



City of Hart, Michigan
PLANNING COMMISSION
October 1, 2026 @ 4:00 PM
AGENDA

Hart Council Chambers, 407 State Street, Hart, MI 49420

- 1. Call to order / Roll Call:**
 - a. Commissioners: Cunningham, Fout, LaPorte, Mullen, Root, Clark, Evans
- 2. Approval of Agenda**
- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. September 3, 2026 Regular Meeting
- 4. Public Comments** (limit to 3 minutes per speaker)
- 5. Action Items**
 - a. Review Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Animal Grooming, Boarding & Kennels. **Requested Action:** *Review the proposed zoning ordinance amendments, provide direction to staff, and authorize scheduling a public hearing.*
 - b. Review Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment - Data Centers and Digital Mining. **Requested Action:** *Review the proposed zoning ordinance amendments, provide direction to staff, and authorize scheduling a public hearing.*
- 6. Discussion Items**
- 7. Other Business and Communications from Commission members**
- 8. Adjourn**
 - a. *Next regular meeting November 5, 2026*

City Of Hart

407 S. State St
Hart, Mi 49420
Planning Commission
Thursday, September 3rd, 2026
Minutes, Draft

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lisa Clark, Jim Cunningham, Jim Evans, Cynitha Fout, Diane LaPorte, and Betty Root

ABSENT: Andrew Mullen,

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Nichole Kleiner, City Clerk/Treasurer Karla Swihart, Jacklyn Chase, Jessica Molengraff, Bill Ryder and Wes Vanderwilk

- C. Fout called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

- B. Root motioned to approve the agenda adding 5-1 addition discussion items on agenda items and was supported by D. LaPorte
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 Absent: 0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- L. Clark motioned to approve the minutes from August 6th, 2026, and was supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- Special Land Use Request for a Boarding House at 111 Church Street.
Public Hearing to consider a request for a Special Land Use Request for a Boarding House at 111 Church Street
 - D. LaPorte motioned to open Public Hearing at 4:05pm and was supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1
- With no public comments
 - J. Cunningham motioned to close the Public Hearing at 4:25pm and was supported by D. LaPorte
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

ACTION ITEMS:

- Consideration of Special Land Use Request for a Boarding House at 111 Church St
- The Planning Commission should determine whether the application satisfies the general Special Land Use standards of Chapter 1256 and the specific boarding house requirements of Section 1256.15

Findings of Fact in Accordance with Section 1256.15:

Ordinance Requirement	Finding of Fact
Site/Floor Plan	Applicant submitted a floor plan identifying the use and square footage of each room. <i>Condition Required</i>
Cooking Facilities	No separate cooking facilities are proposed within individual bedrooms
Parking	3 Rooms are proposed for rent, requiring 3 (=) off-street parking spaces. The site provides parking in the back and also a bus that shuttles residents around.

Residential Appearance	The existing structure maintains the appearance of a single-family residence. <i>Condition met</i>
On-Site Management	Applicant proposes that a manager will reside on-site as the required
500-Foot Separation	Staff determined that the property does meet the required 500-foot separation from another approved boarding house.
Rental Code	Approval shall be conditioned upon compliance with the City's Housing Rental Code. <i>Condition Required.</i>

- J. Cunningham motioned to approve with Conditions a Special Land Use Request for a Boarding House at 111 Church Street based upon the Planning Commission's findings in accordance with Section 1256.15 and was supported by B. Root
 - Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 Absent: 1

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- 301 S. State St Street – Rezoning Discussion / Staff Follow-up
 At the August meeting, the Planning Commission asked staff to look further into whether the proposed use at 301 S. State Street (former funeral home) could be considered a short-term rental rather than rezoning residential property to B-2 (Business District)
 The City's Zoning Ordinance does not specifically define or regulate "short-term rentals," Instead, it distinguishes between lodging for **transient guests** and lodging for people who are **not transient**.
 A hotel/motel is lodging offered to the public for **transients guests**, while a boarding house provides lodging to two or more people who are **not transients**.
 For 301 S. State Street, the key question is therefore **how the property will actually operate**- particularly who will stay there, how long they will typically stay, and whether it operates like a traditional short-term rental or more like a residence/boarding house.
 For reference, **315 S. State Street was rezoned to B-2 and classified as a hotel/motel in 2020 and has since been used as transitional lodging for women**. However, that decision does not necessarily require the City to classify 301 S. State the same way.
 - D. LaPorte motioned that 301 S. State Street should be rezoned as B-1 and take appropriate action to move forward and supported by J. Evans
 - Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 1
- Dog Boarding – a request from an existing dog grooming business to add Dog Boarding. Grooming has been operating as a permitted personal service establishment; however, the Zoning Ordinance does not permit kennels or animal boarding in any zoning district. Therefore, there is currently no mechanism to approve the requested use.
 Does the Planning Commission wish to initiate an ordinance amendment to:
 1. Update the definitions of animal grooming and boarding/kennels:
 2. Determine the zoning districts where these uses should be allowed:
 3. Establish animal boarding/kennels as a Special Land Use subject to appropriate standards?
 CM will take next steps and prepare draft ordinance amendments for public hearing and Planning Commission consideration.
- Consideration of Recreational Zoned Areas – for further review at October PC meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS and COMMUNICATION FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

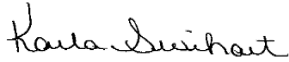
- J. Evans while back we talked about a structure in the back of Hart Auto, they do live there, no permits, no inspections on fire, gas and electricity. As the Planning Commission, we need to take action.
- J. Cunningham stopped by Vets Park and I just want to say job well done and extend thanks to each and every person that helped make it possible. The new Bricks look great.

PUBLIC COMMENTS GENERAL:

- NONE

ADJOURN:

- There being no further business to come before the Planning Commission, the meeting adjourned upon a motion by D. LaPorte and supported by J. Evans. The next meeting scheduled will be held on October 1st, 2026



Karla Swihart
City Clerk

**CITY OF HART
OCEANA COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-05

First reading _____, Second reading _____, Publication date _____, Effective Date (10 days after publication), _____

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY OF HART ZONING CODE TO REGULATE ANIMAL GROOMING, DAYCARE, BOARDING AND KENNEL FACILITIES

The City of Hart ordains:

Section 1. Definitions

Section 1241.01 of the City of Hart Zoning Code is amended to add or revise the following definitions:

Animal Grooming Establishment. A commercial establishment primarily engaged in bathing, trimming, grooming, or similar care of domestic animals. An animal grooming establishment does not include overnight boarding unless separately approved as an animal boarding facility.

Animal Boarding Facility/Pet Daycare. A commercial establishment where dogs, cats, or other domestic animals belonging to persons other than the owner or operator are temporarily cared for, supervised, housed, boarded, or kept for compensation, whether during daytime hours or overnight. This term includes commercial kennels and pet daycare facilities but does not include veterinary hospitals or animal grooming establishments where animals are kept only for the time reasonably necessary to provide grooming services.

Kennel. A premises used for the commercial boarding, breeding, training, daycare, or keeping of dogs or cats for compensation. The keeping of household pets as an accessory residential use shall not constitute a kennel.

Section 2. B-2 General Business District

Section 1250.03, Special Uses, is amended to add:

(f) Animal boarding facilities, pet daycare facilities, and commercial kennels, subject to the requirements of Section 1256.15

Section 3. Special Land Use Standards

Chapter 1256 is amended to add Section 1256.15, as follows:

1256.15 ANIMAL BOARDING FACILITIES, PET DAYCARE FACILITIES AND COMMERCIAL KENNELS.

Animal boarding facilities, pet daycare facilities, and commercial kennels may be approved as a special land use in districts where specifically authorized, subject to the general special land use standards of this Chapter and the following requirements:

(a) Maximum number of animals.

The Planning Commission shall establish the maximum number of animals permitted on the premises based upon the size of the property and building, proximity to neighboring properties, available outdoor area, parking, sanitation facilities, and potential impacts on surrounding property.

(b) Enclosed building.

Animals kept overnight shall be housed within a completely enclosed building.

(c) Outdoor areas.

Outdoor exercise, relief, or play areas shall:

Be securely fenced;

Not be located within a required front yard;

Be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition; and

Be designed and operated to minimize noise, odor, drainage, and other impacts on adjoining properties.

(d) Setbacks.

Buildings used for animal boarding shall be located at least twenty-five (25) feet from a residentially used or zoned property. Outdoor animal areas shall be located at least fifty (50) feet from a residentially used or zoned property. The Planning Commission may require a greater setback where necessary to protect adjoining properties.

(e) Overnight outdoor activity.

Animals shall be kept indoors between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., except for brief supervised relief periods.

(f) Noise.

The facility shall be operated so that barking and other animal noise does not create an unreasonable disturbance to surrounding properties. The Planning Commission may require sound attenuation measures where necessary.

(g) Sanitation and waste.

Animal waste shall be collected regularly and stored and disposed of in a manner that prevents odor, insects, rodents, runoff, or other nuisance conditions.

(h) Drainage.

Outdoor animal areas and indoor wash or kennel areas shall be designed so that animal waste, wash water, or contaminated runoff does not discharge onto adjoining property or into a storm drain except as lawfully permitted.

(i) Screening.

The Planning Commission may require landscaping, fencing, or other screening where outdoor animal areas are visible from adjoining residential property or public rights-of-way.

(j) Parking and circulation.

Adequate off-street parking, customer drop-off and pickup areas, and circulation shall be provided so that vehicles associated with the facility do not create unsafe conditions or routinely obstruct adjoining streets.

(k) Additional conditions.

The Planning Commission may impose reasonable conditions relating to hours of operation, number of animals, outdoor activity, screening, noise control, sanitation, or similar operational characteristics when necessary to ensure compatibility with surrounding properties.

Section 4. Conflict and Severability

All ordinances or portions of ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are repealed only to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect. If any provision of this Ordinance is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5. Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective following adoption and publication as required by law.

**CITY OF HART
OCEANA COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06

First reading _____, Second reading _____, Publication date _____,
Effective Date (10 days after publication), _____

DATA CENTER AND DIGITAL MINING ZONING AMENDMENT

An ordinance to amend Section 1241.01 and Section 1253.02 and add Section 1253.06 to the City of Hart Zoning Code to allow data centers and digital mining facilities in the D-2 Industrial Park District as special land uses.

Section 1 Definitions

Section 1241.01 is amended to add the following definitions in alphabetical order:

Data center. A building, portion of a building, or facility whose principal use is housing and operating computer servers, data storage systems, networking equipment, or similar computing infrastructure for remote storage, processing, management, or transmission of digital data. Associated equipment may include dedicated cooling systems, electrical infrastructure, backup generators, battery systems, and security equipment.

This term does not include offices, information technology consulting companies, software development businesses, telecommunications offices, financial institutions, medical offices, research facilities, manufacturing facilities, or other uses in which computers, servers, or data-processing equipment are incidental or accessory to the principal use. Classification shall be based on the actual use of the premises rather than the business name or industry designation. A digital mining facility is separately defined.

Digital mining facility. A building, portion of a building, or facility whose principal use is operating specialized computing equipment to mine cryptocurrency or perform computational validation of blockchain transactions. This term does not include incidental computing activities accessory to an otherwise permitted principal use.

Section 2 D2 permitted uses

The introductory paragraph of Section 1253.02 is amended to read as follows. Subsections (a) through (h) remain unchanged:

Land and buildings in the D-2, Industrial Park District may only be used for the following purposes or for special land uses authorized under Section 1253.06.

Section 3 D2 special land use standards

Section 1253.06 is added as follows:

1253.06 DATA CENTERS AND DIGITAL MINING FACILITIES.

(a) Authorization. Data centers and digital mining facilities are permitted only in the D-2, Industrial Park District, subject to special land use approval under Chapter 1256 and site plan approval under Chapter 1258. These uses shall not be authorized in another district through a general provision allowing similar or unlisted uses.

(b) Applicable requirements. These facilities shall comply with Sections 1253.03 through 1253.05, Chapter 1256, Chapter 1258, and the additional requirements of this section. The specific equipment-placement allowance in subsection (d) applies notwithstanding the building and structure setbacks in Section 1253.03(a).

(c) Supplemental application information. In addition to the information otherwise required for special land use and site plan review, the applicant shall provide:

(1) A description of computing activities, operating hours, staffing, development phases, and anticipated full-buildout capacity.

(2) Anticipated average and peak electrical demand, average and peak daily water demand, and wastewater discharge volume and characteristics.

(3) Locations and specifications of cooling equipment, generators, transformers, substations, battery systems, fuel storage, and other major mechanical equipment.

(4) Proposed screening, noise controls, generator testing schedule, and emergency access.

(5) An emergency response plan identifying operational contacts, access arrangements, and hazards associated with batteries, fuels, and other regulated materials.

(6) A closure plan addressing safe shutdown, outdoor equipment removal or reuse, waste disposal, and site stabilization.

(d) Equipment location and screening. Outdoor cooling equipment, generators, transformers, battery systems, and similar accessory equipment shall be shown on the approved site plan. Such equipment shall not be located within the required front yard. The Planning Commission may approve equipment within required side or rear yards when all of the following are demonstrated:

(1) Equipment is screened from adjoining residential properties and public streets by buildings, opaque fencing, walls, or landscaping.

(2) The location complies with applicable noise and vibration requirements.

(3) Required fire separation, utility clearances, maintenance access, drainage, and emergency access are maintained.

(4) Required landscaping and buffers remain in place.

This allowance does not authorize principal buildings within required yards. Equipment enclosures used solely for accessory equipment may be included in the allowance. Screening shall maintain required ventilation and safety clearances.

(e) Noise. The facility shall comply with Section 1253.04 and other applicable City noise regulations. The applicant shall provide equipment sound specifications and an explanation of how the proposed location, operating conditions, and mitigation will meet those requirements.

The Planning Commission shall require an acoustical analysis prepared by a qualified professional when the submitted information does not adequately demonstrate compliance, including where equipment operates continuously near residential uses or produces tonal or low-frequency sound. The analysis shall evaluate full-buildout operation, cooling equipment, generator testing, and proposed mitigation. The Commission may accept equipment specifications and documented calculations in place of a professional study when they adequately demonstrate compliance; its determination shall be recorded in the approval findings.

Required noise controls shall be installed before the associated equipment begins operation. The Planning Commission may require post-installation field measurements as an approval condition when needed to verify predicted performance. Applicable noise limits remain enforceable whether or not a study or field measurements are required.

(f) Generators. Routine generator testing and maintenance shall occur only between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays. This restriction does not apply during an actual power outage or emergency. Generators shall be accessory to the approved facility; approval under this section does not authorize a separate principal power-generation use.

(g) Utility service. The applicant shall coordinate with applicable utility providers and submit preliminary written information addressing available capacity, anticipated service limitations, and required improvements. The Planning Commission may grant conditional approval before final utility engineering or service agreements are completed when the record supports the findings required by Section 1256.04 and identifies a feasible means of providing adequate service.

Conditions shall identify the required utility confirmations and improvements and the stage at which each must be completed. Written utility authorization shall be obtained before construction of the associated service infrastructure. Adequate service capacity and improvements necessary for each development phase shall be confirmed and completed before that phase begins operation. Conditional approval shall not substitute for evidence needed to make the general special land use findings.

Special land use approval does not guarantee or reserve electrical, water, or wastewater capacity. Utility service commitments, infrastructure improvements, and applicant financial responsibilities shall be addressed through applicable utility policies and service agreements. Wastewater and cooling-system discharges shall comply with applicable discharge and pretreatment requirements.

(h) Fire and emergency review. Application materials shall be submitted to the applicable fire authority for review of emergency access, fuel storage, battery systems, fire protection, and emergency response arrangements. Required permits and inspections shall be completed before operation.

(i) Changes and expansion. Changes to the approved use, site layout, equipment, or operating characteristics shall be reviewed under Section 1256.07 and Section 1258.11, as applicable. Applications shall identify changes in electrical demand, water use, wastewater discharge, and noise.

(j) Closure and reuse. Upon permanent discontinuance of the use, the owner shall implement the approved closure plan. Obsolete or unsafe outdoor equipment serving exclusively the discontinued use shall be removed within twelve months. Functional equipment may remain for an approved lawful reuse or a documented sale or redevelopment plan that identifies a completion schedule and continued maintenance.

The Planning Commission may approve retention or an extension of the removal period upon finding that the equipment remains safe, the property is maintained, and the proposed schedule is reasonable. Buildings, utility infrastructure, and equipment serving a continuing lawful use may remain. This subsection does not automatically terminate a special land use permit; permit validity and revocation remain governed by Section 1256.06.

Section 4 Severability

If any provision of this ordinance is held invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in effect.

Section 5 Effective date

This ordinance shall take effect on _____, following adoption and publication as required by law.

Planning Commission review notes

These notes are not part of the proposed ordinance.

Requested action: Review the draft, provide direction on the proposed standards, and authorize preparation of a hearing-ready amendment and public hearing notice after City Attorney review.

Existing standards retained. The draft relies on existing D-2 setbacks, height, coverage, landscaping, storage, vibration, parking, signs, lighting, site plan standards, and general special land use requirements. Section 1253.06(d) expressly provides limited flexibility for side and rear yard accessory equipment.

Noise policy. Section 1253.04(b) currently establishes a 75-decibel limit at the nearest occupied residential dwelling. The draft retains that limit and the other nuisance and special land use

standards. The Commission should consider whether a separate nighttime or tonal-noise standard is appropriate before finalizing the amendment.

Industrial Park covenants. Section 1253.05(f) references the Industrial Park restrictive covenants. Confirm compatibility before finalizing the amendment. Zoning approval does not amend or waive private restrictions.

Source reviewed: ORDINANCES ALL, uploaded September 30, 2026; Sections 1241.01, 1253.01–1253.05, 1256.03–1256.08, and 1258.07–1258.11.