

Ordinance 2026-05

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF STOCKTON
INCREASING FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ZONING
ORDINANCE, AND AMENDING ARTICLE 16 OF “THE
BOROUGH OF STOCKTON ZONING ORDINANCE OF
1975”**

WHEREAS, Article 16 of “The Borough of Stockton Zoning Ordinance of 1975” (“Zoning Ordinance”) contains provisions governing enforcement, violations and penalties under said ordinance; and

WHEREAS, section 16.02 of the Zoning Ordinance currently provides for a maximum fine of \$500 for each violation of the Zoning Ordinance, which maximum fine has not been increased in some time; and

WHEREAS, Council seeks to increase the maximum fine for violations of the Zoning Ordinance so they are commensurate with other ordinance violations in the Borough and other municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Stockton in Hunterdon County, New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. Section 16.02 of Zoning Ordinance – Violations. Section 16.02 of Article 16 of “The Borough of Stockton Zoning Ordinance of 1975” is hereby amended to read as follows (additions are underlined; deletions are [~~bracketed and struck~~):

Article 16.

ENFORCEMENT, VIOLATION AND PENALTIES

§16.03 Violations.

Any owner or agent, and any person or corporation who shall violate any of the provisions of this Ordinance or fail to comply herewith or with any of the requirements thereof or who shall erect, structurally alter, enlarge, rebuild or move any building or buildings of any structure, or who shall put into use any lot or land

in violation of any detailed statement or plan submitted hereunder, or who shall refuse reasonable opportunity to inspect any premises, shall be liable to a fine of not more than \$[500]1,250 or to imprisonment for not more than ninety (90) days, or to both such fines and imprisonment. Each and every day such violation continues after the expiration of an abatement notice or after initial construction as the case may be, shall be deemed a separate and distinct violation.

Section 2. Severability. Each section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase of this ordinance is declared to be an independent section, subsection, sentence, clause, and phrase, and finding or holding of any such portion of this ordinance to be unconstitutional, void, or ineffective for any cause or reason shall not affect any other portion of this ordinance.

Section 3. Repealer. All ordinances or parts thereof inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Referral. This ordinance shall be referred to the Planning Board before the public hearing pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 and -64.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its adoption and publication as required by law and the filing of a copy with the Hunterdon County Planning Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-16.

Introduced : March 16, 2026

Adopted: April 20, 2026

Certification:

I, Laurie A. Courter, Clerk of Stockton Borough hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted at the regular meeting of the Stockton Borough Council on April 20, 2026

Laurie A. Courter

Laurie A. Courter, RMC