

# GOOD TO KNOW!

Webster Township, February 2024

## Types of Ordinances

Typically, a community adopts 'ordinances', primarily to promote compatible uses and activities. There are generally two types of ordinances that guide our Township with key differences summarized below:

	Zoning Ordinance	General Law Ordinance
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Regulate Use of Land;</b> May regulate activity within certain parameters	<b>Regulate Type of activity;</b> Cannot regulate use of land
<b>Examples</b>	Zoning, uses, setbacks, building heights, etc.	Nuisance, noise, junk and private roads etc.
<b>Amendments Applicability</b>	<b>Not Retroactive</b> In other words, existing conforming land uses and activities. They must be allowed to continue and regulated as legal non-conforming uses.	<b>Retroactive</b> Existing activities may be required to be brought into compliance. In other words, there may not be grandfathered.
<b>Adoption</b>	Requires public hearing and additional meetings	Requires at least one meeting
<b>Guiding Factors</b>	Planning Enabling Act; Master Plan and Zoning Plan	Public health, safety and general welfare
<b>Authority</b>	Adopted by the Township Board based on Planning Commission Recommendation	Adopted by the Township Board

Source: Reily, M., Schindler, K. H., (2013, September 15). Zoning and police power ordinances are not the same, and should not be mixed together. MSU Extension.

## Why are Ordinances primarily amended?

1. To remain current and responsive to the needs of the community and emerging trends;
2. To clarify and refine existing language for consistent interpretation and enforcement;
3. To align with state and federal laws.

## What prompts the amendments?

1. Master plan recommendations;
2. Request by stakeholders (residents, owners etc.);
3. Internal periodic review.

## Amendments under Consideration

The Board and the Planning Commission are considering the following amendments.

No.	Topic	Type
22-ZTA-02	Keeping of Animals	Zoning
23-ZTA-01	Accessory Uses & Standards	Zoning
23-ZTA-04	Stormwater Management	Zoning
23-GTA-04	Private Road Ordinance	General Law
23-GTA-05	Home-based Business	General Law

## How long is the process?

Text amendments can take anywhere from a few months to several years, depending on how big and complicated the changes are. Sometimes, the changes might not even get approved. The draft language can be adjusted until it's officially adopted.

## How do I participate?



Track updates to learn more about the topic

[https://www.webstermi.us/services/master\\_plan\\_ordinances.php](https://www.webstermi.us/services/master_plan_ordinances.php)

## Reach out to the Township Planner

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E-mail: [zoningadmin@webstermi.us](mailto:zoningadmin@webstermi.us)



Attend the meetings to share your opinion. Agendas can be found here

[https://www.twp.webster.mi.us/government/agendas\\_minutes.php](https://www.twp.webster.mi.us/government/agendas_minutes.php)