

## STAFF REPORT

Sign Code Update (CMC 18.15)

File No. MC19-03

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<u>TO</u>	Bryan Beel, Chair Planning Commission
<u>FROM</u>	Madeline Sutherland, Assistant Planner
<u>DATE</u>	September 3, 2019

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### Summary

Chapter 18.15 – Signs of the Camas Municipal Code was adopted November of 2010 with minor code changes adopted January of 2014. The intent behind the adoption was to regulate the construction, location, and maintenance of signs and how they affect the public health, safety, and welfare of the people. City Council found that the size, number, lighting and movement of signs diverted attention of public street users.

Electronic message board signs have been brought to staffs attention regarding the distraction and aesthetic value due to the advances in technology. Electronic message board signs, also considered animated and LED signs, utilize changes in lights and movement to create a message, scene or special effect.

Staff has brought forward specific changes based on the discussion between staff and the Commission during the workshop in August. The changes are specific to electronic message board signs.

### **CMC 18.15.040(A)(8) – General definitions and regulations**

A definition for “nit” was added because in section 18.15.110(E) – Sign illumination, the proposed code changes reference nits, therefore a definition has been added. The definition is from the City of Bonney Lake Municipal Code.

### **CMC 18.15.040(B)(8) –Sign Types**

Planning Commission had a concern with the size of electronic message board signs permitted. Currently the code allows electronic message board signs to be 30% of the total sign area or 100 square feet, whichever is larger. The proposed change is to reduce the size to 36 square feet, which permits an electronic message board sign to be 6 ‘ by 6’ or 30% of total sign area, whichever is less. By changing to “whichever is less”, electronic message board signs cannot exceed 30% of the total sign area until they reach 36 square feet. This will prevent oversized and distracting electronic message board signs in the City.

The technology for signs is advancing. Electronic message board signs are starting to look like videos instead of messages. To avoid distracting videos from taking place on signs, language is proposed to be added to prohibit videos from being displayed on electronic message board signs.

**CMC 18.15.110 – Sign illumination**

Staff recommends adding electronic message board sign regulations under section 18.15.110 because sign illumination relates to electronic message board signs. “D” and “E” were added to regulate the brightness and architectural appearance of signs. Most signs are the same brightness at night and during the day and do not fit in with its surroundings. This proposed addition is from the City of Bonney Lake Municipal Code and will regulate the appearance and brightness of electronic message board signs.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Planning Commission conduct a public hearing, accept testimony, deliberate, and make a motion to forward the amendments to CMC Chapter 18.15 to City Council for adoption.