

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF ARENAC  
TOWNSHIP OF MOFFATT**

**ORDINANCE NUMBER 6-24**

**BLIGHT CONTROL**

**Ordinance to Provide For:** The regulation and control of the storage, accumulation, and disposition of junk, trash, and rubbish or the maintenance of blighted structures and other blight factors or causes of blight and deterioration that shall be considered a public nuisance relating to any property within the jurisdictional boundaries of Moffatt Township, and to provide for penalties for the violation thereof.

**Minimum Standards:** The provisions in this ordinance shall not be construed to prevent the enforcement of other codes, ordinances, or regulations which prescribe standards other than are provided in this ordinance.

The ordinance shall not be intended to affect violations of any other ordinance, code, or regulation existing prior to the effective date of this code, and any such violation may be governed and continued to be punished under the provisions of those ordinances, codes, or regulations in effect at the time the violation was committed.

**THE TOWNSHIP OF MOFFATT TOWNSHIP, ARENAC COUNTY, MICHIGAN,  
ORDAINS:**

**Sec. 1. DEFINITIONS.**

The following words or terms when used herein shall be deemed to have the meaning set forth below:

(a) The term "junk" shall include, without limitation, parts of machinery, watercraft, or motor vehicles, broken and unusable furniture, inoperative appliances or parts thereof, inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicles, lawncare or landscaping equipment, or watercraft, building materials, or any other cast off material of any kind.

(b) The term "blighted structure" shall include, without limitation, any dwelling, garage or outbuilding, or any factory, shop, store, office building, warehouse, or any other structure or part of a structure which, because of fire, wind, or other natural disaster, or physical deterioration, is no longer deemed habitable as a dwelling, nor useful for the purpose for which it may have been intended.

(c) The term "person" shall include all natural persons, firms, copartnerships, corporations, and all associations of natural persons, incorporated or unincorporated, whether acting by themselves or by a servant, agent, or employee. All persons who violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance, whether as owner, occupant, lessee, agent, servant, or employee, shall, except as herein otherwise provided, be equally liable as principals.

(d) The terms "trash" and "rubbish" shall include any and all forms of garbage or debris not otherwise classified herein, including but not limited to trash, refuse, wood remnants, broken items, and unused building supplies. Building supplies shall not be considered trash or rubbish if they are present on the subject property for use in a construction project for which a lawfully issued building permit is in effect.

(e) The term "enforcement officer" shall include the Township of Moffatt Zoning Administrator, Township Supervisor or his/her designee, or any legitimate county law enforcement officer.

(f) The term "public nuisance" shall include any accumulations of dead weeds, grass or brush, trash, debris, refuse, filth, or other noxious material which endangers public property or the health or safety of the public.

## **Sec. 2. DETERMINATION.**

It is hereby determined that the storage or accumulation of trash, rubbish, junk, junk motor vehicles, abandoned vehicles, building materials, the accumulation of dead weeds, grass, or brush, or the maintenance of blighted structures upon any private property within the Township of Moffatt tends to result in blighted and deteriorated neighborhoods, the spread of vermin and disease, the increase in criminal activity, and, therefore, is contrary to the public health, safety, and general welfare of the community.

## **Sec. 3. BLIGHT OFFENSES.**

On or after the effective date of this Ordinance, no person, firm, corporation or entity of any kind shall maintain or allow to be maintained upon any property in the Township of Moffatt owned, leased, rented or occupied or possessed by such person, firm, corporation or entity of any kind any of the following uses, structures or activities which are hereby determined to be blight.

- a) No parking or storage of any unlicensed or inoperable vehicle, outside of a fully enclosed building for a period in excess of thirty (30) days.
- b) No storage of junk, trash, rubbish, or refuse of any kind outside of a fully enclosed building for a period in excess of thirty (30) days.
- c) No person shall keep or maintain a Blighted Structure unless such Blighted Structure is structurally sound, is not a safety or health hazard, and is kept secure or boarded up and otherwise protected to prevent entrance thereto by vandals or other unauthorized persons or animals.
- d) No person shall keep or maintain a partially-completed structure unless such structure is in the course of construction pursuant to a lawfully-issued building permit in accordance with all local and state laws and regulations and the construction is completed within the terms of the permit.

## **Sec. 4. ENFORCEMENT.**

Any person or other entity who violates any provision of this Ordinance is responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan law and subject to a civil fine of not more than Five Hundred (\$500) dollars, plus costs, which may include all direct or indirect expenses to

which the Village has been put in connection with the violation. In no case, however, shall costs of less than nine (\$9.00) dollars or more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars be ordered. The owner, resident or occupant in control of a premises upon which a violation of this Ordinance occurs is responsible for the violation to the same extent as the person(s) who conduct the activity giving rise to the violation. All violations of this Ordinance are declared nuisances per se. The Township specifically reserves the right and shall have the authority to proceed in any court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of obtaining an injunction, restraining order or other appropriate remedy to abate said nuisance and to compel compliance with this Ordinance. Each day a violation of this ordinance continues to exist constitutes a separate violation.

**Sec. 5. SEVERABILITY.**

The various sections, parts and clauses of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any part, clause, sentence, paragraph or section is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the ordinance shall not be affected thereby.

**Sec. 6. CONFLICTING LAWS.**

If any term of this ordinance conflicts with any previous ordinance, this ordinance shall prevail, and those terms inconsistent with this ordinance, are hereby repealed. Unless otherwise provided for herein, any section of any previous ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

**Sec. 7. VALIDITY.**

Should any section, clause, or provision of this Ordinance be declared by any Court to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of such Section of the Ordinance or any part thereof other than the part so declared to be invalid.

**Sec. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall become effective 30 days after publication and shall be published once in full in the *Arenac Independent*, a newspaper circulating within the boundaries of the Township of Moffatt, on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2024.

**CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing is a compiled true copy of Ordinance Number 6-24, as amended, which was enacted and amended by the Moffatt Township Board on the following dates:

- Adopted        June 17, 2024
- Amended        November 18, 2024
- Amended        July 21, 2025
- Amended        February 17, 2026

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Allison Chmielewski, Clerk

Date: February 17, 2026