

**TAB 8**

**CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA  
ORDINANCE NO. 2012-04**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA,  
AMENDING THE SIGN CODE, ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 3 OF THE  
CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO REVISING  
THE REQUIRMENTS FOR POLITICAL SIGNS; UPDATING  
REFERENCE TO CITY DEPARTMENTS; PROVIDING FOR UNSAFE  
SIGN REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY;  
REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING FOR AN  
EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Article VIII, Section 2 of the Florida Constitution provides that municipalities shall have governmental, corporate and proprietary powers to enable municipalities to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions, and render municipal services; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the referenced provision of the Florida Constitution, a city may exercise any power for municipal purposes except as otherwise provided by law; and,

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 166, Florida Statutes, the "Municipal Home Rule Powers Act," implements the applicable provisions of the Florida Constitution and authorizes municipalities to exercise any power for municipal purposes, except when expressly prohibited by law and to enact ordinances in furtherance thereof; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 163.3202, Florida Statutes, provides for the adoption of land development regulations; and

**WHREAS**, Section 166.0425, Florida Statutes, allows for City regulation of signage; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission is concerned about the aesthetic appearance and safety issues related to signage within the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission wishes to clarify and to the extent appropriate, amend the requirements for political signs; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Planning and Zoning Board, after holding a public hearing, recommended adoption of Ordinance 2012-04; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission held a public hearing to receive public input regarding the proposed changes to the sign code on May 21, 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, consistent with the findings stated above, the City Commission has determined that adoption of this ordinance is in the best interest of the public health, safety and welfare.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, by the City Commission of the City of Palmetto, Florida, as follows:

**Section 1.**     **Amendment of Sign Ordinance** Article III of Chapter 3 of the Palmetto Code of Ordinances is hereby amended as follows:

- (A) Section 3-63 shall be amended to revise all references to the community development department to read "Public Works Department".
- (B) Section 3-68 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

**Sec. 3-68. Political Signs.**

- (1) Political Signs are permissible in any zoning district. Political Signs shall be removed within seven (7) days after any election to which such sign pertains and a sign may remain through any primary or run-off election as to any candidate or issue which is subject thereto.
- (2) The property owner for signs on private property and the candidate and persons responsible for erection or placement of any Political sign or other property shall be responsible for its removal.
- (3) No Political sign shall be erected or placed upon publically owned property or within public rights of way; provided that a tenant of publically owned property may place such signs on the leased property unless prohibited by the lease

- (4) Upon adoption of a Resolution, the City may require the applicant to post a deposit with the City to ensure that the cost to remove a Political sign is paid by the candidate or persons responsible for erection or placement of a Political sign in a situation where a Political sign is not removed in a timely manner.
  
- (C) Section 3-70 Enforcement is hereby amended to revise all references to the community development department to read “Code Enforcement Department, and to add a new subsection (c) which shall read as follows:

**Sec. 3-70 Enforcement**

- (c) Signs that are deemed to be structurally hazardous due to lack of maintenance may be physically removed by the city and may be disposed of after compliance by the city with the procedure set forth in section 7-151 et seq.
  
- (D) Section 3-71 shall be amended to revise all references to the community development department to read “Code Enforcement Department”.
  
- (E) Section 3-86 is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

**Sec. 3-86. Continuation in use.**

With the exception of Political Signs, a nonconforming sign may be continued and shall be maintained in good condition but it shall not be:

- (1) Structurally changed to another nonconforming sign, although its pictorial content may be changed;
- (2) Structurally altered to prolong the life of the sign, except to meet safety requirements;
- (3) Altered in any manner that increases the degree of nonconformity;
- (4) Expanded;
- (5) Continued in use after cessation or change of the business or activity to which the sign pertains;
- (6) Reestablished after damage or destruction if the estimated cost of reconstruction exceeds fifty (50) percent of the appraised replacement cost as determined by the public works department;
- (7) Continued in use when a conforming sign or sign structure shall be erected on the same premises or unit;

- (8) Continued in use when any land use to which the sign pertains has ceased for a period of thirty (30) consecutive days or has otherwise changed;
- (9) Continued in use when the structure housing the occupancy is demolished or requires renovations, the cost of which exceeds fifty (50) percent of the assessed ad valorem valuation of the structure.

Political signs shall be required to come into compliance with this Code by June 30, 2012.

- (H) Section 3-89 shall be amended to revise all references to the community development department to read "Public Works Department".
- (I) Section 3-92 is hereby deleted and shall be marked as reserved.
- (J) Section 3-93 is hereby deleted and shall be marked as reserved.

**Section 2.** **Severability.** It is the intent of this Ordinance to comply with all applicable law and constitutional requirements. If any provision, paragraph or section of this Ordinance or the standards and codes adopted hereby, shall be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be inapplicable, illegal, unenforceable or unconstitutional, then to that extent such provisions or portions shall be deemed null and void, but the remaining provisions of this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect as applicable.

**Section 3.** **Enforcement.** This Ordinance shall apply to all Political signs regardless of whether they preexisted in the City at the time of the adoption of this Ordinance. Enforcement of these revisions to Chapter 3 of the Palmetto Code of Ordinances shall not be undertaken until June 30, 2012.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect as provided for by law and by City Charter, Section 14 upon execution by the Mayor, or if disapproval occurs, upon reconsideration by the City Commission and passing of the Ordinance by at least four (4) votes.

**PASSED AND DULY ADOPTED**, by the City Commission, in open session, with a quorum present and voting, this 21st day of May, 2012.

First Reading:	May 7, 2012
Publication:	May 11, 2012
Second Reading and Public Hearing:	May 21, 2012

CITY OF PALMETTO, FLORIDA, BY  
AND THROUGH THE CITY COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF PALMETTO

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
SHIRLEY GROOVER BRYANT, MAYOR

ATTEST: James R. Freeman  
City Clerk

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk/Deputy Clerk