

GARFIELD TOWNSHIP

BAY COUNTY

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-08

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE

THE GARFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amending Article III: General Provisions, Section 3.14: Exterior Lighting. Article III, Section 3.14 of the Garfield Township Zoning Ordinance is amended in its entirety to read as follows:

“Section 3.14 EXTERIOR LIGHTING

A. Residential Lighting. All exterior lighting, excluding accent lighting in residential districts, must be dark-sky friendly, fully shielded so the surface of the source of the light is not visible, and is directed downward and shielded away from adjacent properties, with particular consideration to protecting other residential uses.

B. Commercial and Industrial Lighting.

1. Exterior lighting shall be fully shielded and directed downward toward the Earth surface, away from residential uses, roads, glass, water, or other reflective materials which would create excessive off-site glare or incident rays.

2. The Zoning Administrator and/or Planning Commission may approve decorative light fixtures as an alternative to shielded fixtures when it can be proven that there will be no off-site glare and the proposed fixtures will improve the appearance of the site.

3. Lights on poles shall not be taller than the building whose area they illuminate nor taller than 25 feet whichever is shorter. Lights on poles may exceed 25 feet if the fixtures are located a minimum of 75 feet from any planned, zoned, or used residential areas.

4. Lighting shall not be of a flashing, moving or intermittent type unless otherwise designated, constructed, or maintained in accordance with the standards defined herein relating to signs.

5. Except where used for security purposes, all outdoor lighting fixtures, existing or hereafter installed and maintained shall be turned off between 11:00 p.m. and sunrise, except when used for commercial and industrial uses, such as in sales, assembly and repair areas, where such use is open for business after 11:00 p.m. but only for so long as such use open for business and United State of America flag lighting. Businesses with light fixtures used for security purposes are encouraged to use a motion detection device which is directed to detect motion within the property.

6. Any light fixture must be placed in such a manner that no light emitting surface is visible from any residential area or public/private roadway, walkway, trail or other public way when viewed at ground level.

7. The intensity of light within a site shall not exceed 10 footcandles or one foot candle at any property line, except where it abuts a residentially used or zoned site whereby a maximum of 0.5 footcandle is permitted. The only exception is with gas station canopy and automobile dealership lighting, where a maximum of 20 foot candles is permitted within the site but the above standards shall apply to intensity at the property line.

C. If proposed, any street lighting shall be installed in such a manner that light projects downward and is deflected away from any adjacent residential properties and so that it does not impede the vision of traffic along adjacent streets. Street lighting should be discouraged unless necessary for safety purposes.

D. Lighting for parking shall meet the regulations under Article III, Section 2.23.”

Section 2. Severability.

This Ordinance and its parts, sections, subsections, provisions, sentences, and clauses are severable. If any part of this Ordinance is found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Ordinance remains in effect.

Section 3. Repealer.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances that conflict with this Ordinance are repealed.

Section 4. Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect 30 days following publication of this Ordinance or a summary of it as permitted by law.

YEAS: Karen, Tom, Sean

NAYS:

ABSENT/ABSTAIN: Jim, Amy

CLERK’S CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an ordinance adopted by the Garfield Township Board of Trustees at a regular meeting held at the Garfield Township Office, 1138 W Erickson Rd., Linwood, Michigan 48634 on August 10th, 2026, at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to the required statutory notice and procedures.

Sean Gorman

Garfield Township Clerk