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## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### City Council Adopts Moratorium on Sign Permits

NEWNAN, GEORGIA, January 23, 2024 – The City Council of Newnan today approved a moratorium on issuing certain sign permits within City limits. The purpose of this moratorium is to allow the City to complete a thorough review of the sign ordinance. The moratorium will also allow a period of time for publication of notice, and for a public hearing to take place, followed by consideration of the City Council.

Prompting this moratorium was the recent application by Principle Outdoor, LLC to the City of Newnan for ten (10) billboard permits for billboards located within railroad right-of-way, many of these locations being in Historic Downtown Newnan. Norfolk Southern and CSX both offer signage leasing programs and gave authorization for the billboard applications. Railroads are a federally regulated entity and as such the City of Newnan's zoning map did not designate a zoning classification for railroad right-of-way. The City proceeded to deny the billboard applications. Due to this fact, Principle Outdoor, LLC proceeded to file suit against the City of Newnan in Federal Court. In an effort to mitigate the risk of billboards being placed in Downtown Newnan, Principle Outdoor, LLC, per the settlement agreement, reduced the original request for ten (10) billboards to three (3) and Principle Outdoor, LLC has agreed to the following locations for billboard placement:

- 1) The railroad right-of-way on Temple Avenue, near Franklin Highway
- 2) Bullsboro Drive, near Interstate 85, and
- 3) Poplar Road, near Interstate 85

Careful consideration was given to the content of these signs and Outdoor Principle, LLC has agreed the signs will never advertise mature or adult content, or any type of tobacco or vaping products. The moratorium on certain sign permits does not apply to permits based on completed applications submitted to the City prior to the effective date of the moratorium. This ordinance is effective upon

approval on January 23, 2024 and expires at 5:00 p.m. on April 24 or when the amendment of the City of Newnan's sign ordinance is adopted.

A public hearing regarding any potential updates to the sign ordinance will be scheduled in the near future. You may sign up for our [weekly newsletter](#) to be informed of the meeting date or check our [City calendar](#) for further updates.

Please direct all media inquiries to the City Communications Manager, Aimee Hadden:  
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You may learn more about the Planning and Zoning Department here:  
<https://newnanga.gov/244/Planning-Zoning>

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