

MARATHON TOWNSHIP

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-02

Battery Storage Ordinance

An ordinance to retitle Article 19 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

THE TOWNSHIP OF MARATHON HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment of Article 19 of the Zoning Ordinance.

The Township Board hereby amends Article 19 of the Zoning Ordinance so that it is retitled "Solar and Battery Energy Storage System Ordinance."

Section 2. Amendment of Article 26 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

The Township Board hereby amends Article 26 of the Zoning Ordinance by adding thereto the following definitions so that all definitions are in alphabetical order:

Battery Energy Storage System: One or more devices, assembled, capable of storing energy to supply electrical energy at a future time.

Battery Energy Storage System, On-Site: A Battery Energy Storage System that is an accessory use that is intended to primarily serve the needs of the consumer on-site.

Battery Energy Storage System, Small Off-Site: A Battery Energy Storage System that is a principal use (or co-located with a second principal use) and that is designed and built to connect into the distribution or transmission grid with a nameplate capacity less than 50 megawatts.

Battery Energy Storage System, Large Off-Site: A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that is a principal use (or co-located with a second principal use) and that is designed and built to connect to the transmission grid with a nameplate capacity of 50 megawatts or more.

Non-Participating Property: Any property that is adjacent to a participating property, but is not part of the battery storage project.

Participating Property: A battery energy storage system host property or any real property that is the subject of an agreement that provides for the payment of monetary compensation to the landowner from the system owner (or affiliate) regardless of whether any part of a system is constructed on the property.

Section 3. Amendment of Article 19 of Township Zoning Ordinance.

The Township hereby amends Article 19 of the Township Zoning

Ordinance by adding thereto a new section 19.04, entitled "Off-Site Battery Energy Storage Systems," to read as follows:

Section 19.04 Off-Site Battery Energy Storage Systems.

The following requirements shall apply to all off-site battery energy storage systems:

1. Site Selection. In the "A" Agricultural District, this land use shall not unreasonably diminish farmland, including, but not limited to, prime farmland and, to the extent that evidence of such farmland is available in the evidentiary record, farmland dedicated to the cultivation of specialty crops.
2. Battery Energy Storage Systems, Small Off-Site shall be allowed as a special land use in the following zoning districts:
 - A. Industrial
 - B. Agricultural
3. Battery Energy Storage Systems, Large Off-Site shall be allowed as a special land use in the following zoning districts:
 - A. Industrial
4. The following minimum setbacks shall be required. Setbacks are measured from the nearest facility structure to the nearest point on the associated item:
 - A. 100 feet from any property line of a non-participating property
 - B. 300 feet from the nearest point on the outer wall of a dwelling on nonparticipating properties;
 - C. 100-feet measured from the nearest edge of a public road right-of-way.
5. Height: Outdoor walk-in units housing ESS shall not exceed 53 feet by 8 feet by 9.5 feet high, not including bolt-on HVAC and related equipment, as approved. Outdoor walk-in units exceeding these limitations shall be considered indoor installations and comply with the requirements in Section 1207.7 of the 2024 International Fire Code, as amended from time to time.
6. Fencing. The system shall be completely enclosed with fencing in compliance with the latest version of the National Electrical Safety Code or any applicable successor standard approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission.
7. Sound. The system may not generate a maximum sound in excess of 55 average hourly decibels as measured at the property line of an adjacent non-participating property. Decibel modeling shall use the A- weighted scale designed by the American National Standards Institute. The Planning Commission may require the applicant to provide a sounds study as part of the special land use review process
8. Lighting. The system must implement dark sky-friendly lighting solutions per Section 24.04 of Article 24 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.
9. Impacts of Battery' Energy Storage System, Small Off-Site and Battery Energy Storage System, Large Off-Site.
 - A. The following requirements shall apply to the entire system, or to designated components of the system, as indicated:
 - (i) Safety Signage. The system shall post signs in compliance with NFPA 70/70E or any applicable successor code in place at the time of application for approval. Additionally, signage shall be provided per

NFPA 855 7.4.4, or any applicable successor code in place at the time of application for approval, including information on the system type and technology, special hazards, fire suppression system and 24-hour emergency contact information, including reach-back phone number. A clearly visible warning sign concerning voltage shall be placed at the base of all pad-mounted transformers and substations.

Code

- (ii) Other Signage: Additional signage may be permitted or required by the Planning Commission as is necessary to ensure the safe operation of the system.
 - (iii) The facility shall meet the requirements of the International Fire and NFPA 855.
- B. The Planning Commission shall require reasonable measures to minimize visual impacts by preserving existing natural vegetation, requiring new vegetative screening or other appropriate measures. The Planning Commission shall determine such visual screening measures as may be required on a site-specific basis pursuant to the standards for Special Exceptions (or "Special land use") approval as specified in Article 18, the landscaping and screening standards of Article 23 and/or the standards for site plan approval as specified in Article 5 of this ordinance, as most applicable to the circumstances. In making this determination the Planning Commission is specifically authorized to consider whether additional visual screening measures are appropriate where a system is proposed to be located on property adjacent to a residential use and/or a residential district zoning classification. All screening/landscaping shall be properly maintained throughout the life of the project including replacement of any dead landscaping within six months.
- C. If the system includes an access drive(s) for maintenance purposes, the surface of the access drive(s) shall be permeable (unless on brownfield land or on an already paved surface at the time of application for approval, such as a parking lot or former building foundation.)
- D. Except as otherwise depicted on and subject to approval of the Planning Commission, the area within which the system is located shall not be paved with asphalt/concrete or any other surface material that is impermeable to water other than for slab foundations for structures and equipment. This shall not apply to a system located on brownfield land or on an existing paved area such as a former building slab or in an unused parking area when adequate parking remains for all other uses on the site.
- E. All surface water run-off created by construction and operation of the project shall be effectively managed on-site.
- 10. Installation and Operational Safety. The system shall comply with all of the following requirements:
 - A. The system shall be designed and constructed for interconnection to a Michigan Public Service Commission or Midcontinent Independent System Operator regulated utility electrical power grid and shall be operated with such interconnection.
 - B. The system and all foundation elements shall comply with all

applicable building and electrical code requirements, and any applicable federal/state regulations. The manufacturer's engineer or another qualified engineer shall provide certification that the design, installation (including foundations), and interconnection is compliant with the manufacturer and industry standards, all applicable local construction and electrical codes, and any applicable federal/state regulations.

- C. Other than transmission or distribution lines for interconnection to the electric power grid, all electrical wiring shall be buried underground, except where the manufacturer's engineer or a qualified engineer employed by the utility that owns/operates the electrical power grid to which the system shall be interconnected certifies an underground wiring installation is not permitted by an applicable code and/or applicable federal/state regulation, with attached complete documentation supporting any such certification.
 - D. The system shall be designed, located, and maintained so as to comply with all applicable codes and regulations.
11. Public Safety. The Emergency Response Plan and Fire Response Plan shall provide reasonable protection of the public health, welfare and safety including but not limited to an emergency shutdown procedure in place and shall provide the local fire department site safety plans to include electrical, fire, smoke, and hazardous material release, emergency response protocols and identification of typical hazards related to, electrical, fire, smoke and hazardous materials pertinent to the facility. Upon request, all systems shall provide first responder training at the site and specialized response equipment if needed.
12. Repair and Augmentation. In addition to repairing or replacing facility components to maintain the system, the facility may at any time be augmented without the need to submit a new site plan so long as the augmentation is within the same footprint (e.g., same dedicated use building or on footings/foundations in the same location) as the original permit. If there is a change in the battery chemistry, an updated Hazard Mitigation Analysis and Emergency Operation Plan shall be provided. When a facility is anticipated to be augmented over its lifetime by adding additional components, the applicant will apply for the final/augmented site arrangement. A proposal to increase the size the project footprint may be considered a new application, subject to the ordinance standards at the time of the request.
13. Decommissioning and Removal. A decommissioning plan is required at the time of application.
- A. The decommission plan shall include:
 - (i) The anticipated manner in which the project will be decommissioned, including a description of which above-grade and below-grade improvements will be removed, retained (e.g., access drive, fencing), or restored for viable reuse of the property consistent with the zoning district. Pursuant to this requirement, the decommissioning plan shall

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be required to include that any structures up to forty-eight inches below-grade shall be removed for disposal.

- (ii) The projected decommissioning costs shall reflect the actual cost of decommissioning the project. Salvage value shall not be included in the cost to decommission the project.
 - (iii) The method of ensuring that funds will be available for site decommissioning and stabilization (in the form of surety bond or cash deposit).
 - B. A review of the amount of the surety bond, based on inflation, and current removal costs shall be completed every 4 years, for the life of the project, and approved by the Planning Commission. A Battery Energy Storage System owner may at any time:
 - (i) Proceed with the decommissioning plan approved by the Planning Commission, and remove the system as indicated in the most recent approved plan; or
 - (ii) Amend the decommissioning plan with Planning Commission approval and proceed according to the revised plan.
 - C. Decommissioning of a Battery Energy Storage System must commence when the soil is dry to prevent soil compaction and must be complete within 18 months after abandonment. A Battery Energy Storage System that has not operated for 6 consecutive months (180 days) shall prompt an abandonment hearing.
 - (i) Restoration shall include bringing soil and topography of the land to their predevelopment composition to ensure permitted uses upon restoration. Soil and water tests shall be required as part of the decommissioning plan both before development and prior to the decommissioning.
- 14. Special Land Use Permit and Site Plan Application Requirements. Applications for Special Exception or special land use permit approval shall comply with Article 5 of this Ordinance. A formal application for site plan approval for this land use shall comply with Article 4 of this Ordinance. An incomplete application will not be accepted. Each such application shall also be subject to the following additional submission requirements:
 - A. The complete name, address, and telephone number of the applicant.
 - B. The planned date for the start of construction and the expected duration of construction.
 - C. A description of the system, including a site plan as described in Section 224 of the Clean and Renewable Energy Waste Reduction Act, 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1224. The following items must be shown on the site plan:
 - D. A map of all properties upon which any component of a facility or ancillary feature would be located, and all properties within one thousand (1,000) feet. This should indicate the location of all existing structures and shall identify such structures as occupied or vacant.

and

- E. Lot lines and required setbacks shown and dimensioned including horizontal and vertical elevation drawings that show the location and height of the Battery Energy Storage System on the land and dimensions of the Battery Energy Storage System.
- F. Size and location of existing and proposed water utilities, including any proposed connections to public, or private community sewer or water supply systems.
- G. A map of any existing overhead and underground major facilities for electric, gas, telecommunications transmission within the facility surrounding area.
- H. The location and size of all surface water drainage facilities, including source, volume expected, route, and course to final destination.
- I. A map depicting the proposed facilities, adjacent properties, all structures within participating and adjacent properties, property lines, and the projected sound isolines along with the modeled sound isolines including the statutory limit;
- J. A description of the expected use of the system.
- K. Expected public benefits of the proposed system.
- L. The expected direct impacts of the proposed system on the environment and natural resources and how the applicant intends to address and mitigate these impacts.
- M. Information on the effects of the proposed system on public health and safety.
- N. A description of the portion of the community where the system will be located.
- O. A statement and reasonable evidence that the proposed system will not commence commercial operation until it complies with applicable state and federal environmental laws, including, but not limited to, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL324.101 to 324.90106.
- P. Evidence of consultation, before submission of the application, with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy and other relevant state and federal agencies before submitting the application, including, but not limited to, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Q. The Soil and Economic Survey Report under Section 60303 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.60303, for the county where the proposed system will be located.
- R. Interconnection queue information for the applicable regional transmission organization.
- S. If the proposed site of the system is undeveloped land, a description of feasible alternative developed locations, including, but not limited

to, vacant industrial property and brownfields, and an explanation of why they were not chosen.

- T. If the system is reasonably expected to have an impact on television signals, microwave signals, agricultural global position systems, military defense radar, radio reception, or weather and doppler radio, a plan to minimize and mitigate that impact. Information in the plan concerning military defense radar is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246, and shall not be disclosed by the commission or the electric provider or independent power producer except pursuant to court order.
- U. A stormwater assessment and a plan to minimize, mitigate, and repair any drainage impacts at the expense of the applicant. The applicant shall make reasonable efforts to consult with the county drain commissioner before submitting the application and shall include evidence of those efforts in its application.
- V. A fire response plan and an emergency response plan.
 - (i) The fire response plan (FRP) shall include:
 - (a) Evidence of consultation with local fire department representatives to ensure that the FRP is in alignment with acceptable operating procedures, capabilities, resources, etc. If consultation with local fire department representatives is not possible, provide evidence of consultation to consult with the State Fire Marshal or other local emergency manager.
 - (b) A description of all on-site equipment and systems to be provided to prevent or handle fire emergencies.
 - (c) A description of all contingency plans to be implemented in response to the occurrence of a fire emergency.
 - (d) Shall review and update the FRP with fire departments, first responders, and county emergency managers at least once every three (3) years.
 - (e) An analysis of whether plans to be implemented in response to a fire emergency can be fulfilled by existing local emergency response capacity. The analysis should include identification of any specific equipment or training deficiencies in local emergency response capacity and recommendations for measures to mitigate deficiencies.
 - (f) Other information the applicant finds relevant.
 - (ii) The emergency response plan (ERP) shall include:
 - (a) Evidence of consultation with local first responders and county emergency managers to ensure that the ERP is in alignment with acceptable operating procedures, capabilities, resources, etc.

- (b) An identification of contingencies that would constitute a safety or security emergency (fire emergencies are to be addressed in a separate fire response plan);
 - (c) Emergency response measures by contingency;
 - (d) Evacuation control measures by contingency;
 - (e) Community notification procedures by contingency;
 - (f) An identification of potential approach and departure routes to and from the facility site for police, fire, ambulance, and other emergency vehicles;
 - (g) A commitment to review and update the ERP with fire departments, first responders, and county emergency managers at least once every three (3) years;
 - (h) An analysis of whether plans to be implemented in response to an emergency can be fulfilled by existing local emergency response capacity, and identification of any specific equipment or training deficiencies in local emergency response capacity; and
 - (i) Other information the applicant finds relevant.
 - W. A report detailing the sound modeling results along with mitigation plans to ensure that sound emitted from the system will remain below the statutory limit throughout the operational life of the system.
 - X. Any other information regarding compliance with the requirements herein.
15. Waiver: Because of the ever-changing technical capabilities of battery storage infrastructure and of new technology in general, the Township Planning Commission shall have the authority to review and consider alternatives in both the dimensional and physical requirements contained in this ordinance as part of the special land use review process, and other requirements.
16. Building Permit: Complete submittal in accordance with the International Fire Code 2024 (Section 1207) and National Fire Protection Association 855, 2023 edition, including the following:
- (i) Cover letter indication design professional in responsible charge, overview of system, technology, and narrative on project.
 - (ii) Location and layout diagram of the room or area in which the ESS is to be installed.
 - (iii) Details on the hourly fire-resistance ratings of assemblies enclosing the ESS (Indoor).
 - (iv) The quantities and types of ESS to be installed.
 - (v) Manufacturer's specifications, ratings and listings of each ESS and components.
 - (vi) Description of energy (battery) management systems and their

operation.

- (vii) Location and content of required signage.
- (viii) Details on fire suppression, smoke or fire detection, thermal management, ventilation, exhaust and deflagration venting systems, if provided.
- (ix) Support arrangement associated with the installation, including any required seismic restraint.
- (x) A commissioning plan complying with Section 1207.2.1 of the International Fire Code.
- (xi) A decommissioning plan complying with Section 1207.2.3 of the International Fire Code.
- (xiii) A fire safety and evacuation plan in accordance with Section 404.
- (xiv) The following test data shall be included in the submittal, and include appropriate analysis by a licensed Fire Protection Engineer:
 - (a) If applicable, Large Scale Fire Testing (LSFT) including full test results and raw data accompanied by an analysis and report provided by a Fire Protection Engineer.
 - (b) Fire and explosion testing data in accordance with NFPA 855.9.2
 - (c) Hazard mitigation analysis (HMA) in accordance with NFPA 855 Section 4.4.
 - (d) Calculations or modeling data to determine compliance with NFPA 68 and NFPA 69 in accordance with 9.6.5.6.3.
 - (e) Other test data, evaluation information or calculations as required elsewhere in this standard.

17. Transfers. No transfer in ownership of the Battery Energy Storage System shall occur prior to providing 60 days' notice to the Township and upon Township approval verifying that the new owner agrees to any out the terms of the special land use and site plan approval.

Section 4. Amendment of Article 19 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

The Township hereby amends Article 19 of the Township Zoning Ordinance by adding thereto a new section 19.05, entitled "On-Site Battery Energy Storage Systems," to read as follows:

Section 19.05 On-Site Battery Energy Storage Systems.

The following requirements shall apply to all on-site battery energy storage systems:

1. On-Site Battery Energy Storage Systems shall be allowed as a permitted use in all zoning districts, subject to the provisions of this Zoning Ordinance.
2. A building permit shall be required for all on-site battery energy storage systems.
3. On-Site battery energy storage with an aggregate energy capacity of more than 1 megawatt are subject to additional regulations in the applicable fire code, and

required documentation shall be submitted along with the building/electrical permit applications.

4. Coverage. Lot coverage shall not exceed the otherwise permissible percentage of lot coverage for buildings in the applicable district, as specified in subsection 10.09.
5. Setbacks. All battery energy storage system structures and related structural apparatus not physically attached to a building shall satisfy the setback requirements in the applicable district, as specified in subsection 10.09 or the specific section of the district, as applicable.

Section 5. Amendment of Section 11.01 of Article 11 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

Section 11.01 of Article 11 of the Township Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended to add "On-Site Battery Energy Storage System" as a special land use in the AR agricultural - Residential District.

Section 6. Amendment of Section 14.01 of Article 14 of the Township Zoning Ordinance.

Section 14.01 of Article 14 of the Township Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended to add "On-Site Battery Energy Storage System" and "Battery Energy Storage System, Large Off-Site" as a special land use in the I-1 Industrial zoning district.

Section 7. Effective date.

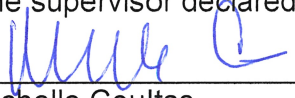
This Ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after publication.

Voting for: Hollis, Hogan and Coultas

Voting against: Sickner.

Absent: Church

The supervisor declared the ordinance adopted.



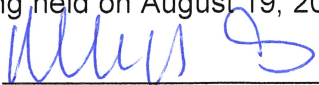
Michelle Coultas
Township Clerk



Dennis Hogan
Township Supervisor

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing is a true copy of Ordinance No. 2026-02 which was enacted by the Marathon Township Board of Trustees at a regular meeting held on August 19, 2026.



Michelle Coultas
Township Clerk