) No dynamic display may exceed a maximum illumination of 5,000 nits (candelas per square meter) during the daylight hours and a maximum illumination of 500 nits (candelas per square meter) between dusk to dawn as measured from the sign's face at maximum brightness.
 - b) All dynamic displays having illumination by means other than natural light must be equipped with a dimmer control or other mechanism that automatically controls the sign's brightness to comply with the requirements of this Section.
 - c) No dynamic displays may be of such intensity or brilliance that it interferes with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, device, or signal.
 - d) The owner or controller of the dynamic display must adjust the sign to meet these brightness standards in accordance with the City's instructions. The adjustment must be made immediately upon notice of non-compliance from the City.
 - e) A written certification from the sign manufacturer that light intensity has been preset to conform to the brightness levels established by code and that the preset level is protected from end user manipulation by password protected software or other method. This would offer the advantage of ensuring that electronic signs at a minimum cannot exceed the standards.
- B. Changeable Copy Signs. Changeable copy signs must meet the requirements as defined for wall or freestanding signs for the district in which the sign will be located.

Section 2- Effective Date. This Ordinance takes effect upon its passage and publication in the official newspaper of the City of Isanti.

Adopted by the City Council this 2nd day of June 2026.

Mayor Luke Merrill

Attest:

Jaden Strand
City Clerk / Deputy HR Director

Posting Date: May 20, 2026
Reading Date: June 2, 2026
Publication Date: June 11, 2026
Effective Date: June 11, 2026