



**City of La Grange  
City Council Meeting**

**July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 6:30 PM**

**City Hall Building- 307 W. Jefferson Street**

- 1. WELCOME**
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS**
- 4. APPROVAL OF JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 AGENDA**
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2026, CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
- 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2026, SPECIAL CALLED CITY COUNCIL MEETING**
- 7. CITY ADMINISTRATION- CINDY ALVANO**
  - PAYABLES
  - FINANCIAL REPORT -2025-2026 F/Y TRIAL BALANCES
  - BANK BALANCES AND INVESTMENT REPORT
- 8. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 9. MAIN STREET DIRECTOR'S REPORT-SARAH GARRETT**
- 10. TOURISM COMMISSION REPORT- DONNA SABO**
- 11. LAGRANGE UTILITIES REPORT-JOSH RAHM**
- 12. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCE NO.13-SERIES 2026 AN ORDINANCE REPEELING AND REPLACING THE CODE OF ETHICS ORDINACNE APPLICABLE TO OFFICIALS, OFFICERS, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY AND CITY AGENCIES.**
- 13. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO.8-SERIES 2026 FOR FIRST READING - AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF LAGRANGE, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027, BY ESTIMATING FUNDS FOR OPERATIONS OF CITY GOVERNMENT.**

- 14. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO.14 -SERIES 2026 FOR FIRST READING**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SIGN REGULATIONS.
- 15. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO.15 -SERIES 2026 FOR FIRST READING**  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 91 REGARDING SPEED BUMPS AND SPEED  
HUMPS ON CITY-MAINTAINED STREETS
- 16. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO.16 -SERIES 2026 FOR FIRST READING**  
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NONELECTIVE OFFICE OF CITY  
ADMINISTRATOR.
- 17. COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - **PARKS & RECREATION-** TREY KAMER
  - **ORDINANCE COMMITTEE-** LAURA TAYLOR
  - **PERSONNEL & INSURANCE COMMITTEE-** LUCY RICKETTS
- 18. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 19. OPEN DISCUSSION RELATED TO ANY OLD BUSINESS**
- 20. OPEN DISCUSSION RELATED TO ANY NEW BUSINESS**
- 21. ANNOUNCEMENTS-**
  - **NEXT REGULAR SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE MONDAY AUGUST  
3<sup>RD</sup>, 2026.**
- 22. ADJOURNMENT**

**CITY OF LA GRANGE**  
**ORDINANCE NO.13, SERIES 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING AND REPLACING THE CODE OF ETHICS  
ORDINANCE NO.20-94 APPLICABLE TO OFFICIALS, OFFICERS AND  
EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY AND CITY AGENCIES**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to KRS 65.003, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky has required all cities to adopt, by ordinance, a code of ethics, which shall be applied to all elected officials, which may also be applied to non-elected officials, officers, and employees of the city.

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 39 of the La Grange Ordinance Code, created by Ord. 20-94, passed December 15, 1994, adopted a model code of ethics governing the conduct of city officers and employees; and established an Ethics Commission (sometimes referred to as “Board”) with responsibility of enforcing the requirements of the code of ethics relating to standards of conduct, financial disclosures, and conflicts of interest.

**WHEREAS**, the Kentucky League of Cities has promulgated a Model Code of Ethics as of July 2025 addressing the requirements of a municipal code of ethics relating to the above state requirements, the essential form of which is adopted herein.

**WHEREAS**, the elected officials and officers of this city are committed to the operation of a city government manifesting the highest moral and ethical standards by its officers and employees and complying with all requirements of the Commonwealth’s local government ethics law.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it ordained by the legislative body of the City of La Grange, Kentucky:

**SECTION 1. Title**

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “City of La Grange Code of Ethics.”

**SECTION 2. Findings**

The city council of the City of La Grange finds and declares that:

- A. Public office and employment by the city are public trusts.
- B. The vitality and stability of the government of this city depends upon the public’s confidence in the integrity of its elected officials, appointed officers, and employees representing the city.
- C. The government of this city has a duty to provide its citizens with standards by which they may determine whether public duties are being faithfully performed,

and to make its officers and employees aware of the standards in the conduct of their public duties that citizens reasonably expect them to comply.

**SECTION 3. Purpose and Authority**

- A. It is the purpose of this ordinance to establish standards of ethical conduct and financial disclosure requirements for officers and employees of the city shall be clearly established, uniform in their application, and enforceable. This ordinance also provides the officers and employees of the city with advice and information concerning potential conflicts of interest which might arise in the conduct of their public duties.
- B. It is the further purpose of this ordinance to meet the requirements of KRS 65.003.
- C. This ordinance is enacted under the power vested in the city by KRS 82.082 and pursuant to the requirements of KRS 65.003.

**SECTION 4. Definitions**

As used in this ordinance unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

- A. “Business” means any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust, professional service corporation, or any legal entity through which business is conducted for profit.
- B. “Candidate” means any individual who seeks appointment, nomination, or election to a city office. An individual is a candidate when the individual files a notification and declaration for nomination for office with the county clerk or the secretary of state, nominated for office by a political party, or files a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate with the county clerk or secretary of state.
- C. “City” refers to the City of La Grange, Kentucky.
- D. “City agency” means any board, commission, authority, non-stock corporation, or other entity created, either individually or jointly by this city.
- E. “City business” means any discussion of specific city issues that goes beyond general information.
- F. “Confidential information” means information obtained in the course of holding public office or employment, or as a contractor to the city which is not available to members of the public and which the officer or employee is not authorized to disclose except to designated individuals or bodies, including written and non-written information. When such information is also available through channels open to the public, officers and employees are not prohibited from disclosing the availability of those channels.

- G. "Consultant" means an independent contractor, professional person, or entity engaged by the city or advising a city officer, and in a position to influence a city decision or action or having access to confidential information.
- H. "Domestic partner" is an adult, unrelated by blood, with whom an unmarried or separated officer or employee has an exclusive committed relationship, maintains a mutual residence, and shares basic living expenses.
- I. "Employee" means any person, whether full-time, part-time, seasonal, or temporary, whether paid or unpaid, who is employed or provides service to the city. The term "employee" shall not include any contractor, subcontractor, or any of their employees.
- J. "Ethics board" means the City of La Grange Ethics Commission which is created and vested by ordinance with the responsibility of enforcing the requirements of the city's code of ethics.
- K. "Family member" means a spouse, domestic partner, and, whether by blood, adoption, marriage, guardianship, or domestic partnership, the parent, child, brother, sister, grandparent, or grandchild.
- L. "Immediate family member" means a spouse, domestic partner, and, whether by blood, adoption, marriage, guardianship, or domestic partnership, a child who is not emancipated and who resides in the officer's or employee's household, a person claimed by the officer or employee, or the officer's or employee's spouse or domestic partner, as a dependent for tax purposes.
- M. "Financial benefit" includes any money, service, license, permit, contract, authorization, loan, discount, travel, entertainment, hospitality, gratuity, any promise of any of these, or anything else of value. This term does not include legal campaign contributions.
- N. "Financial interest" is a relationship to something where a direct or indirect financial benefit has been, will be, or might be received as a result of the relationship.
- O. "Household" includes anyone whose primary residence is in the officer's or employee's home, including nonrelatives who are not paying rent.
- P. "Officer" includes any official, whether full-time or part-time, whether paid or unpaid, elected or non-elected, who is one of the following:
1. Mayor
  2. Council member
  3. City clerk

4. City treasurer
  5. Chief of police
  6. Director of public works
  7. Director of human resources
  8. Any other person that occupies a nonelected office created pursuant to KRS 83A.080
  9. A member of the governing body of any city agency who has been appointed to that agency by the city
- Q. "Official" includes any person holding an elected or nonelected city office, who conducts any legislative, executive, administrative, appointive, or discretionary act of or on behalf of the city or any city official, officer or employee of the city, or a member of any agency, board, committee, or commission of the city.
- R. "Official act" means any legislative, administrative, appointive, or discretionary act of any public official or employee of the city or any agency, board, committee, or commission thereof.
- S. "Personal benefit" includes benefits other than those that are directly or indirectly financially advantageous. These include financial benefits to immediate family members, business associates, as well as non-financial benefits to these people and to oneself, including such things as reputation and the success of one's career.
- T. "Personal interest" means a relationship to something where a personal benefit has been, will be, or might be obtained by certain action or inaction, directly or indirectly, with respect to such interest.
- U. "Subordinate" means another official or employee over whose activities an official or employee has direction, supervision, or control.
- V. "Transaction" means any matter, including but not limited to contracts, work, business with the city, the sale or purchase of real estate by the city, and any request for zoning amendments, variances, or special permits pending before the city, upon which a public officer or employee performs an official act or action.

## **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT**

### **SECTION 5. Conflicts of Interest in General**

Every officer and employee of the city and every city agency shall comply with the following standards of conduct:

- A. No officer, employee, or any immediate family member of any officer or employee, shall have an interest in a business or engage in any business, transaction, or activity which is in substantial conflict with the proper discharge of the officer's or employee's public duties.
- B. No officer or employee shall intentionally use or attempt to use their official position with the city to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for themselves or others.
- C. No officer or employee shall intentionally take, agree to take, fail to take any discretionary action, or attempt to influence any other officer or employee as to a discretionary action in order to obtain personal or financial benefit for any of the following:
  - 1. The officer or the employee
  - 2. A family member
  - 3. An outside employer
  - 4. Any business in which the officer or employee or family member has a financial interest
  - 5. Any business with which the officer or employee or family member is negotiating or seeking prospective employment, other business, or professional relationship
  - 6. A person or entity from whom the officer or employee has received an election campaign contribution of a total of more than \$500.00 during the past election cycle
  - 7. A nongovernmental civic group, social, charitable, or religious organization of which they or their immediate family member is an officer or director
- D. No officer or employee shall be deemed in violation of any provision in this section, if by reason of the officer's or employee's action or inaction, no personal or financial benefit accrues to the officer or employee, a family member, an outside employer, or a business as a member of any business occupation, profession, or other group, directly or indirectly, to any greater extent than any gain could reasonably be expected to accrue to any other member of the business, occupation, profession, or other group.
- E. Every officer or employee who has a prohibited financial interest which the officer or employee believes, or has reason to believe, may or is likely to be affected by their participation, vote, decision, or other action taken within the scope of their public duties, shall fully disclose the precise nature and value of the interest in writing to the governing body of the city or city agency served by the officer or employee, who may refer the matter to the City Ethics Commission.

The disclosure shall be entered on the official record of the proceedings of the governing body. The officer or employee shall refrain from taking any action with respect to the matter that is the subject of the disclosure pursuant to Section 8 of this ordinance.

**SECTION 6. Conflicts of Interests in Contracts - KRS 61.252**

- A. No officer or employee of the city or any city agency shall directly or through others undertake, execute, hold, or enjoy, in whole or in part, any contract made, entered into, awarded, or granted by the city or a city agency, with the following exceptions:
1. The prohibition in subsection (A) of this section shall not apply to contracts entered into before an elected officer filed as a candidate for city office, before an appointed officer was appointed to a city or city agency office, or before an employee was hired by the city or a city agency. If the contract is renewable, then the prohibition in subsection (A) of this section shall apply to the renewal of the contract unless the disclosures required by subpart 3 below are satisfied.
  2. The prohibition in subsection (A) of this section shall not apply if the contract is awarded after public notice and competitive bidding, unless the officer or employee is authorized to participate in establishing the contract specifications, or awarding, or managing the contract. If so, then the officer or employee shall have no interest in the contract, unless the disclosures required by subpart 3 below are satisfied.
  3. The prohibition in subsection A of this section shall not apply in any case where the following requirements are satisfied:
    - a. The specific nature of the contract transaction and the nature of the officer's or employee's interest in the contract are publicly disclosed at a meeting of the governing body of the city or city agency.
    - b. The disclosure is made as part of the official record of the governing body of the city or city agency before the contract is executed.
    - c. A finding is made by the governing body of the city or city agency that the contract with the officer or the employee is in the best interests of the public and the city or city agency before the contract is executed.
    - d. The finding is made as part of the official record of the governing body of the city or city agency before the contract is executed.
- B. Any violation of this section may constitute a Class A misdemeanor. Upon conviction, the court may void any contract entered into in violation of KRS

61.252. Additionally, violation of this section may be grounds for removal from office or employment with the city in accordance with any applicable provisions of state laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations of the city.

**SECTION 7. Incompatible Offices**

- A. Pursuant to Section 165 of the Kentucky Constitution, no officer or employee of the city may also be a state officer, deputy state officer, member of the General Assembly, or may fill more than one municipal office at the same time, whether in the same or a different city.
- B. Pursuant to KRS 61.080, no city officer may also hold a county office. In addition, the statute states that the following city and consolidated local government offices are incompatible with any other public office:
  - 1. Member of the legislative body of cities of the first class
  - 2. Mayor and member of the legislative council of a consolidated local government
  - 3. Mayor and member of the legislative body in cities of the home rule class
- C. In addition to the constitution and statutory provisions, there are common law incompatibilities defined by the courts. City officers and employment positions are deemed incompatible when one office or position of employment is inherently inconsistent in function with the other. This incompatibility occurs when there arises an implication that the duties and responsibilities of both cannot be performed at the same time with a necessary degree of impartiality and honesty.
- D. KRS 61.090 provides that the acceptance of an incompatible office operates to vacate the first office.

**SECTION 8. Withdrawal from Participation**

- A. An officer or employee must refrain from acting on or discussing, formally or informally, a matter before the city, if acting on the matter or failing to act on the matter may personally or financially benefit any of the persons or entities listed in Section 5(C) above. Such an officer or employee should leave the room if it is a public meeting conducted under KRS 61.810 and KRS 61.815.
- B. Withdrawal at a meeting requires public announcement, on the record, of the reason for withdrawal.

**SECTION 9. Receipt of Gifts**

- A. No officer, employee, or appointee of the city or city agency shall directly or indirectly solicit any gift or accept or receive any gift having a value of \$200.00 or more. Gifts include the form of money, service, loan, travel, entertainment, hospitality, promise, or any other form, under circumstances in which it could

reasonably be inferred that the gift was intended to influence or could reasonably be expected to influence the officer, employee, or appointee in the performance of their official duties, or was intended as a reward for any official action.

- B. Certain items are typically excluded from the prohibition. Examples of these items include:
1. Gifts received from family members
  2. Gifts accepted on behalf of the city and transferred to the city
  3. Reasonable travel and travel-related expenses, cost of admission, food, beverages, and entertainment furnished in connection with certain specified public events, appearances, ceremonies, economic development activities, or fact-finding trips related to official government business
  4. Usual and customary loans made in the ordinary course of business
  5. Awards, including certificates, plaques, and commemorative tokens presented in recognition of public service
  6. Informational, promotional, and educational items
  7. Lawful campaign contributions.

**SECTION 10. Use of City Property, Equipment, and Personnel**

- A. No officer or employee of the city shall use or permit the use of any city time, funds, personnel, equipment, or other personal or real property, for the private use of any person, unless the use is available to the general public, and then only to the extent and upon the terms that such use is available to the general public.

**SECTION 11. Nepotism Prohibited**

- A. No officer of the city or a city agency shall advocate for, or cause the employment, appointment, promotion, transfer, or advancement of a family member to a position of employment with the city or a city agency.
- B. No officer or employee of the city or a city agency shall supervise or manage the work of a family member.
- C. No officer or employee shall participate in any action relating to the employment or discipline of a family member, except that this prohibition shall not prevent an elected or appointed officer from voting on, or participating in, the development of a budget, which includes compensation for a family member provided that the family member is included only as a member of a class of persons or a group, and the family member benefits to no greater extent than any other similarly situated member of the class or group.

The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to any relationship or situation that would violate the prohibition, but which existed prior to enactment.

**SECTION 12. Representation of Interests Before City Government**

- A. No officer or employee of the city or any city agency shall represent any person, group, or business, other than the city, in connection with any cause, proceeding, application, or other matter pending before the city or any city agency.
- B. Nothing in this section shall prohibit any officer or employee from representing themselves or immediate family members in matters concerning their interests.
- C. No elected officer shall be prohibited by this section from making any inquiry for information on behalf of a constituent if no compensation, reward, or other thing of value is promised to, given to, or accepted by the officer, whether directly or indirectly, in return for the inquiry.

**SECTION 13. Misuse of Confidential Information**

No officer or employee of the city or any city agency shall intentionally use or disclose information acquired in the course of their official duties, if the primary purpose of the use or disclosure is to further their personal or financial interest or the personal or financial interest of another person, group, or business. Information shall be deemed confidential if it is not subject to disclosure pursuant to the Kentucky Open Records Act at the time of its use or disclosure.

**SECTION 14. Improper Disclosure of Information**

- A. City officials shall not disclose any information that the city discusses in closed session held pursuant to KRS 61.810. This includes divulging this information via email, text message, phone call, social media, or in-person communications.

**SECTION 15. Political Solicitation**

- A. An officer, employee, or municipal candidate may not request or authorize anyone else to request that any subordinate or potential future subordinate, participate or not participate in any political activity, including the making of a campaign contribution.
- B. An employee may not engage in any political activity for the city while on duty, in uniform, using city funds, supplies, vehicles, or facilities during any period of time during which they are normally expected to perform services for the city for which compensation is paid.
- C. An officer or municipal candidate may not use city funds, supplies, vehicles or facilities while engaging in any political activity.

- SECTION 16. Patronage**A. No officer or employee may promise an appointment or use their influence to obtain an appointment to any position or ownership in any property or investment as a reward for any political activity or contribution.

**SECTION 17. Fees and Honoraria**

- A. An officer or employee shall not accept any compensation or honorarium in consideration for an appearance, speech, or article unless the appearance, speech, or article is both related to the officer's or employee's employment or activities outside of municipal service and is unrelated to the officer's or employee's service with the city.
- B. This section shall not preclude an officer or an employee from obtaining reasonable travel and travel-related expenses.

**SECTION 18. Endorsements**

- A. No officer or employee in their official capacity may publicly endorse products or services for their own personal or financial interest or for their family member's personal or financial interest.
- B. However, this does not prohibit an officer or employee from answering inquiries by other governmental officials, consumer organizations, or product information services regarding products or services.

**SECTION 19. Complicity with or Knowledge of Others' Violations**

- A. No officer or employee may directly or indirectly induce, encourage, or aid anyone to violate any provision of this code. If an officer or employee knows or has reasonable suspicion to believe that someone has violated this code, they are required to report it to the ethics board.

**SECTION 20. Falsely Impugning Reputation**

- A. An officer or employee may not publicly and intentionally falsely impugn the reputation of a city resident, employee, or another officer of the city. If an officer or employee believes their accusation to be true, and then learns that it was false, even in part, they should apologize in the same forum and manner where the accusations were made. A failure to apologize within a reasonable period of time (maximum of 90 days) after learning of the falseness of the accusations will create the presumption that the conduct was intentional.

**SECTION 21. Meeting Attendance**

- A. All elected city officers and members of city boards and commissions are expected to attend their meetings. It is a violation of this code to miss more than half of the official monthly regular city council meetings in a 12-month calendar period, absent a valid reason.

**SECTION 22. Email**

- A. City officials shall be provided with an official email address by the city clerk. This address must be separate from their personal email account.
- B. It is recommended that no official city business occur through a personal email account.
- C. City officials shall retain emails according to the KDLA Record Retention Schedule for emails. City officials shall direct any recordkeeping questions to the city clerk.

**FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

Annual financial disclosure reveals potential conflicts of interest before they arise and thus alerts the officer - and the citizenry - to those potential conflicts. Annual disclosure identifies potential ethical pitfalls which the official can then take steps to avoid. The decisions made by officials, officers, agencies, board members, and committees can have a major impact on public property and business values, and therefore the potential for conflict of interest, even the appearance of a conflict of interests, shall be avoided by all reasonable means.

**SECTION 23. Who Must File**

- A. The following classes of officers and employees of the city and city agencies shall file an annual statement of financial interests with the ethics board:
  - 1. Elected city officers
  - 2. Candidates for elected office
  - 3. Officers and employees who hold policymaking positions, including members of municipal boards, such as ethics boards, planning and zoning boards, boards of adjustment, code enforcement boards, economic development boards, and parks and recreation boards, as appropriate for each board.

**SECTION 24. When to File Statements and Amended Statements**

- A. All statements of financial interest shall be filed no later January 31 of each year, provided that:
  - 1. An officer or employee newly appointed to fill an office or position of employment with the city or a city agency shall file their initial statement no later than 30 days after the date of the appointment.

2. candidates for city office during the election year shall be required to file their initial statement no later than 30 days after the date on which the person becomes a candidate for elected office.
  3. Statements should be filed annually on a form developed by the ethics board or by regulations promulgated by the enforcement agent, no later than the date specified by the ordinance, with a provision for an extension of the deadline for good cause shown. by January 31<sup>st</sup>. New officers and employees should be required to file their initial statements within a specific period after the date of appointment or employment.
- B. The ethics board may grant a reasonable extension of time for filing a statement of financial interest for good cause shown, and reasonable extension on review of financial disclosure statements by the ethics board.
  - C. In the event there is a material change in any information contained in a financial statement that has been filed with the ethics board, the officer or employee shall, no later than 30 days after becoming aware of the material change, file an amended statement with the ethics board.
  - D. By June 15 of each year the ethics board must review all annual financial disclosure statements filed with it to determine whether any person required to file such a statement has failed to file it, has filed a deficient statement, or has filed a statement that reveals a potential violation of this code. If the ethics board determines that an annual or transactional disclosure statement is deficient or reveals a potential violation of this code, the ethics board will notify the person in writing of the deficiency, potential violation, and of the potential penalties for failure to comply with this code.

**SECTION 25. Form of the Statement of Financial Interests**

- A. The statement of financial interests shall be filed on a form prescribed by the ethics board or the administrative official designated by the ethics board.
- B. The ethics board, along with the city clerk, will annually review the list of officials and employees required to file annual disclosure.
- C. The city clerk shall deliver a copy of the form to each official and employee required to file the statement by first class mail, email, or hand delivery no later than January 1st of each year, with written instructions how to complete the form and due date.
- D. The failure of the ethics board or the designated administrative official to deliver a copy of the form to any official or employee shall not relieve the officer or employee of the obligation to file the statement.

**SECTION 26. Control and Maintenance of the Statements of Financial Interests**

- A. The city clerk shall be the "official custodian" of the statements of financial interests and shall have control over the maintenance of the statements of financial interests. The statements of financial interests shall be available for public inspection immediately upon filing.
- B. A statement of financial interests shall be retained by the city clerk pursuant to the KDLA Record Retention Schedule as follows:
  - 1. Upon the expiration of two years after a person ceases to be an officer or employee of the city or a city agency, the ethics board may have any statements of financial interests or copies of those statements filed by the person destroyed.
  - 2. Upon the expiration of two years after any election at which a candidate for elected city office was not elected or nominated, the ethics board may have any statements of financial interests or copies of those statements filed by the person destroyed.

**SECTION 27** Contents of the Financial Interests Statement

- A. The statement of financial interests shall include the following information for the preceding calendar year:
  - 1. The name, current business address, business telephone number, and home address of the filer
  - 2. The title of the filer's office, office sought, or position of employment
  - 3. The occupation of the filer and the occupation of the filer's spouse or domestic partner
  - 4. The name and address of any business, if the business has engaged in any business transactions with the city during the past three years, or is anticipated to engage in any business transactions with the city, in which the filer or any member of the filer's immediate family had at any time during the preceding calendar year an interest of \$10,000 at fair market value or 5% ownership interest or more.
  - 5. The address of any real property in which the filer, their spouse, or domestic partner holds in an interest of at least \$10,000 during the preceding calendar year.
  - 6. Each source, by name and address, of gifts, campaign contributions, or honoraria having an aggregate fair market value of \$500 or more from any single source, excluding gifts received from family members, received by the filer, or any member of the filer's immediate family during the preceding calendar year.

- B. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require any officer or employee to disclose any specific dollar amounts, nor the names of individual clients, nor customers of businesses listed as sources of income.

**SECTION 28. Noncompliance with Filing Requirement**

- A. The ethics board or the designated administrative official shall notify each person required to file a statement of financial interests who fails to file the statement by the due date, files an incomplete statement, or files a statement in a form other than that prescribed by the ethics board. The notice shall specify the type of failure or delinquency, shall establish a date by which the failure or delinquency shall be remedied, and shall advise the person of the penalties for a violation.
- B. Any person who fails or refuses to file the statement or remedy a deficiency in the filing identified in the notice under subsection (A) within the time established in the notice shall be guilty of a civil offense and shall be subject to a civil fine imposed by the ethics board in an amount not to exceed \$25 per day, up to a maximum civil fine of \$500. Any civil fine imposed by the ethics board, under this section, may be recovered by the city in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender fails or refuses to pay the penalty within a prescribed period of time.
- C. Any person who intentionally files a statement of financial interests which they know contains false information or intentionally omits required information, may be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

**ENFORCEMENT**

**SECTION 29. Ethics Commission Created**

- A. There is hereby created an ethics commission (sometimes referred to a “board”) which shall have the authorities, duties, and responsibilities as set forth in this ordinance to enforce the provisions of this ordinance.
- B. The ethics board shall consist of three members who shall be appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval of the city council, for staggered terms of 4 years.
- C. An ethics board member will serve until their successor has been appointed in the same manner as the original appointment.
- D. Each member of the ethics board shall reside in the city throughout the term in office and shall not be a family member of a city employee or officer. The members of the ethics board shall be chosen by their known and consistent reputation for integrity and their knowledge of local government affairs.

- E. A member of the ethics board may be removed by the executive authority subject to the approval of the legislative body for misconduct, incapacity, or willful neglect of duties. Before any member of the ethics board is removed from office under this section, the member shall be afforded the opportunity for a hearing before the executive authority and the legislative body.
- F. Vacancies on the ethics board shall be filled within 60 days by the Mayor subject to the approval of the legislative body. If a vacancy is not filled by the executive authority within 60 days, the City Council shall fill the vacancy. All vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- G. Members of the ethics board shall serve without compensation unless otherwise approved by the legislative body but shall be reimbursed for all necessary and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.
- H. The ethics board shall elect a chairperson from among the membership annually at the initial meeting. The chairperson shall be the presiding officer and a full voting member of the ethics board.
- I. Meetings of the ethics board may be held, as necessary, upon the call of the chairperson or at the written request of a majority of the members. The ethics board shall follow the Open Meetings Act for all meetings.
- J. The presence of a majority or more members shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of a majority or more members shall be necessary for any official action to be taken. Any member of the ethics board who has a conflict of interest with respect to any matter to be considered by the ethics board shall disclose the nature of the conflict, shall disqualify themselves from voting on the matter, and shall not be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum by removing themselves from the meeting room for the duration of the consideration of the matter.
- K. Minutes shall be kept for all proceedings of the ethics board and the vote of each member on any issue decided by the ethics board shall be recorded in the minutes.

**SECTION 30. Alternate Members**

- A. The executive authority of the city, with the approval of the legislative body, may appoint alternate members of the ethics board, who may be called upon to serve when any regular member of the ethics board is unable to discharge their duties. An alternate member shall be appointed for a term of three (3) year(s). Alternate members shall meet all qualifications and be subject to all of the requirements of this ordinance that apply to regular members.

**SECTION 31. Facilities and Staff**

- A. Within the limits of the funds appropriated by the legislative body in the annual budget, the city shall provide the ethics board with the facilities, materials, supplies, and staff needed for the conduct of its business.

**SECTION 32. Annual Meeting**

- A. The ethics board will elect a chair and a vice chair from among its regular members and set a plan for any obligations for the year, including any annual reports, reviews of disclosures, etc. A majority of the regular members is required to take any action. The chair or a majority of the regular members may call a meeting of the ethics board.

**SECTION 33. Power and Duties of the Ethics Board**

- A. The ethics board shall have the following powers and duties:
  - 1. To reject a complaint that is not within the jurisdiction of the ethics board.
  - 2. To initiate on its own motion a complaint, receive a complaint from outside of the ethics board, investigate those complaints, hold hearings, and make findings of fact and determinations with regard to alleged violations of the provisions of this ordinance
  - 3. To issue orders in connection with its investigations and hearings requiring persons to submit in writing, under oath, reports and answers to questions that are relevant to the proceedings and to order testimony to be taken by deposition before any individual designated by the ethics board who has the power to administer oaths
  - 4. To administer oaths and to issue orders requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of documentary evidence relating to an investigation or hearing being conducted by the ethics board
  - 5. To refer any information concerning violations of this ordinance to the executive authority of the city, the city legislative body, the governing body of any city agency, the county attorney, or other appropriate persons, body, or bodies, as necessary
  - 6. To render advisory opinions to city and city agency officers and employees regarding whether a given set of facts and circumstances would constitute a violation of any provision of this ordinance
  - 7. To enforce the provisions of this ordinance with regard to all officers, employees of the city, and city agencies who are subject to its terms by issuing appropriate orders and imposing penalties authorized by this ordinance

8. To control and maintain all statements of financial interests that are required to be filed by this ordinance and to ensure that the statements are available for public inspection in accordance with the requirements of this ordinance and the Open Records Act
9. To adopt rules and regulations and to take other actions as necessary to implement the provisions of this ordinance, provided that the rules, regulations, and actions are not in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance or any state or federal laws
10. To provide training and education on the city ethics code to officials and employees
11. To prepare and submit an annual report and any recommended changes to this code to the legislative body and to develop and submit any reports regarding the conduct of its business that may be required by the executive authority or legislative body of the city
12. The ethics board along with the city clerk will annually review the list of officials and employees required to file annual disclosure statements to determine whether the lists are complete and accurate
13. The ethics board will prepare forms for complaints, financial disclosure statements, and will make these forms available at the city clerk's office and on the city's website for easy downloading.
14. The ethics board shall review all annual financial disclosure statements filed with it to determine whether any person required to file such a statement has failed to file, has filed a deficient statement, or has filed a statement that reveals a potential violation of this code. If the ethics board determines that an annual or transactional disclosure statement is deficient or reveals a potential violation of this code, the ethics board will notify the person in writing of the deficiency, potential violation, and of the penalties for failure to comply with this code.

**SECTION 34. Training and Education**

- A. The ethics board will, after passage or amendment of the ethics code, make this ethics code available to all officials, employees, candidates, and to municipal residents.
- B. The ethics board will attempt to hold annual workshops for new and experienced officials, ethics board members, and employees to discuss this code, its values and goals, its enforcement, and the ways in which it has affected the officials' and employees' work and the working of the city government.

**SECTION 35. Annual Reports and Annual Review of Ethics Code**

- A. The ethics board shall prepare and submit an annual report to the council summarizing the activities, decisions, and advisory opinions of the ethics board. The report may also recommend changes to the text or administration of this ethics code. The report if any should be filed with the city clerk and made available for inspection and copying upon proper application
- B. The ethics board will periodically (no less than every five years) review this ethics code, the enforcement of the ethics code, and the ethics board's rules, regulations, and administrative procedures to determine whether they promote integrity, public confidence, and participation in city government, and whether they set forth clear and enforceable, common-sense standards of conduct.

**SECTION 36. Filing and Investigation of Complaints**

- A. All complaints alleging any violation of the provisions of this ordinance shall be submitted to the ethics board or the administrative official designated by the ethics board. All complaints shall be in writing, signed by the complainant, and shall meet any other requirements established by the ethics board. The ethics board shall acknowledge receipt of a complaint to the complainant within 10 working days from the date of receipt. The ethics board shall forward within 10 working days to each officer or employee of the city or city agency who is the subject of the complaint, a copy of the complaint and a general statement of the applicable provisions of this ordinance.
- B. The ethics board may, on its own initiative, determine through an inquiry into informal allegations, information provided directly to the ethics board, by referral, or otherwise that a violation of this code may exist and prepare a complaint of its own. The ethics board may also amend a complaint that has been filed with it by adding further allegations, adding respondents involved in the same conduct, directly or indirectly, by action or inaction, by deleting allegations that would not constitute a violation of this code, by deleting allegations that have been made against persons or entities not covered by this code, or by deleting allegations that do not appear to be supported by the facts. The ethics board may also consolidate complaints where the allegations are materially related. Amended complaints must be sent to the complainant and respondent by the ethics board.
- C. Within 30 days of the receipt of a proper complaint, the ethics board shall conduct a preliminary inquiry concerning the allegations contained in the complaint. The ethics board shall afford the person who is the subject of the complaint an opportunity to respond to the allegations in the complaint. The person shall have the right to be represented by counsel, to appear and be heard under oath, and to offer evidence in response to the allegations.
- D. The person who is the subject of the complaint (respondent), may file with the ethics board a response to the complaint within 30 days after their receipt of the complaint. The response, if there is any, must be sent to the person filing the original complaint (complainant) by the ethics board within five days after its

filing. Within 15 days after receipt, the complainant may also file with the ethics board a response to the respondent's response which the ethics board must send to the respondent within five days after its filing.

- E. Extensions of time to any of the time limitations specified in this section may be granted by the ethics board upon a vote of the majority of the members. If no meeting can be held before such time limit runs, the chair may extend the time frame until the following meeting. The ethics board must give written notice of any extensions of time to the respondent and the complainant.
- F. All proceedings and records relating to a preliminary inquiry being conducted by the ethics board shall be confidential until a final determination is made by the ethics board, except:
  - 1. The ethics board may turn over to the commonwealth attorney or county attorney evidence which may be used in criminal proceedings.
  - 2. If the complainant or alleged violator publicly discloses the existence of a preliminary inquiry, the ethics board may publicly confirm the existence of the inquiry, and, at its discretion, make public any documents which were issued to either party.
- G. The ethics board shall make a determination based on its preliminary inquiry whether the complaint is within its jurisdiction, and if so, whether it alleges a minimal factual basis to constitute reasonable suspicion as to a violation of this ordinance. If the ethics board concludes that the complaint is outside of its jurisdiction, frivolous, or without factual basis, the ethics board shall immediately terminate or dismiss the inquiry, reduce the opinion to writing, and transmit a copy of its decision to the complainant and to all officers or employees against whom the complaint was filed.
- H. If the ethics board concludes, based upon its preliminary inquiry, that the complaint is within its jurisdiction and contains allegations sufficient to establish a minimal factual basis to constitute reasonable suspicion as to a violation, the ethics board shall notify the officer or employee who is the subject of the complaint and may initiate a hearing to determine whether there has been a violation.
- I. If a complaint is accepted or prepared pursuant to subsection (A), the ethics board must conduct an investigation. From this point on, the complainant may not withdraw their complaint, although they may request that the ethics board either make a finding of no probable cause or no violation.
- J. In conducting an investigation, the ethics board may administer oaths, affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, and require the production of any books or records it deems relevant and material. The police department and all city agencies, bodies, officials, and employees are required to respond fully and truthfully to all inquiries and cooperate with all requests of the ethics board or its agents relating to an investigation. It is a violation of this code

for any official or employee to deny access to information requested by the ethics board in the course of an investigation or a public hearing, except to the extent that such denial is required by federal, state, or local laws.

- K. Nothing in this section may be construed to permit the ethics board to conduct an investigation of itself, any of its members, or staff. If the ethics board receives a complaint alleging that the ethics board, any of its members, or staff has violated any provision of this code or any other law, the ethics board must promptly transmit to the legislative body a copy of the complaint.
- L. Any person who knowingly files with the ethics board a false complaint alleging a violation of any provision of this ordinance by an officer or employee of the city or any city agency, may be guilty of a Class A misdemeanor.

**SECTION 37. Notice of Hearings.**

- A. If the ethics board determines that a hearing regarding allegations contained in the complaint is necessary, the ethics board shall issue an order setting the matter for a hearing within 30 days of the date the order is issued, unless the respondent petitions for and the ethics board consents to a later date. The order setting the matter for hearing, along with a copy of any pertinent regulations of the ethics board relating to the hearing, shall be sent to the respondent within 24 hours of the time the order setting a hearing is issued.

**SECTION 38. Hearing Procedure**

- A. The Kentucky Rules of Civil Procedure and the Kentucky Rules of Evidence shall not apply to hearings conducted by the ethics board; however, the hearings shall be conducted in accordance with this section and in accordance with any additional rules and regulations adopted by the ethics board so as to afford all parties the full range of due process rights required by the nature of the proceedings.
- B. Prior to the commencement of the hearing, the respondent or their representative shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine all documents and records obtained or prepared by the ethics board in connection with the matter to be heard. The ethics board shall inform the alleged violator or their representative of any exculpatory evidence in its possession, and provide a full copy of that evidence to the respondent or their attorney.
- C. All testimony in an ethics board hearing shall be taken under oath, administered by the presiding officer. All parties shall have the right to call and examine witnesses, introduce exhibits, cross-examine witnesses, submit evidence, and to be represented by counsel. All witnesses shall have the right to be represented by counsel.
- D. Any person whose name may be adversely affected thereby may appear personally before the ethics board with or without counsel to give a statement

regarding the adverse mention or may file a written statement regarding the adverse mention for incorporation into the record of the proceeding.

- E. All hearings of the ethics board shall be public unless the members vote to go into executive session in accordance with KRS 61.810(f).
- F. After the conclusion of the hearing, the ethics board shall, as soon as practicable, begin deliberations in executive session for the purpose of reviewing the evidence before it. The ethics board must make a determination, in open session, whether a violation of this ordinance has been proven. Within 30 days after completion of the hearing, the ethics board shall issue a written report of its findings and conclusions.
- G. If the ethics board concludes in its report that no violation of this ordinance has occurred, it shall immediately send written notice of this determination to the respondent and to the complainant.
- H. If the ethics board concludes in its report that, in consideration of the evidence produced at the hearing, there is clear and convincing proof of a violation of this ordinance, the ethics board shall within 15 days after the appeals period has passed:
  - 1. Issue an order requiring the respondent to cease and desist the violation.
  - 2. In writing, may publicly reprimand the respondent for the violations and provide a copy of the reprimand to the executive authority and legislative body of the city or governing body of the city agency with which the respondent serves.
  - 3. In writing, recommend that the executive authority and the legislative body consider taking formal action against the respondent.
  - 4. Issue an order requiring the respondent to pay a civil penalty of not more than \$500.
  - 5. Refer evidence of criminal violations of this ordinance or state laws to the county attorney or commonwealth attorney of the jurisdiction for prosecution.

### **SECTION 39. Appeals**

- A. Any person who is found guilty of a violation of any provision of this ordinance by the ethics board may appeal the finding to the circuit court of the county within 30 days after the date of the final action by the ethics board by filing a petition with the court against the ethics board. The ethics board shall transmit to the clerk of the court all evidence considered by the ethics board at the public hearing.

### **SECTION 40. Limitation of Actions**

- A. Except when the period of limitation is otherwise established by state law, an action for a violation of this ordinance must be brought within one year after the violation is discovered.

**SECTION 41. Advisory Opinions**

- A. The ethics board may render advisory opinions concerning matters under its jurisdiction, based upon real or hypothetical facts and circumstances, upon its own initiative, when requested by any officer or employee of the city or a city agency covered by this ordinance.
- B. An advisory opinion shall be requested in writing and shall state relevant facts and ask specific questions. The request for an advisory opinion shall remain confidential unless confidentiality is waived in writing by the requestor. Any proposed advisory opinion filed by the requesting party shall be submitted to the ethics board's legal counsel for review prior to the issuing of the advisory opinion.
- C. All advisory opinions shall be public documents, except that before an advisory opinion is made public, it shall be redacted so that the identity of any person associated with the opinion shall not be revealed.
- E. A written advisory opinion issued by the ethics board shall be binding on the ethics board in any subsequent proceeding concerning the facts and circumstances of the particular case, if no intervening facts or circumstances arise, which would change the opinion of the ethics board if they existed at the time the opinion was rendered. However, if any fact determined by the ethics board to be material was omitted or misstated in the request for an opinion, the ethics board shall not be bound by the opinion.
- F. A written advisory opinion issued by the ethics board may be admissible in the defense of any criminal prosecution or civil proceeding for violations of this ordinance for actions taken in reliance on that opinion.
- G. Advisory opinions will be indexed and maintained on file by the ethics board, by the city clerk, and will also be available on the city website with unnecessary financial and personal details redacted. Officers, employees, and businesses shall be notified about advisory opinions that may directly affect their conduct.

**SECTION 42. Retaliation Against Persons Disclosing Violations Prohibited**

- A. No officer or employee of the city or any city agency shall be subject to retaliation. No officer or employee of the city or any city agency shall use or threaten to use any official authority or influence in any manner whatsoever which tends to discourage, restrain, deter, prevent, interfere with, coerce, or discriminate against any person who, in good faith, reports, discloses, divulges, or otherwise brings to the attention of the ethics board, any other agency, officer of the city, or the commonwealth, any facts or information relative to an actual or suspected violation of this ordinance.

- B. This section shall not be construed as:
1. Prohibiting disciplinary or punitive action if an officer or employee of the city or any city agency discloses information which they know:
    - a. To be false or which they disclose with reckless disregard for its truth or falsity.
    - b. To be exempt from required disclosure under the provisions of the Kentucky Open Records Act, KRS 61.870 to 61.884.
    - c. Is confidential under any other provision of law.

**SECTION 43. Penalties**

- A. Except when another penalty is specifically set forth in this ordinance or by state or federal laws, any officer or employee of the city or any city agency who is found by the ethics board to have violated any provision of this ordinance may be deemed guilty of a civil offense and may be subject to a civil fine imposed by the ethics board not to exceed \$500, which may be recovered by the city in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender fails to pay the penalty within a prescribed period of time.
- B. In addition to all other penalties which may be imposed under this ordinance, any officer or employee of the city or any city agency who is found by the ethics board to have violated any provision of this ordinance may forfeit to the city or the city agency an amount equal to the economic benefit or gain, which the officer or employee is determined by the ethics board to have realized as a result of the violation. The amount of any forfeiture may be recovered by the city in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender fails to pay the amount of the forfeiture within a prescribed period of time.
- C. In addition to all other penalties which may be imposed under this ordinance, a finding by the ethics board that an officer or employee of the city or any city agency is guilty of a violation of this ordinance may be sufficient cause for disciplinary action. Any action to remove or discipline any officer or employee for violation of this ordinance shall be taken in accordance with all applicable ordinances and regulations of the city and all applicable laws of the commonwealth.

**SECTION 44. Severability**

- A. If any provision of this ordinance is deemed by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions of this ordinance shall continue in full force and effect.

This ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication according to KRS 83A.060.

First reading: June 1st, 2026

Second reading: July 6th, 2026

Vote: For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

So Enacted This \_\_\_\_\_ Day Of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
John W. Black, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

LaGrange Code of Ethics 2026 (Revised at 4.13.26 Special Meeting)

**CITY OF LAGRANGE, KENTUCKY  
ORDINANCE NO. 8 SERIES 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY OF LAGRANGE, KENTUCKY ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2027 BY ESTIMATING FUNDS FOR OPERATIONS  
OF CITY GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, an annual budget has been prepared and delivered to the City Council of  
Lagrange, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed such budget and accepted same as presented;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGRANGE, KENTUCKY;

**SECTION I**

The annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027, is hereby  
adopted as follows:

REVENUE DESCRIPTION	26-27 ANNUAL BUDGET
PROPERTY TAX & PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX	1,950,000
PROPERTY TAX-MOTOR VEHICLE	150,000
DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAX COLLECTED	80,000
FRANCHISE TAX	300,000
OMITTED TANGIBLE TAX	4,000
BUSINESS LICENSE	400,000
GARBAGE COMMISSION (LaGrange Utilities)	456,000
10% INSURANCE TAX	2,400,000
MISCELLANEOUS INC.	20,000
PENALTIES	10,000
INTEREST INCOME	150,000
UTILITY TAX (Telecommunications)	40,000
MINE & MINERAL SEV. TAX	5,000
RECEIVED KLEFPF	50,000
KLEFPF PORTION RETIREMENT	15,000
HOUSE BILL 413	10,000
DISCOUNTS(PROPERTY TAX)	(40,000)
ENCROACHMENT FEES	5,000
BANK SHARES	155,000
FEDERAL OVERTIME	12,000
ABC LICENSE FEES (annual only)	15,000
COMMUNITY CENTER/PARK RENTALS	28,000
COMPENSATION TAX REVENUE	3,275,000
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER	49,500
OLDHAM RESERVE LAND SALES	300,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE</b>	<b>9,839,500</b>

RESERVE TO TRANSFER	1,787,352
<b>GRAND TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>11,626,852</b>
<b>EXPENSE DESCRIPTION</b>	
ADMINISTRATION	1,985,522
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS	2,902,222
PARKS	1,100,538
POLICE DEPARTMENT	2,928,261
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT	2,502,336
CODE ENFORCEMENT	207,973
<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>11,626,852</b>

**SECTION II**

**INTRODUCED, SECONDED AND ADOPTED**, at a duly convened meeting of the Governing Body, held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, after first reading held on July 6, 2026, signed by the Mayor of the City of LaGrange, attested by the City Clerk, filed, and indexed as provided by law.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon its passage, approval, and publication, according to law, shall continue until amended or until June 30, 2027, whichever should first occur.

First Reading - July 6, 2026

Second Reading - \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

So approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
**JOHN W. BLACK, MAYOR**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk or Designee

**CITY OF LA GRANGE, KENTUCKY  
ORDINANCE NO. 14, SERIES 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE ADOPTION OF  
SIGN REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY OF LA GRANGE**

**WHEREAS**, the current regulations for proposed signs on any private property located in the city of La Grange essentially adopt the same requirements as set out in Division 91 of the Oldham County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, more specifically, Sections 290-010 through 290-180, which are based strictly on the zoning district in which the property is located according to a zoning map defined by the Oldham County Planning and Zoning Commission rather than the predominant nature of buildings and uses in a reasonably defined local area.

**WHEREAS**, the city council now wishes to adopt sign regulations and standards that are substantially similar to the County regulations with respect to dimensional elements, such as sign size and height, setback distance, placement, lighting, type, and number, but have greater flexibility for application considering the predominant nature and use of surrounding buildings in a reasonably-defined smaller area or neighborhood, as opposed to the strict application of lines drawn on a map of the entire county, sometimes including properties or clusters of properties that do not fit the district in which they were placed.

**WHEREAS**, the City Council of La Grange now wishes to repeal existing City Code Section 153.02 relating to sign permit requirements (Ord. 15-2014, passed 8-14-2014) and create a new **Chapter 158** regarding sign regulations and standards in the City of La Grange.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF LA GRANGE:**

**Part I. Section 153.02 of the La Grange Code of Ordinances regarding Sign Permit Requirements is hereby REPEALED in its entirety.**

**Part 2. Pursuant to the provisions of KRS 83A.060, a new Chapter 158 regarding Sign Regulations and Standards is hereby created, and the general provisions of Sections 158.01 through 158.50 thereof (true copies of which are attached hereto and incorporated hereby by reference), are hereby adopted in full and made a part of this ordinance the same as if fully set out in their entirety herein.**

This ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication per KRS 424.

First reading: \_\_\_\_\_

Second reading: \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE: Yea \_\_\_\_\_ Nay \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

SO APPROVED and adopted this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN W. BLACK, Mayor\

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Woodcox, City Clerk

ATTACHMENT: Proposed Sign Ordinance-City of La Grange-V8.8 Final.PDF

File ID: 2016-14 Sign Regulations V2F R1.docx (7-2-26)

## **CHAPTER 158: SIGN REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS**

### General Provisions

- 158.01 Purpose
- 158.02 Application of chapter
- 158.03 Definitions
- 158.04 Administrative authority
- 158.05 Regulation specifications; determination of sign area and placement
- 158.06 Nonconforming signs
- 158.20 Permit required
- 158.21 Application for permit
- 158.22 Permit fee
- 158.23 Permit review; issuance; recording
- 158.24 Exempt signs not requiring sign permit
- 158.25 Temporary signs requiring sign permit
- 158.26 Permanent signs requiring permit
- 158.27 Electronic signs
- 158.30 Murals
- 158.40 Certain signs prohibited
- 158.50 Variances and appeals

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

#### **158.01 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this sign ordinance is to:

1. Promote a healthy business climate by encouraging signage to be compatible with the surrounding area and promote the effective use of signs.
2. Create a legal framework for a comprehensive and balanced system of signage to facilitate easy and pleasant communication between people and their environment.
3. Reduce clutter and enhance the aesthetic environment of the city to ensure the protection of property values and protect the character of various neighborhoods.
4. Eliminate safety hazards due to collapse, fire, collusion, decay, or abandonment.

5. Promote the safety of people and property by requiring that signs do not create traffic hazards by distracting or confusing motorists, or impairing motorist's ability to see pedestrians, other vehicles, obstacles, or to read traffic signs.

## **158.02 APPLICATION OF CHAPTER**

The requirements of this section shall apply to all businesses, private entities or individuals erecting signs in the city limits of La Grange. Certain signs that are exempt from the requirements of this section are addressed in Section 158.24.

## **158.03 DEFINITIONS**

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

**ABANDONED SIGN** - A permitted sign which was erected on property in conjunction with a particular use, that use having been subsequently discontinued for a period of 12 months or more, or a permitted temporary sign for which the permit has expired.

**AWNING** - A cloth or other nonstructural covering that either is permanently attached to a building or can be raised or retracted to a position against the building when not in use.

**BANNER** - A temporary sign of cloth, paper, fabric or other material sign that is mounted on any wall, window or other surface that identifies the business, commercial or retail center or a specific event.

**BARE-BULB ILLUMINATION**. A light source which consists of light bulbs with a (20 watt maximum wattage) for each bulb.

**BRICK WALL** - A vertical element of construction made of bricks and mortar and is used to form the external walls of buildings, parapets, internal partitions, freestanding walls, retaining walls, and so on. Sometimes used to display large signs, like murals or billboards. Not to be confused with cinder blocks.

**BUILDING** - A structure having a roof supported by columns or walls and for the shelter or enclosure for people, animals, materials or property of any kind.

**BUILDING FRONTAGE** - The side of a building abutting a street. It is possible for a structure to have multiple building frontages.

**BUSINESS** - The use of a building for retail or commercial activity.

**CINDER BLOCKS** - A hollow rectangular building block made of cement and coal cinders which has a lesser standard of protection from historic brick walls.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER** - The designated government official whose responsibility it is to administer and enforce the provisions of this chapter. These activities may include, but are not limited to, reviewing applications for sign permits, corresponding and/or

meeting with applicants, issuing and denying sign permits, inspecting signs and interpreting and enforcing the provisions of this chapter.

COMMERCIAL – Any building occupied only by commercial use.

CONTENT-NEUTRAL - Regulation of signs that does not require subjective evaluation of underlying messages or images relative to acceptable community standards.

DIRECTIONAL SIGN - A sign that provides directional assistance for the convenience of the public such as location of exits, entrances and parking lots.

DOUBLE-FACED SIGN - A sign with two faces which are back-to-back and have a common set of supports.

ELECTRONIC SIGN — A sign whose message, display, or images are composed of light-emitting diodes (LEDs) or other similar digital or electronic components that can be changed or altered electronically or by remote control.

FLASHING ILLUMINATION - A light source which in whole or in part, physically changes in light intensity or color or gives the appearance of such change.

FOOTCANDLE – A unit of measure for illuminance on a surface that is everywhere one foot from a point source of light of one candle, and equal to one lumen per square foot of area. Most IES standard adopt a 50 foot-candle sign-face lumens.

FREE-STANDING SIGN - The general term used for any on-premises sign which is supported from the ground and not attached to a building.

FRONTAGE - The side of a lot abutting a street. It is possible for a lot to have multiple frontages.

GLARE - The sensation produced in the visual field by excessive light production causing annoyance, discomfort, or temporary loss of visibility, especially at night.

HEIGHT - The vertical distance measured from the average grade within a ten-foot radius of the adjacent right- of-way or parking lot to the highest point of the sign, excluding the distance from the ground to the bottom of the sign.

The diagram shows a cross-section of a sign structure. A rectangular sign is mounted on a curved base. A dashed horizontal line represents the 'AVERAGE ELEVATION OF GRADE WITHIN A 10'-0" RADIUS OF SIGN'. A vertical dimension line labeled 'SIGN HEIGHT' measures the distance from this dashed line to the top of the sign. The sign itself is labeled 'SIGN'. The curved base is labeled 'BERM'. A solid horizontal line at the bottom is labeled 'GRADE'.

3

IDENTIFICATION SIGN - A permanent sign which identifies an office park, industrial park, multi-family complex, retail center, shopping center or subdivision (such as a single-family residential district).

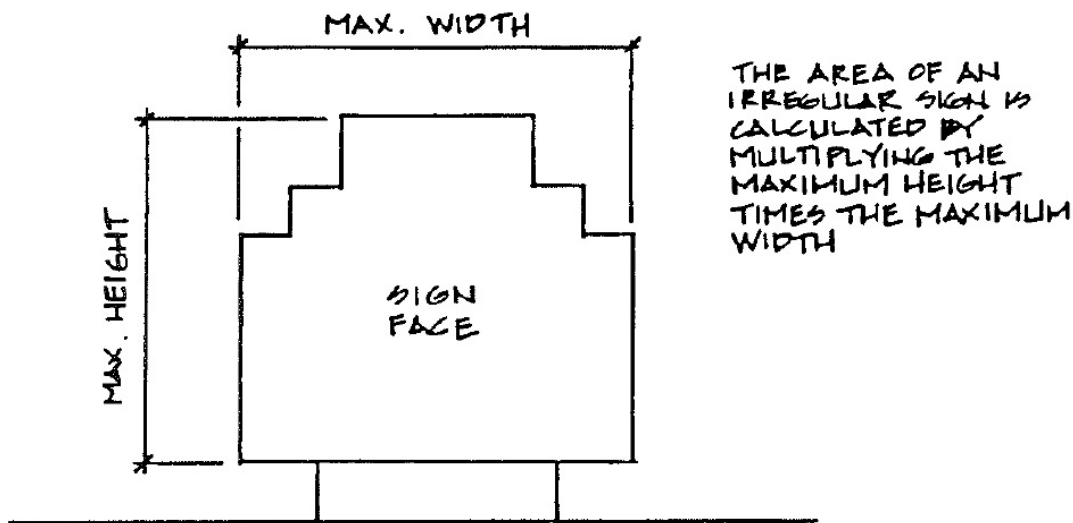
ILLUMINATION -

- (1) BACKLIGHTING. A light source which is mounted behind opaque letters or symbols to illuminate the surface behind the letter or symbols creating a silhouette effect.
- (2) EXTERNAL. Any light source which is not internal.
- (3) INDIRECT. A light source which is not a part of the sign but which illuminates the sign from a distance but is not seen directly.
- (4) INTERNAL. A light source contained or concealed within the sign itself
- (5) DIRECT LIGHTING. A light source that is directed upon the surface of the sign.

ILLUMINATED SIGN - A sign lighted by or exposed to artificial lighting either by lights on or in the sign or directed toward the sign.

INFLATABLE SIGN - Any display capable of being expanded by air or other gas and used on a permanent or temporary basis to advertise a product or event.

IRREGULAR SIGN AREA -



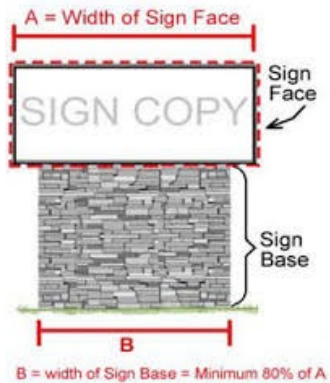
LIGHTING - The deliberate use of light to achieve practical or aesthetic effects.

LIGHT TRESPASS - Light emitted from a lighting fixture that shines beyond the boundaries of the property on which the fixture is located.

MARQUEE - A structure other than a roof attached to, supported by and protecting from a building as in a theater entrance.

MONUMENT AREA - The supporting framework, bracing or structure of the monument not including the sign area.

**MONUMENT SIGN** - A freestanding sign with a base affixed to the ground which measures at least two-thirds the horizontal width of the sign face.



**MOVEMENT** - Physical movement or revolution up or down, around or sideways.

**MULTI-TENANT SIGN** - A sign that includes the names of two or more businesses, places, organizations, buildings, or persons it identifies.

**MURAL** - A work of art applied directly upon a wall or building that is not an advertisement for products or services, which is exempt from the dimensional regulations for signs.

**NEON LIGHTS** - Lighting is produced by electro phosphorescence of certain gases inside glass tubing shaped into words or figures.

**NONCONFORMING SIGN** - A sign that met all legal requirements when constructed but that is not in compliance with this chapter.

**NORMAL AVERAGE GRADE** - The lower of existing average grade prior to construction/installation or the newly established average grade after construction/installation.

**OFFICE** - a place for doing business or other commercial activities

**OFFICE CENTER** - A form of commercial building which contains offices or spaces mainly designed for office activities primarily for transaction of services or information technology.

**ON-SITE INFORMATIONAL SIGN** - A sign commonly associated with, but not limited to, information and directions necessary or convenient for visitors coming on the property, including signs marking entrances and exits, parking areas, circulation direction, rest rooms, and pickup and delivery areas.

**PARAPET** - The extension of the main walls of a building above the roof level.

**PENNANT** - Any lightweight plastic, fabric or other material with or without a logo, suspended from a rope, wire, string or two corners, in series with like materials, creating an impression of a line and designed to move in the wind.

**PERMANENT SIGN** - A sign or advertising display constructed of durable materials attached to a building, structure or the ground and intended to be displayed for the duration of time that the use or occupant is located on the premises.

**PIXEL PITCH** — The distance, measured in millimeters, between the centers of two adjacent pixels on an electronic display.

**PROPERTY LINE** - A line of record bounding a lot that divides one lot from another lot or from a public or private street or any other public space.

**RESIDENTIAL** - Consists predominantly of one or more dwelling units or rooming units, and any common areas, including one-family and two-family houses, multifamily dwellings or apartment hotels.

**RETAIL** - The sale of a product or service to an individual consumer for personal use.

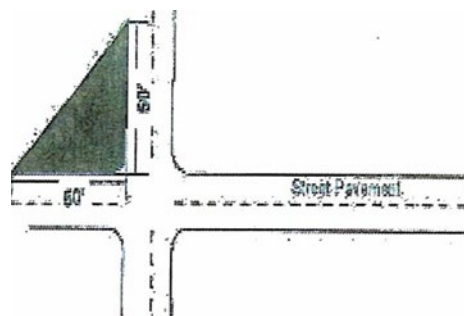
**RETAIL CENTER** - A group of retail and other commercial establishments that is planned, developed, owned, and managed as a single property with on-site parking. May also be known as a shopping center.

**RIGHT-OF-WAY** - A strip of land determined on a site-specific basis that includes a roadway, sidewalk or railroad to accommodate traffic and safety requirements, utilities, environmental issues, and maintenance.

**ROOF SIGN** - A sign which is displayed on the roof or above the eaves of the building.

**SHOPPING CENTER** - A group of retail stores and services establishments usually designed to serve community of neighborhood.

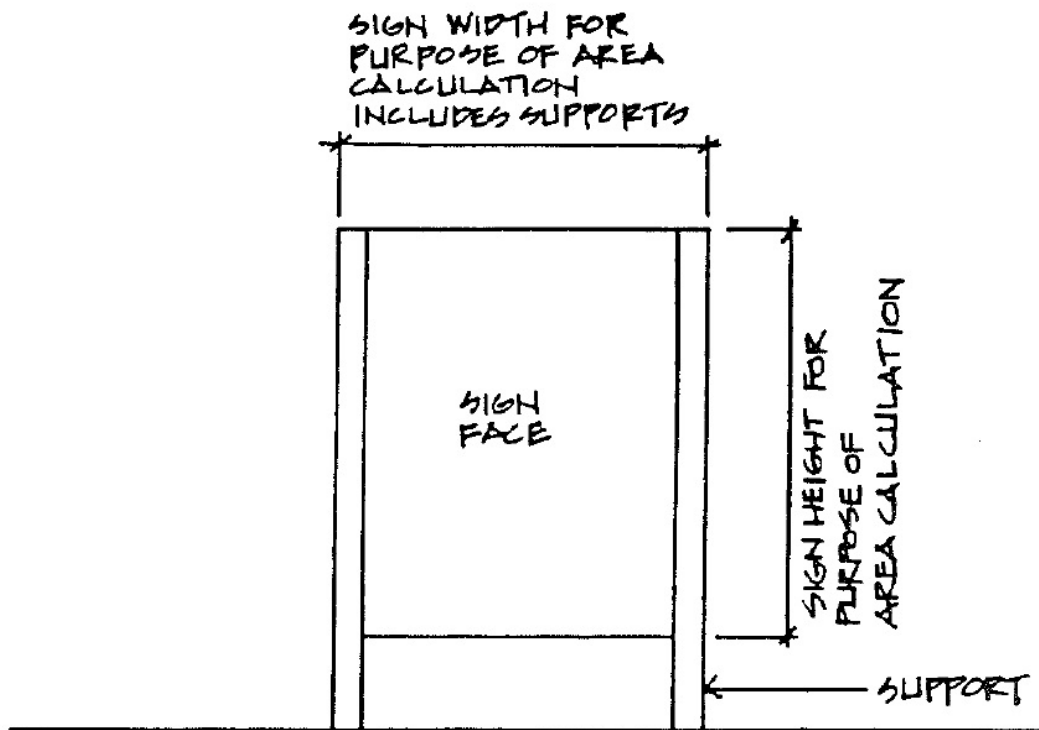
**SIGHT TRIANGLE** - The triangular area formed by an invisible diagonal line at the corner of either two intersecting street right-of-way lines, the edge of street lines, the edge of a driveway or combination of two thereof within which no obstruction may be placed which would block the sight lines for vehicular traffic.



**SIGN** - Any device, display, or structure that is visible from a public place, public right-of-way, or adjacent property and that has words, letters, figures, designs, symbols, logos, illumination, or projected images.

**SIGN AREA** - The square foot area of a sign which is determined by multiplying the height and width of the sign. The width is the horizontal length of the sign from its greatest protrusion on its left to its greatest protrusion on the right, including supports. For the purpose of measuring the sign area, the height is the vertical length of the sign from its

greatest protrusion on the top to its greatest protrusion on the bottom, but not including the base of a monument sign or other ground supports.



**SIGN FACE** - The area or display surface used for the message.

**SIGN HEIGHT** - The distance from grade to the highest point on the sign structure. Any raised landscaped bed or foundation the sign may rest upon shall be included in the total sign height.

**SIGN PERMIT** - Document issued by the Code Enforcement Office to the sign applicant granting permission to construct or install a sign.

**STRING LIGHTS** - a series of unshielded lights visible from a public street that produces glare for attention-getting commercial purposes, other than seasonal decorations.

**TEMPORARY SIGN** - A non-permanent sign that can be displayed on private property.

**VEHICLE SIGN** - A sign on a vehicle not customarily and regularly used to transport persons or properties.

**WALL SIGN** - A sign applied, painted on or attached to a wall of a building in the same plane as the wall.

**WAYFINDING SIGNS** - Directional signs intended to guide visitors for tourist and entertainment destinations in the downtown corridor.

**WIDTH** - The horizontal length of a sign from its greatest protrusion on its left to the greatest protrusion on the right, including supports

WINDOW SIGN - A graphic applied, painted or affixed to or in the window of a building. A window sign may be permanent or temporary.

#### **158.04 ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY**

The City shall have the responsibility and full authority to administer and enforce all provisions of this chapter.

1. This division must be interpreted in a manner consistent with the First Amendment guarantee of free speech.
2. Signs shall be maintained in a safe and secure condition. If the Code Enforcement Officer is of the opinion that a sign is not secure, safe or in good state of repair, written notice of this fact shall be given to the business owner. If the business owner cannot be reached the ultimate responsibility for the sign falls to the property owner. If the defect in the sign is not corrected within the time permitted by the Code Enforcement Officer, the Officer may revoke the sign permit thus placing the sign owner in violation of the Sign Ordinance.
3. When the location of a sign falls within the La Grange Historic District approval from that body must be obtained prior to filing a sign permit with the City of La Grange.
4. No sign shall be placed in any public or private right-of-way or easement without written permission from the jurisdiction that has ownership of the right-of-way or easement.
5. A sign permit shall be obtained prior to the construction or erection of any new allowable sign and the fee will be required in conjunction with said application. Sign permits are not required for the replacement of sign cabinets as long as the sign area, height and location are not being changed. A sign permit shall be obtained prior to the re-use of an Abandoned Sign (see definition) and must comply with the current sign regulations.
6. Any signs that incorporate the use of language involving alcoholic beverages is governed under the Alcohol Beverage Control Ordinance.

#### **158.05 REGULATION SPECIFICATIONS; DETERMINATION OF SIGN AREA AND PLACEMENT**

1. For the purpose of this ordinance:
  - (a) The front setback is measured from the right-of-way or the front property line.
  - (b) If a parcel has multiple frontages then the parcel has multiple front setbacks.
  - (c) The side yard setback is measured from the side property line.
2. The height of a sign shall be computed as the distance from the base of the sign at normal average grade to the top of the highest attached component of the sign. Normal average grade shall be construed to be the lower of: existing-grade prior to construction or installation or the newly established grade after construction or installation.

3. The area of a sign shall be computed by means of the smallest square, circle, rectangle, triangle, or combination thereof that will encompass the extreme limits of the writing, representation, emblem, or other display, together with any material or color forming an integral part of the background of the display or used to differentiate the sign from the backdrop or structure against which it is placed. Supporting framework, bracing or structure shall not be included in computation of sign area.
4. Unless otherwise stated, the total area of a sign having two or more sides or faces shall be calculated according to the following:
  - (a) Double-faced signs: the sign area is of one sign face only.
  - (b) "V" shaped signs with two sides or faces: the sign area is the sum of the areas of the two sign faces.
  - (c) Signs with three or more sides or faces: the sign area is the sum of the areas of all sides or faces.
5. Clear sight triangles shall be maintained at all street intersections for a minimum of 50 feet as measured along the curb or pavement edge. No free-standing sign shall be allowed in the clear sight triangle.
6. All illuminated signs shall be designed, located, and shielded so that the light source is not visible from any public right-of-way or adjacent residential property and does not create glare or light trespass. Ground-mounted fixtures illuminating a sign face shall not exceed 50 foot-candles on the sign face.
7. All exterior lighting of signs, buildings or other structures shall be designed, shielded, and directed so that light trespass onto adjacent properties does not exceed 0.5 footcandles at the property line, measured horizontally at ground level.

#### **158.06 NONCONFORMING SIGNS**

Non-conforming signs may not expand. Non-conforming signs may be repaired or reconstructed only in conformity with this ordinance. Any non-conforming sign shall be considered abandoned after having been discontinued or obsolete for twelve (12) months. Vacating of premises or building, non-operative status or not advertising or identifying a bona fide business conducted on the property or product sold shall be evidence of a discontinued or obsolete sign.

#### **158.20 PERMIT REQUIRED**

No sign or sign structure shall be erected, displayed, altered, relocated or replaced until a sign permit has been issued. For the purpose of this chapter, all permanent signs are considered accessory uses of real property and shall be located on the premises of the principal use to which they pertain. An application shall be completed for each individual sign.

### **158.21 APPLICATION FOR PERMIT**

Applications for sign permits shall be submitted on a form provided by the Code Enforcement Officer and shall be accompanied by the requisite review fee, and shall contain or have attached at a minimum the following information in either written or graphic form:

1. Application date.
2. Name, address and telephone number of the sign owner and, if different, the owner of the land on which the sign will be erected.
3. Address of the property where the sign or sign structure will be erected.
4. Signature(s) of the sign owner and, if different, the owner of the land on which the sign will be displayed.
5. Location of the sign on the property.
6. Type of sign (for example, monument, wall) and general description of structural design and construction materials.
7. Drawings of the proposed sign which shall contain specifications indicating color samples, height, perimeter and area dimensions, means of support, method of illumination if any and any other significant aspect of the proposed sign.
8. Any other information requested by the Code Enforcement Officer in order to carry out the purpose and intent of these regulations.

### **158.22 PERMIT FEE**

The permit fee required by this chapter shall be \$50 per sign.

### **158.23 PERMIT REVIEW; ISSUANCE; RECORDING**

The Code Enforcement Officer shall examine all sign permit applications. Permit applicants shall be issued a sign permit, with approval and approval date noted, for all signs which conform to the requirements of this chapter.

### **158.24 EXEMPT SIGNS NOT REQUIRING SIGN PERMIT**

The following types of signs are not required to obtain a sign permit and shall not be counted towards the total number of signs and allowable sign area but must meet the following limitations:

1. Temporary wall signs of two square feet or less. One per road frontage is permitted but cannot be combined with free-standing sign.
2. Temporary free-standing sign of twelve (12) square feet or less. Two per road frontage is permitted with consent of the property owner. Cannot be combined with wall signs.
3. On-site Directional/Information Sign of six square feet or less – must not be a public safety hazard.

4. Public signs, notices or traffic signs required by law or any sign relating to an emergency.
5. Signs carried by a person – must not be a public safety hazard.
6. Signs integrated into or on a coin-operated machine, vending machine, gasoline pump, or telephone booth.
7. Signs within a ballpark, field or diamond shall be oriented toward the field or diamond and shall not be higher than the fences.
8. Traffic signs/traffic control signs that comply with the “Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways.”
9. Temporary window signs in commercial zoning districts – total area of window sign shall not exceed 30% of the window area of the façade of the building.
10. Flags, symbolic in nature, for non-commercial, non-promotional purposes:
  - (a) The total area of all flags on a lot shall not exceed 150 square feet in area.
  - (b) No flag shall be flown from a pole that exceeds 35 feet in height.
  - (c) If a flag is mounted to a building the vertical clearance from ground level when limp shall not be less than 9 feet.
  - (d) No flag shall be mounted above the roofline of a structure.
11. Vehicle for sale signs as long as vehicle is parked on the property in which it is registered. This is only valid for two weeks per year.
12. During the dates of April 1 – May 31 and September 15 – November 15 there is no limit to the number of temporary free-standing signs each property may have providing that they meet all size and setback requirements with the consent of the property owner.

#### **158.25 TEMPORARY SIGNS / BANNERS REQUIRING SIGN PERMIT**

1. Maximum size free-standing sign: 32 square feet. Maximum of two sides per sign.
2. Maximum size wall sign: not greater than one square foot for every lineal foot of building frontage owned/leased by the applicant, not to exceed 32 square feet.
3. Maximum height: 8 feet in height, including the monument.
4. Duration:
  - (a) Permits are valid for 30 days and no more than one such permit may be issued per property per calendar quarter (Jan-March, Apr-June, July-Sept, Oct-Dec), exceptions listed below.
    - i. Multi-Tenant Commercial Development – removal is required when the development has reached 80%.
    - ii. Single Tenant Commercial Development – removal is required at the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.
    - iii. Multi-Family residential – removal is required when the development has reached 80% occupancy.
    - iv. Single Family subdivision – removal is required when 80% of the lots are sold.
  - (b) A new permit for the same property shall not be issued until the previous temporary sign has been removed.”

5. Free-standing signs must comply with the setback, height and area requirements for permanent signs.
6. Temporary signs may not have internal or external lighting.
7. Code Enforcement office may remove the temporary sign if it becomes a safety hazard or is in disrepair.

#### **158.26 PERMANENT SIGNS REQUIRING PERMIT**

Permits are required for allowed signs and signs must conform with the following criteria.

##### **(A) Residential**

1. Single-family or multi-family subdivision identification signs.
  - (a) Number: two per entrance.
  - (b) Type: monument.
  - (c) Size and height: 48 square feet in area and six feet in height.
  - (d) Setback: 15 feet from any public right-of-way, 5 feet from side or back property line
  - (e) Lighting: Indirect illumination.
2. All other signs in residential
  - (a) Number: one per lot.
  - (b) Type: monument or mounted on two posts
  - (c) Size and height: 24 square feet in area and six feet in height.
  - (d) Setback: 15 feet front setback, 5 feet from side or back property line
  - (e) Lighting: Indirect illumination.

Electronic signs are prohibited in Residential areas.

##### **(B) Commercial and Office**

1. Single freestanding commercial establishment, not part of a shopping center or other office complex with no more than two establishments.
  - (a) Number: one per street frontage not to exceed two signs. Shall not be closer than five feet from any property line.
  - (b) Type: Monument, wall, awning/marquee, and/or window signs

(c) Size and height.

i. Monument:

Front Sign Setback	Maximum Sign Height	Maximum Sign Area	Maximum Monument Area
5' to less than 10'	6'	20 sq ft	4 sq ft
10' to less than 15'	8'	24 sq ft	8 sq ft
15' to less than 20'	10'	28 sq ft	12 sq ft
20' or more	12'	40 sq ft	20 sq ft

- ii. Wall/Awning/Marquee: The maximum area shall be one square foot for each lineal foot of building frontage owned/leased by the applicant or 50 square feet, whichever is less. Not allowed higher than the roof or parapet line. May not extend more than 12 inches from wall.
- iii. Window: No more than 30% of window space may be covered with signs/postings.

(d) Lighting.

- i. Signs may be internally illuminated, backlit or illuminated by downlighting or by ground mounted light fixtures that illuminate the sign face and base only.
- ii. Illumination of the sign face by ground-mounted light fixtures shall not exceed 50-foot candles as measured on the sign face.
- iii. Illumination for temporary signs is prohibited.
- iv. Signs shall not have exposed bare-bulb or flashing illumination.
- v. Internally illuminated signs other than changeable copy signs shall have opaque backgrounds with translucent letters, symbols and logos unless the background is integral to the design of a corporate image or registered trademark.
- vi. The use of neon window signs is allowed, only one per business and no larger than 6 square feet. Illuminated banding on buildings shall be limited to one band.

**(C) Retail/shopping center/office center**

Centers with more than two establishments planned as an integrated development shall be authorized to erect signs based on the following criteria:

1. Center identification sign.

(a) Number: one sign per street entrance not to exceed two signs per development.

(b) Type: Monument and/or wall sign.

(c) Size and height:

i. Monument:

Front Sign Setback	Maximum Sign Height	Maximum Sign Area	Maximum Monument Area
5' to less than 10'	8'	32 sq ft	8 sq ft
10' to less than 15'	10'	38 sq ft	12 sq ft
15' to less than 20'	15'	54 sq ft	21 sq ft
20' to less than 25'	18'	60 sq ft	30 sq ft
25' or more	20'	75 sq ft	45 sq ft

5 feet setback from side or back property line.

ii. Wall: Minimum area of 20 square feet; maximum area of 60 square feet in area and a maximum height of ten feet. It shall not be higher than the roof or parapet line and may not extend more than 12 inches from the wall.

(d) Lighting.

- i. Signs may be internally illuminated, backlit or illuminated by downlighting or by ground mounted light fixtures that illuminate the sign face and base only.
- ii. Illumination of the sign face by ground-mounted light fixtures shall not exceed 50-foot candles as measured on the sign face.
- iii. Illumination for temporary signs is prohibited.
- iv. Signs shall not have exposed bare-bulb or flashing illumination.
- v. Internally illuminated signs other than changeable copy signs shall have opaque backgrounds with translucent letters, symbols and logos unless the background is integral to the design of a corporate image or registered trademark.
- vi. The use of neon window signs is allowed, only one per business and no larger than 6 square feet. Illuminated banding on buildings shall be limited to one band.

**(D) Individual business identification signs**

Any individual business may erect the following permanent identification signs, according to the following criteria:

1. Number. No more than two identification signs per business, one of which may be separated from the principle building.
2. Type: Monument, wall, projecting, window, or sidewalk signs.
3. Size and height.
  - (a) Monument:

Front Sign Setback	Maximum Sign Height	Maximum Sign Area	Maximum Monument Area
5' to less than 10'	8'	32 sq ft	8 sq ft
10' to less than 15'	10'	38 sq ft	12 sq ft
15' to less than 20'	15'	54 sq ft	21 sq ft
20' to less than 25'	18'	60 sq ft	30 sq ft
25' or more	20'	75 sq ft	45 sq ft

5 feet setback from side or back property line.

- (b) Wall/Awning/Marquee: The maximum area shall be one square foot for each lineal foot of building frontage owned/leased by the applicant, not to exceed 150 square feet. It shall not be higher than the roof or parapet line and may not extend more than 12 inches from wall.
  - (c) Projecting: The maximum area shall be one square foot for each lineal foot of building frontage owned/leased by the applicant or 75 square feet, whichever is less. It shall not be higher than roof or parapet line and may not extend over 1/3 of public sidewalk.
  - (d) Window: No more than 30% of window space may be covered with signs/postings.
  - (e) Sidewalk: One sidewalk sandwich sign per business. Cannot exceed four feet in height when standing and 2 ½ feet in overall width. Must be placed within 12 feet of the front entrance of the business and must be placed inside after business hours.
4. Lighting.
    - (a) Signs may be internally illuminated, backlit or illuminated by downlighting or by ground mounted light fixtures that illuminate the sign face and base only.
    - (b) Illumination of the sign face by ground-mounted light fixtures shall not exceed 50-foot candles as measured on the sign face.
    - (c) Illumination for temporary signs is prohibited.

- (d) Signs shall not have exposed bare-bulb or flashing illumination.
- (e) Internally illuminated signs other than changeable copy signs shall have opaque backgrounds with translucent letters, symbols and logos unless the background is integral to the design of a corporate image or registered trademark.
- (f) The use of neon window signs is allowed, only one per business and no larger than 6 square feet. Illuminated banding on buildings shall be limited to one band.

### **158.27 ELECTRONIC SIGNS**

Electronic signs (also referred to as electronic message centers or digital displays) shall be permitted only in commercial zoning districts and only as part of a permitted, conforming monument or freestanding sign. Electronic signs shall comply with the following standards:

1. Location and Number. No more than one electronic sign per parcel or business. Electronic signs shall not be added to any legal nonconforming sign.
2. Size. The electronic display area shall not exceed 50% of the total allowable sign area for the monument or freestanding sign on which it is located, and in no case shall exceed 24 square feet.
3. Resolution. Electronic signs shall use LED or equivalent technology with a maximum pixel pitch of sixteen (16) millimeters.
4. Message Display Standards.
  - i. Messages shall remain static for a minimum of sixty (60) seconds.
  - ii. The change between messages shall be completed in one (1) second or less.
  - iii. No scrolling, flashing, blinking, animation, video, or moving images are permitted.
5. Brightness and Illumination.
  - i. Electronic signs shall be equipped with automatic dimming technology that adjusts brightness according to ambient light conditions.
  - ii. Maximum brightness shall not exceed 5,000 nits during daylight hours and 500 nits between dusk and dawn.
  - iii. The sign shall not create glare or light trespass onto adjacent properties or roadways.

6. Prohibited Features. Electronic signs shall not have exposed bare-bulb illumination or any feature prohibited under Section 158.40.

### **158.28 SIGN INSPECTIONS**

1. All signs for which a permit has been issued shall be subject to final inspection by the Code Enforcement Officer or designee.
2. The permit holder shall notify the Code Enforcement Officer when installation is complete and request a final inspection.
3. The final inspection shall verify that the sign:
  - a. Was installed in the approved location.
  - b. Conforms to the approved plans, dimensions, materials, and illumination details.
  - c. Complies with all applicable safety and structural requirements.
4. For illuminated or electronic signs, the inspection shall confirm proper electrical installation and compliance with brightness and operational standards.
5. No sign shall be used or illuminated until it has passed final inspection and received approval from the Code Enforcement Officer.
6. The Code Enforcement Officer may require additional inspections (such as footing inspection for freestanding signs) when deemed necessary for safety.
7. No illuminated sign visible from any public right-of-way or adjacent residential property may create glare or light trespass. Ground-mounted fixtures illuminating a sign face shall not exceed 50 foot-candles on the sign face.

### **158.30 MURALS**

Murals are predominantly composed of large scale artistic and visual works applied to buildings and walls, with no apparent commercial or advertising promotion for goods and services. Per definition, murals are not considered signs and will not be required to be permitted.

### **158.40 CERTAIN SIGNS PROHIBITED**

The following signs are expressly prohibited unless specifically stated otherwise in this chapter:

1. Any sign or part of a sign that incorporates in any manner any continuous scrolling, flashing, blinking, oscillating or moving lights, or that changes physical

- position or light intensity by any movement or rotation or that gives the appearance of such movement or rotation. This also includes pennants.
2. Glaring signs with light sources or reflectivity of such brightness that constitutes a hazard or nuisance as determined by the Administrator. May include string lights.
  3. Any sign which has any visible moving part, visible revolving parts or visible mechanical movement achieved by electronic or mechanical means or action of normal wind currents.
  4. Any sign which obstruct or detract from the visibility of any traffic sign or traffic control device on public streets and roads, by reason of the size, location, coloring, or illumination.
  5. Any sign or sign structures which
    - (a) is structurally unsafe
    - (b) constitutes a hazard to safety or health by reason of inadequate maintenance, dilapidated or abandonment
    - (c) is not kept in good repair
    - (d) is capable of causing electrical shocks to persons likely to come into contact with it.
  6. Signs which make use of words such as "STOP," "LOOK," "DANGER," "YIELD," or other similar words, phrases, symbols or characters in such a manner to imply the need or requirement of stopping or the existence of danger.
  7. Permanent use of portable signs, such as snipe signs, folding signs, "A" frame signs, or any other similar temporary sign.
  8. Free-standing signs that extend or are built over public property and/or signs in the right-of-way
  9. Wall signs painted on historic brick. This does not include cinder blocks.
  10. Any sign erected or maintained upon a utility pole, traffic control device or tree, or painted or drawn upon rocks or other natural features.
  11. No marquee constructed over sidewalks in those districts where permitted shall extend closer than two feet to the curb line of any adjoining street.
  12. Above-roof signs that are erected or painted on a roof.
  13. Signs on vehicles or trailers which are parked or located for the primary purpose of displaying said sign.
  14. Backlit awning signs.
  15. Inflatable signs.
  16. Any electronic sign that violates the standards in Section 158,27

### **158.50 VARIANCES AND APPEALS**

1. The Code Enforcement Officer shall have discretion in the construction and application of these regulations considering the legislative intent of this ordinance.
2. The La Grange Board of Adjustments and appeals may grant variances from this sign regulation if they find the variance requested is due to special or unique circumstances, or undue hardship.
3. A variance may be granted to permit a setback for a sign that is up to 25 percent less than the required setback. No other variances are allowed

4. Decisions of the Code Enforcement Officer may be appealed to the La Grange Board of Adjustments and Appeals within 30 days of any written determination or opinion.

**CITY OF LA GRANGE, KENTUCKY  
ORDINANCE NO. 15, SERIES 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE INSTALLATION  
OF SPEED BUMPS AND/OR SPEED HUMPS  
WITHIN THE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY**

**WHEREAS**, speed bumps and/or speed humps as speed control devices have not been proven to reduce speed between the locations of the control devices;

**WHEREAS**, speed bumps and/or speed humps tend to increase traffic on adjacent parallel streets; and

**WHEREAS**, existing speed bumps and/or speed humps must be removed when damaged or the street is repaved.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF LA GRANGE:**

A new section of Chapter 91 of the La Grange Code of Ordinances is hereby created to read as follows:

The City of La Grange shall not install any new speed bumps and/or speed humps, whether temporary or permanent, within the road right of way in the city limits of La Grange.

This ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication per KRS 424.

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Secon Reading \_\_\_\_\_

VOTE: For \_\_\_\_\_ Against \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

SO APPROVED and adopted this \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN W. BLACK, MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Woodcox, City Clerk

V2F R1 X

**CITY OF LA GRANGE, KENTUCKY  
ORDINANCE NO. 16, SERIES 2026**

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE  
NONELECTIVE OFFICE OF CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with La Grange Ordinance Code §31.35(A) concerning the establishment and organization of nonelected city officials, the City Council desires to create the position of City Administrator to help, aid and assist the Mayor in the efficient and professional management of city operations essential to providing quality services to citizens of La Grange;

**WHEREAS**, the creation of a professional City Administrator position will allow for more structured centralized management, improved coordination of city departments and communications, and the effective implementation and oversight of policies and procedures which the Council finds in the best interests of the city, its residents and the community; and

**WHEREAS**, KRS 83A.090 expressly provides for the creation of the nonelective office of a city administrative officer which shall be directly responsible to the executive authority of the city.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF LA GRANGE:**

Pursuant to the provisions of KRS 83A.080 and in accordance KRS 83A.090, the following position is hereby created and added to Chapter 31 of the La Grange Code of Ordinances relating to the establishment of nonelected city offices and officers for the administration of city government:

**§ 31.48 CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

(A) The city council hereby creates the office of City Administrator, which shall be directly responsible to the executive authority of the city.

(B) The City Administrator shall be appointed by the Mayor, with approval of the City Council, who shall set qualifications for professional training and experience in administration sufficient to insure competence and list duties and responsibilities of the office, which shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) Advise the Mayor in policy formulation on overall problems and operation of the city;

(2) Have major responsibility for preparation and administration of operating and capital improvement budgets under direction of the Mayor;

(3) Advise the Mayor in the appointment and oversight of subordinate administrative personnel; and

(4) Have continuing direct relationships with operating department heads on implementation and administration of programs.

(D) Carry out all additional duties lawfully delegated by appropriate order of the Mayor and have all the same powers as the executive authority in carrying out such delegated duties.

(E) The City Administrator shall take the oath as required in §228 of the Kentucky Constitution.

(F) No bond shall be required of the City Administrator.

(G) The City Administrator shall be paid an annual salary as set out in the budget for the fiscal year.

This Ordinance shall become effective January 1, 2027 following passage and publication per KRS 424.

First Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Second Reading \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED and adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN W. BLACK, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Heather Woodcox, City Clerk