



**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING**  
STARKE COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
53 East Mound Street, Knox, IN 46534  
Office: 574-772-9133 | plancomm75@starke.in.gov

**RESOLUTION 2026-PC-08**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE STARKE COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION**  
**CONCERNING A PROPOSAL TO AMEND TEXT OF THE STARKE**  
**COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE**

**WHEREAS:** The Starke County Board of Commissioners wishes to amend **Section 6-12-3-5(F)** of the Starke County Code to establish clearer standards for fence materials and zoning-specific prohibitions, said proposal identified as **2026-PC-08**; and

**WHEREAS:** A public hearing was held on February 25, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. concerning this matter by the Starke County Plan Commission; and

**WHEREAS:** Notice was provided according to law concerning said public hearing; and

**WHEREAS:** The Starke County Plan Commission passes and adopts this Resolution to make the following findings and recommendations.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STARKE COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** is **2026-PC-08**, the Certified Proposal to **Amend Section 6-12-3-5(F)** of the Starke County Code regarding Fences. To be effective upon approval by the Starke County Commissioners.
2. That in considering the above ordinance, the Starke County Plan Commission has given due consideration:
  - To protect property values and neighborhood character by prohibiting "nuisance materials" such as scrap lumber, pallets, tires, and sheet metal;
  - To enhance public safety by restricting dangerous fencing types (razor wire, electrified fencing) in Residential and Local Business districts;
  - To provide clear definitions for "Temporary Fencing" versus permanent structures to aid in enforcement.

The Starke County Plan Commission finds that the above-stated reasons are sufficient to support the adoption of the ordinance as set forth above.

3. That Notice of said public hearing was provided by the Starke County Plan Commission in accordance with **IC 36-7-4-604**, via publication in *The Leader* newspaper.

4. That the Starke County Plan Commission hereby certifies and forwards this Resolution to the Starke County Board of Commissioners with a **favorable recommendation**.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE STARKE COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION THIS  
25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2026.**

**STARKE COUNTY PLAN COMMISSION**

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**Mike VanDeMark  
Plan Commission Chair**

**ATTEST:**

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**John McCurrie III  
Plan Commission Secretary**

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## ORDINANCE NO. 2026-\_\_\_\_

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2007 AMENDMENT TO SECTION 6-12-3-5(F) (“FENCES”) OF THE CODE OF THE COUNTY OF STARKE, INDIANA

**WHEREAS**, the Code of the County of Starke, Indiana, dated 1991, Section 6-12-3-5(F) (“Fences”), was amended by ordinance adopted on May 7, 2007, to regulate fence placement within road rights-of-way and near improved portions of public roads;

**WHEREAS**, the 2007 amendment addressed location and setback requirements only and is codified as Section 6-12-3-5(F)(1);

**WHEREAS**, the Starke County Plan Commission finds that additional fencing standards are necessary to regulate materials and zoning-specific prohibitions, consistent with Article 6 of the Starke County Zoning Ordinance;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF STARKE COUNTY, INDIANA:**

**SECTION 1: AMENDMENT STRUCTURE** Section 6-12-3-5(F) of the Code of the County of Starke, Indiana, as amended in 2007, is hereby **further amended** by adding the following subsections. All provisions of Section 6-12-3-5(F)(1), including road right-of-way, roadway proximity, and setback requirements adopted in 2007, remain in full force and effect.

#### **SECTION 2: ADDITION OF SUBSECTIONS TO §6-12-3-5(F)**

**(2) Definitions.** For purposes of Section 6-12-3-5(F), the following fencing-related terms apply. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to redefine or amend zoning districts established by Article 6.

- **Fence:** A man-made barrier constructed of posts, panels, wire, boards, masonry, or similar materials, intended to enclose, screen, divide, or secure an area.
- **Temporary Fencing:** Fencing intended for short-term use, including construction fencing, snow fencing, silt fencing, plastic mesh fencing, or similar materials not designed for permanent installation.
- **Nuisance Materials:** Materials not manufactured or intended for permanent fencing, including scrap, debris, salvaged components, or materials in a state of deterioration.

**(3) Approved Fencing Materials.** Fences shall be constructed of durable, finished materials customarily used for permanent fencing purposes, including treated/finished wood, vinyl/composite, ornamental metal (aluminum/wrought iron/steel), galvanized/vinyl-coated chain-link, or masonry. All fencing materials shall be maintained in good condition and free from excessive rust, rot, warping, or structural failure.

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**(4) Prohibited Fencing Materials — All Districts.** The following materials are prohibited for fence construction in **all** zoning districts:

1. Scrap lumber, pallets, or salvaged wood not manufactured for fencing.
2. Sheet metal, corrugated metal panels, or roofing materials.
3. Plastic sheeting, tarps, fiberglass panels, or similar flexible materials.
4. Automobile parts, tires, wheels, or vehicle components.
5. Appliances, doors, windows, or other household debris.
6. Any material classified as junk, debris, or nuisance material.

**(5) Prohibited Fence Types by Zoning District.**

- **Residential Districts (R-1, R-2, R-3):** Electrified fencing, barbed wire, razor wire, and security fencing designed primarily to prevent human access rather than provide enclosure are prohibited. Temporary fencing is prohibited except during active construction.
- **Local Business District (LB):** Electrified fencing, barbed/razor wire, and prison-style security fencing are prohibited.
- **Agricultural District (A):** Electrified fencing is prohibited unless associated with livestock containment. Razor wire is prohibited in all circumstances.
- **Business and Industrial Districts (GB, LI, I):** Razor wire or similar security fencing is prohibited adjacent to Residential or Local Business districts unless approved as part of a site plan or special exception.

**(6) Variances.** The Board of Zoning Appeals may grant variances from the requirements of this subsection where strict application would result in practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship, consistent with Indiana Code 36-7-4-918.5.

**(7) Enforcement.** Fences installed or maintained in violation of this subsection constitute zoning violations and are subject to enforcement and penalties as provided elsewhere in the Starke County Zoning Ordinance.

**SECTION 3: EFFECTIVE DATE** This Ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication as required by law.

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**PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE STARKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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**Mike VanDeMark, President**

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**Donny Binkley**

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**Charles Chesak**

**ATTEST:**

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**Michaelene Houston Starke County Auditor**

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