

DANBY TOWNSHIP
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-2
Adopted 9/24/26
Effective Date 10/2/26

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE DANBY TOWNSHIP ZONING ORDINANCE TO
DEFINE AND REGULATE SHIPPING CONTAINERS
FOR ACCESSORY STORAGE FUNCTIONS**

WHEREAS, THE TOWNSHIP OF DANBY, COUNTY OF IONIA, STATE OF MICHIGAN,
ORDAINS:

Section 1: Chapter 2 Definitions, Section 2.18- Definitions S. Section 2.18 of the Danby Township Zoning Ordinance is amended to include the following term and definition:

SHIPPING CONTAINER- A prefabricated receptacle designed for transport of cargo aboard a ship and also by truck trailer or rail car, and which exhibits features designed to facilitate the movement of containerized cargo, including but not limited to corner fittings for pins, design for stacking, and which is otherwise designed and constructed in conformance with standards for shipping containers as set forth by the International Standards Organization.

Section 2: Chapter 3 General Provisions. Chapter 3 of the Danby Township Zoning Ordinance is amended to include a new Section 3.27 Shipping Containers to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 3.27 Shipping Containers

- A. Purpose and Intent. The purpose of this section is to allow the limited use of shipping containers **solely for storage purposes** while ensuring compatibility with surrounding land uses, protecting community character, and avoiding adverse visual, safety, and environmental impacts. Shipping containers are regulated due to their industrial appearance and potential impacts if not properly sited or maintained.
- B. Applicability.
1. This section applies to the placement of shipping containers on properties within Danby Township for the purpose of general storage. Shipping containers shall be permitted only as expressly allowed by this section.
 2. This section does not apply to:
 - a) The temporary placement of shipping containers involved with loading or unloading purposes **for no more than 30 days**.
 - b) The placement of shipping containers in the General Commercial zoning district is permitted when located in an area approved by the Township for outdoor storage through site plan review or special land use review, as applicable.

- c) Shipping containers used in support of a permitted construction project on the associated property, as long as they are removed upon the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy for the project.
- 3. Although intended as an accessory function and use, shipping containers are not considered accessory buildings and are not subject to the requirements of Section 3.12 A.
- C. Permitting. A Zoning Permit is required to place shipping containers on a lot. In addition to application requirements for a Zoning Permit, the following shall be provided:
 - 1. A to-scale sketch or site plan showing the proposed location and setbacks from lot lines.
 - 2. The color and existing conditions of the proposed shipping container(s).
 - 3. Description of the surface on which the shipping container(s) will be placed.
- D. General Requirements.
 - 1. Accessory Use. Shipping containers are prohibited on vacant lots. Shipping containers shall be accessory to a principal residential or non-residential building and located on the same property.
 - 2. Minimum Lot Size. The minimum size of a lot necessary to place shipping containers under the provisions of this section is five (5) acres.
 - 3. Yard Location and Setbacks. Shipping containers shall only be placed within side or rear yards and shall comply with the same setbacks as required for principal buildings in the applicable zoning district.
 - 4. Maximum Number. No more than two (2) shipping containers shall be placed on any lot.
 - 5. Placement.
 - a) Shipping containers shall be placed on a stable, level surface that prevents shifting, settling, or overturning.
 - b) Shipping containers shall not be stacked.
 - 6. Appearance and Maintenance.
 - a) Shipping containers shall be neutral in color. Neutral color means a non-reflective, muted color that is subdued in tone and compatible with surrounding development. Neutral colors include, but are not limited to, shades of gray, beige, tan, brown, off-white, muted green, and similar earth-tone colors. Bright, fluorescent, high-chroma, or highly contrasting colors are not considered neutral.
 - b) Shipping containers shall include no more than one (1) color.
 - c) Shipping containers shall not include signage, logos, or text.
 - d) Shipping containers shall be maintained in good structural condition and free from rust, peeling paint, or damage.
 - 7. Modifications. Shipping containers shall not be modified with the addition of power, plumbing, roofing, attached lean-tos, or any other alteration, unless converted to an accessory building in compliance with the Zoning Ordinance and Building Code.

Section 3: Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any clause, sentence, word, section, or provision is declared void or unenforceable for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect any portion of this ordinance other than said part or portion thereof.

Section 4: Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective eight (8) days after the publication of a summary of its provisions in a local newspaper of general circulation in the Township.

ADOPTED:

Yeas: 5
Nays: 0
Absent: 0

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)
COUNTY OF IONIA)

I, the undersigned, the duly elected Clerk of Danby Township, Ionia County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete representation of certain proceedings conducted by the Board of Trustees of said Township at a meeting held on this 27th day of August 2026.

Kristina Platte
Kristina Platte
Danby Township Clerk