

**TOWNSHIP OF SOLON**  
**COUNTY OF KENT, MICHIGAN**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Township of Solon, held in the Solon Township Hall, 15185 Algoma Avenue, within the Township, on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

The following Ordinance was offered by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF  
THE TOWNSHIP OF SOLON**

**[Data Centers and Digital Mining Uses]**

THE TOWNSHIP OF SOLON ORDAINS:

Section 1.     **Data Centers and Digital Mining Uses.** Chapter 3 of the Solon Township Zoning Ordinance (the “Zoning Ordinance”) is amended by the addition of a new Section 3.39 regarding data centers and digital mining uses, which shall read in its entirety as follows:

**SECTION 3.39     DATA CENTERS AND DIGITAL MINING USES.**

- A.     Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide regulations for data centers within the Township in a manner that protects the property values and lifestyles of adjacent and nearby properties and also the health, safety and general welfare of the Township and its residents.
  
- B.     Definitions.
  - 1.     Accessory Data Center. A data center that is ancillary to the principal use of a lot of parcel, which is typically used solely to store or otherwise support an individual business’s data and information technology needs. A data center is not considered

an accessory data center if it requires more than five megawatts (5 MW) of power to operate.

2. Closed-Loop Cooling System. A sealed system where coolant circulates continuously, absorbing heat from a source, and then transfers that heat to a heat exchanger for removal, without the coolant ever being exposed to the environment.
3. Colocation Data Center. A data center that is rented out by the owner to provide space to other businesses for their servers and other computing hardware. In addition to providing physical space, colocation facilities may offer additional services including maintenance, backup power systems, and multiple network connections. A colocation data center may be a small-scale, medium-scale or hyperscale data center.
4. Data Center. A use involving a building or other structure that is primarily occupied by computers and/or telecommunications equipment and related equipment, including supporting equipment, where information is processed, transferred, or stored. A data center use shall not include a digital mining use. A data center which includes on-site solar or wind energy generation facilities used or intended to be used to supply power to the data center shall comply with the requirements of the zoning ordinance and any other ordinances regulating those uses.
5. Digital Currency. Currency in a digital format that involves the use of encryption techniques to regulate the generation of units of the digital currency and verify the transfer of funds, operating independently from a central bank.
6. Digital Mining. The process whereby computers (also referred to as “nodes” or “mining rigs”) validate blockchain transactions for a specific item of digital currency (commonly known as “bitcoin” or “cryptocurrency”) for a financial benefit.
7. Digital Mining Use. A use involving a building or structure that is primarily occupied by computers used for digital currency mining purposes. Typical physical characteristics of a digital mining use include, but are not limited to, specialized computer hardware or data centers with a non-diverse electrical use for mining operations as well as equipment to cool the hardware and operating space. For the purposes of this Zoning Ordinance, the scale of a digital mining use that is not connected to a data center is determined by the same power measurements provided in the definition of small-scale, medium scale, and hyperscale data centers in this Section 3.39.
8. Hyperscale Data Center. A data center that is typically located in a warehouse-sized facility that stores servers to handle very large processing workloads, and typically host 5,000 or more servers. requires one hundred megawatts (100 MW) or more of power to operate.

9. Medium-Scale Data Center. A data center that requires between five megawatts (5 MW) and ninety-nine megawatts (99 MW) of power to operate.
10. Megawatts (MW). A unit of power that is used for the measurement of bulk electricity, and is equal to one million watts.
11. Small-Scale Data Center. A data center that requires less than five megawatts (5 MW) of power to operate.

C. Application. A site plan shall be submitted and reviewed prior to the approval of a data center or an expansion or change of use for a data center under the provisions of Chapter 14, except where special land use approval is required, in which case special land use approval under Chapter 16 shall be required. An application for a proposed data center or digital mining use shall include all of the information required for site plan review under Chapter 14, and the following additional information:

1. The site plan for the proposed use shall include the location of proposed buildings, structures and other improvements, floodplains, wetlands, any bodies of water, and the zoning districts for all adjacent properties and any existing dwellings within ½ mile of the proposed use.
2. Evidence of preliminary contact with the proposed electrical service provider regarding whether there is capacity for the proposed use and whether the existing infrastructure and facilities can accommodate the proposed use.
3. A noise mitigation plan shall be submitted, including, at a minimum, a detailed acoustic study showing the amount of noise that would be produced by normal operations of the data center and strategies to minimize noise and achieve a neutral impact on adjacent and nearby properties.
4. The submittal shall contain a detailed narrative of the arrangements to be made for stormwater discharge, water supply and sewage disposal service, including approximate capacity, source of water supply, discharge points for sewage disposal, and description of storm water management facilities.
5. A project development timeline, including information regarding how the applicant will inform adjacent property owners and members of the community regarding the status of the project.
6. A decommissioning plan, which shall include details regarding the planned method of safe removal and recycling or disposal of server infrastructure, any hazardous materials, batteries, electronic waste and related products.
7. An agreement by the applicant to allow for periodic inspections to ensure compliance with the applicable regulations.

D. Environmental Impact Assessment. The Applicant shall also provide an environmental

impact assessment with the application materials. This assessment shall describe the effect and impact that the proposed data center or digital mining use will or may have upon or with respect to the following matters:

1. The lands involved and the adjacent and nearby lands; streams, rivers, wetlands, and the quality and volume of surface and groundwater; wildlife and trees, and other significant vegetation; the effect, if any, on surrounding property values.
  2. A traffic impact study.
  3. Additional costs to governmental units; police and fire protection; storm water drainage; water supply and sewage disposal.
  4. Evidence that the disposal of wastewater and other materials will be accomplished in a manner that complies with local, state and federal regulations.
  5. Noise, vibration, dust and dirt, litter, smoke, odor, light, and glare.
  6. A community impact analysis.
  7. An analysis by a third party of the nature and effect of any private utility systems, including septic tanks and drain fields, storm water control and retention facilities, and water supply and distribution systems. This analysis shall include any impact on private utility systems located on adjacent or nearby properties up to ½ mile away from the proposed data center.
  8. Such other matters as the Planning Commission may request to be included. If requested by the Planning Commission, the environmental impact assessment shall include statements or comments from the following public agencies or officials concerning those aspects of the proposed data center within their respective responsibilities and jurisdictions: Kent County Health Department; Kent County Road Commission, Kent County Drain Commissioner, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, local school district(s); Kent County Sheriff's Department, the Township Fire Department, electricity providers, and the surrounding public water and sewer authorities and providers if applicable, along with other appropriate agencies.
- E. Reports. The Township shall have the right to require supplemental or amended reports related to matters including but not limited to impacts of the proposed development, prior to any zoning approval.
- F. Staff Review. The Zoning Administrator and Township Engineer shall prepare a report on the proposed site plan for the Planning Commission. The Township may also contract with other consultants to provide reports necessary to evaluate the proposed data center and its potential impacts.
- G. Fees. The applicant shall pay all fees and charges required by the Township including the

required escrow deposit set by the Township Board for site plan review and special land use approval, if applicable. In addition, the Township reserves the right to require the applicant to deposit an increased or additional escrow deposit if necessary for the Township to review the application and related materials, including escrows necessary to pay third parties or contractors to assist the Township with consideration of the site plan, special land use approval, or continuing operation of the data center or digital mining use.

H. General Regulations. The following general requirements apply to all data centers and digital mining uses within the Township.

1. Noise. Noise emanating from the use, operation, maintenance, or decommissioning of a data center or a digital mining use shall not exceed forty-five (45) decibels (dBA) Lmax as measured from any property line.
  - a. The maximum noise levels provided above shall not apply to emergency alerts or emergency alarms.
  - b. The Planning Commission may reduce the maximum noise level for any data center and/or particular mining use if necessary to protect adjacent residents and property owners, including but not limited to in the event that there is an audible noise due to the operation of a data center or digital mining use at adjacent property line(s), which contains a steady pure tone such as a whine, screech or hum.
  - c. As part of a special land use approval, the Planning Commission may authorize other or different noise regulations if justified by the circumstances and if the standards for special land use approval would nevertheless be satisfied.
2. Mechanical Equipment. To reduce the impact of additional noise on surrounding properties, any equipment necessary for cooling, ventilating, or otherwise related to operations of the data center or digital mining use, including power generators or other power supply equipment, shall be located within an enclosed building or structure.
  - a. The Planning Commission may waive this requirement for specified equipment if it finds that it is not mechanically feasible to fully enclose such equipment. If it does so, the specified equipment that has been approved to be located outside of an enclosed building or structure shall be screened by a wall or similar barrier.
3. Setbacks.
  - a. Setbacks from Residential Properties. Any building or structure that is used for a data center or digital mining use shall be located at least 500 feet from the lot line of any property located in a residential zoning district.

- b. Setbacks from Non-Residential Properties. Any building or structure that is used for a data center or digital mining use shall be located at least 250 feet from the lot line of any property not located in a residential zoning district.
  - c. Setbacks for Equipment. Any equipment necessary for cooling, ventilating, or otherwise related to operations of the data center or digital mining use, including power generators or other power supply equipment, shall be setback the same as the building setback above.
  - d. Setbacks for Accessory Data Centers. An Accessory Data Center shall comply with the applicable building and any other setback requirements for the district in which the small scale Accessory Data Center is located.
4. Outdoor Storage. Outdoor storage of materials, equipment, and supplies shall be prohibited.
5. Hazardous Materials. Due to the nature of a data center or digital mining use, hazardous waste and storage of hazardous materials is anticipated. If the proposed data center or digital mining use includes storage or disposal of hazardous materials or waste, the following is required:
- a. The applicant shall describe the nature of the storage and processing of hazardous materials and waste as part of the application for site plan review. This shall include proposed safety measures and protocols to prevent the spread of hazardous materials outside of designated containment areas and procedures in the event that hazardous materials or waste are released and have the potential to damage persons, property or the environment. This information shall be provided to provide the Township with notice that hazardous materials or waste are present to coordinate in the event that hazardous materials or waste is released, and to inform public safety officials.
  - b. All storage and/or processing of hazardous materials and waste shall comply in all respects with state and federal law and regulations and the requirements of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and any other applicable agency. Storage and/or processing of hazardous materials and waste shall not commence until all necessary permits have been obtained and copies of such permits have been provided to the Township.
  - c. Storage and/or processing of hazardous materials and waste shall not occur within 500 feet of any lot line.
  - d. If storage and/or processing is proposed outside of a building or structure, those activities shall be screened from view of adjacent public or private rights-of-way and any property that is zoned in a residential district.

6. Air Quality and Water Quality. The equipment, including but not limited to any power generators, used in the operation of the data center or digital mining use shall minimize air pollutant emissions and water pollutant discharges and meet or exceed applicable state and federal laws regarding emissions and discharges. An owner or operator or applicant for a data center shall provide affirmative proof of EGLE approval or EPA approval upon request of the Township.
7. Storm Water Management. A Township storm water permit is required for a proposed data center or digital mining use. Measures for control of storm water drainage shall be provided under the terms of the Township Storm Water Ordinance and any other applicable ordinances, regulations or statutes.
8. Cooling Methods. To reduce the potential impact on nearby potable water resources, any data center or digital mining use that proposes to use water cooling must use a closed-loop cooling system or recycled water system.
9. Power. Before the issuance of any building permits, the applicant shall provide written verification from the applicable energy service provider that states the following:
  - a. There is adequate capacity available on the applicable supply lines and substation for the data center or digital mining use and to ensure that there is sufficient capacity available to serve the needs of other customers within the service area, consistent with the normal projected load growth envisioned by the provider;
  - b. The utility supply equipment and related electrical infrastructure are sufficiently sized and can safely accommodate the proposed data center or digital mining use during the power provider's peak consumption hours;
  - c. Any system designed for cooling and operation of the facility (electricity, water, or other means) will be adequate and will not negatively impact the surrounding area; and
  - d. The use will not cause electrical interference or fluctuations in the line voltage on and off the operating premises.
10. Electric Utilities.
  - a. Integration of renewable energy to power data centers is preferred, if feasible. Data centers that are required to obtain power from renewable sources as part of eligibility for the sales and use tax exemptions under Public Act 181 of 2024, as amended, and Public Act 207 of 2024, as amended, shall comply with state laws and regulations. The applicant shall provide proof of compliance with this section.
  - b. To the extent feasible, electrical utilities shall be located underground.

- c. The Applicant shall provide proof that the data center or digital mining use will not cause an increase in electricity costs for Township residents.
  - d. Prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the applicant shall provide the Township with written verification that the electrical work has passed a third-party final inspection.
- 11. Lighting. Any proposed outdoor lighting for a data center or digital mining use shall comply with the requirements of Section 3.21.
- 12. Fencing. Fencing may be required for a data center or digital mining use if necessary for safety or security purposes. The Planning Commission shall have discretion to approve the height, location and type of fencing.
- 13. Parking. Data centers and digital mining uses shall provide a minimum of one (1) off-street parking space for each employee of the data center, and an additional three (3) visitor parking spaces. In the alternative the Planning Commission may allow parking at 1 space per 100,000 square feet of building area.
- 14. Safety.
  - a. A detailed emergency response plan shall be submitted with the zoning application, showing at a minimum that the data center has a plan in effect to address emergencies resulting from flood, fire, explosion and catastrophic weather events. The emergency response plan is subject to review and comments by the Township, including the Township Fire Chief, and may also be subject to review of the Kent County Sheriff's Department or other applicable law enforcement agency.
  - b. The equipment used in any data center or digital mining use shall be housed in a metered, electrically grounded, and metal-encased structure with a fire rating designed to resist an internal electrical fire for at least thirty (30) minutes. The containment space for the equipment shall contain baffles that automatically close in the event of fire, independent of a possible electrical system failure.
  - c. Any data center or digital mining use that is proposed to include battery storage or any other device or group of devices capable of storing energy in order to supply electrical energy at a later time shall demonstrate compliance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 855, Installation of Stationary Energy Storage Systems, or similar standards and must include fire suppression systems specifically designed for battery storage.
  - d. The proposed data center or digital mining use shall include a fire suppression system that complies with the Michigan Construction Code, as amended, and any other applicable local, state or federal laws, rules or

regulations. Compliance with all requirements of the Township Fire Chief related to fire suppression shall be required.

15. Emergency Contact Information. Each data center or digital mining use shall provide 24-hour emergency contact signage visible at each access entrance. The signs shall include the company name (if applicable), the owner or representative's name, the telephone number for the emergency contact person, and the local power company's name and telephone number.
  16. Nuisance Prohibited. The data center or digital mining use shall be designed, constructed and operated at all times in manner that does not create a nuisance by reason of heat, glare, fumes, dust, noise, vibration or odor beyond the property on which the data center is located.
  17. Modular Data Centers Prohibited. Except during the construction phase, pre-fabricated or "modular" data centers and shipping containers and similar prefab structures are prohibited. All data center uses shall be within site-built buildings.
  18. Compliance with Other Laws. The design, construction, operation use and decommissioning of a data center or digital mining use shall comply with all other applicable local, state or federal laws or regulations, including but not limited to laws or regulations regarding the environment, pollution, and mitigation of potential impacts on threatened or endangered species.
- I. Decommissioning Requirements. The application shall include a decommissioning and land reclamation plan that describes the anticipated life of the data center or digital mining facility and the manner in which the project will be decommissioned, actions that will be taken to restore the site, the removal of the data center and all equipment, the estimated cost of the decommissioning process, and the method for ensuring that the owner and/or operator will have sufficient funds available for decommissioning and restoration including but not limited to the posting of an appropriate bond, letter of credit or other security. If a data center or digital mining use is not operational for a continuous one-year period, or if substantial action on the project is discontinued for a period of one year, the project shall be deemed abandoned and must be decommissioned. The owner, operator, permit holder and/or their successor(s) in interest shall have one year to complete decommissioning of the facility. The decommissioning shall be in compliance with the approved decommissioning plan, and the owner, operator, permit holder and/or their successor(s) in interest shall notify the Township when the project has been decommissioned.
- J. Colocation Data Centers. Colocation data centers shall be permitted. The owner(s) and/or operator(s) of colocation data centers shall be responsible for ensuring that lessees and users of the data center or digital mining use facilities comply with the terms of this section and other applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance and other applicable local, state and federal laws, rules and regulations. The owner(s) and/or operator(s) of colocation data centers shall provide information regarding their plan to ensure that all of the lessees and users of the proposed data center or digital mining use will remain in compliance.

K. Accessory Data Centers.

1. An accessory data center is permitted only in those zoning districts where an accessory data center is a permitted accessory use.
2. Accessory data centers must be located on the same lot or parcel as the principal use.
3. All equipment necessary for the operation of the accessory data center, including any equipment necessary for cooling, ventilating, or otherwise related to operations of the data center or digital mining use, including power generators or other power supply equipment, shall be located within an enclosed building or structure.

L. Digital Mining Uses. Where a digital mining use is allowed as a permitted use or special land use in a zoning district, the following additional requirements apply:

1. All activities related to the digital mining use must be conducted within an enclosed building.
2. The applicant must provide evidence to the Township, certified by a professional engineer, that the proposed use will not have an adverse effect on electrical or digital internet services in neighboring properties or the Township.
3. All digital mining operations shall be designed, erected, and installed in accordance with all applicable local, state or federal laws, codes, rules and regulations.
4. Digital mining shall not occur in any accessory building or temporary structure. The use of ISO shipping containers or other similar containers for digital mining shall be prohibited.
5. Digital mining operations shall only be permitted between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Planning Commission may authorize additional hours if appropriate noise, light, screening and other protective measures are included.

Section 2.     **Amendment of Section 9.02(B)(1).** Section 9.02 of the Zoning Ordinance is amended by the amendment of Section 9.02(B)(1) to clarify that the “data processing” uses included in business services uses permitted in the NC Neighborhood Commercial District do not include data centers and/or digital mining uses, as defined in Section 3.39, to read in its entirety as follows:

B. Business services including:

1. Advertising agencies, adjustment and collection services, credit reporting services, direct mail services, photocopying and duplicating services, commercial art and graphic design, secretarial and court reporting, disinfecting and pest control services, building maintenance services, employment agencies, computer programming services, data processing (but not including data centers and/or digital mining uses as defined in Section 3.39), messenger/telegraph-service stations and parcel-delivery stations.

Section 3.     **Addition of Section 9.02(J).** Section 9.02 of the Zoning Ordinance is also amended by the addition of a new Section 9.02(J) to allow data centers and/or digital mining uses as a permitted accessory use in the NC – Neighborhood Commercial District, to read in its entirety as follows:

- J. Data centers and/or digital mining uses as accessory uses, as regulated under Section 3.39.

Section 4.     **Amendment of Section 10.02.** Section 10.02 of the Zoning Ordinance is also amended by the addition of a new Section 10.02(N) and 10.02(O) to allow data centers and/or digital mining uses as a permitted accessory use, and to allow small-scale data centers and/or digital mining uses as a permitted use in the HC – Highway Commercial District, to read in its entirety as follows:

- N. Data centers and/or digital mining uses as accessory uses, as regulated under Section 3.39.
- O. Small-scale data centers and/or digital mining uses, as regulated by Section 3.39.

Section 5.     **Amendment of Section 11.02.** Section 11.02 of the Zoning Ordinance is amended by the addition of a new Section 11.02(Q) and a new Section 11.02(R) to allow data centers and/or digital mining uses as a permitted accessory use, and to allow small-scale data centers and/or digital mining uses as a permitted use in the LI – Light Industrial District, to read in its entirety as follows:

- Q. Data centers and/or digital mining uses as accessory uses, as regulated under Section 3.39.

R. Small-scale data centers and/or digital mining uses, as regulated by Section 3.39.

Section 6. **Amendment of Section 11.03.** Section 11.03 of the Zoning Ordinance is amended by the addition of a new Section 11.03(G) to allow medium-scale and hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses as a special land use in the LI – Light Industrial District, subject to the location requirements in Section 16.04(MM)(E), to read in its entirety as follows:

G. Medium-scale and hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses, as regulated by Section 3.39 and Section 16.04(MM).

Section 7. **Data Centers and Data Mining as a Special Land Use.** Chapter 16 of the Zoning Ordinance is amended by the addition of a new Section 16.04(MM) regarding special land use specific requirements for data centers and digital mining uses, which shall read in its entirety as follows:

#### **SECTION 16.04 SPECIAL LAND USE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS**

\*\*\*

MM. **Data Centers and Digital Mining.** Medium-scale and hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses may be permitted by the Planning Commission as a special land use upon compliance with each of the following requirements:

1. Definitions. The definitions provided for data centers in Section 3.39 shall apply.
2. Compliance with Section 3.39. Proposed medium-scale or hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses must comply with the requirements for all data centers under Section 3.39 in addition to the requirements of this section and the Zoning Ordinance.
3. Application. In addition to the application materials and environmental impact study required for data centers under Section 3.39(c) and 3.39(d), applications for medium-scale or hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses shall include the following:
  - a. A separate noise impact study which includes information on the noise levels to be generated by the construction, use and operation of the data center, measured in dB(A), and which includes all information requested by the Planning Commission.

- b. A description of the proposed plan to obtain water required for all data center or digital mining uses, including whether the water would be taken from groundwater or surface water, whether private or public utilities are proposed, and indicating the quantity of water required. The description shall specify if any non-potable or recycled water is proposed to be used.
- c. A separate analysis of the impact on the use of the required water for the data center or digital mining use on the capacity of water available from public utilities or from groundwater or surface water sources. If the water for cooling is proposed to be from the required public water connection, the applicant must demonstrate that the public source has the capacity to provide water for the proposed data center or digital mining use or if infrastructure or facilities improvements would be required.
- d. Copies of required approvals from the applicable public water system and public sewer system. Any infrastructure or facilities improvements that are required to the public water system and/or public sewer system to accommodate the proposed data center and/or digital mining use must be paid solely by the applicant.
- e. The applicant shall also provide a water feasibility study regarding the use of public water and any use of nonpublic sources of water. Private wells shall not be used for general cooling or processing purposes. The water feasibility study shall include the following:
  - (1) Calculations of the projected water needs of the data center during normal operations and at peak operations.
  - (2) A geologic map of the area with a radius of at least one mile from the property.
  - (3) The location of all existing and proposed wells within 1/2 mile of the site, with a notation of the capacity of all high-yield wells.
  - (4) The location of all rivers, streams and lakes within 1/2 mile of the site.
  - (5) A determination of the long-term safe yield of groundwater based on the geologic formation(s) underlying the site.
  - (6) A determination of the effects of the proposed water supply system and water discharge system on the quantity and quality of water in nearby wells and bodies of water.
  - (7) A statement of the qualifications and the signature(s) of the person(s) preparing the study.

(8) A detailed report on the method of retaining and disposing of all cooling system flushing and any dirty water produced by the data center.

- f. The applicant shall provide an analysis of the impact of stormwater discharged from the proposed data center and the impact on groundwater, surface water or other water sources.
- g. The applicant shall also provide information regarding any preliminary review of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.
- h. The applicant shall provide information regarding discussions with the electric service provider indicating that capacity is available to serve the proposed data center or digital mining use.
- i. The applicant shall provide proof of compliance with all FAA and other aviation requirements.

4. Construction and Special Escrows.

- a. Construction Phasing Requirements. The construction of medium-scale and hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses are subject to special construction restrictions. The construction must be conducted in phases and only during such days of the week and hours as may be specifically approved by the Planning Commission as part of special land use approval, but shall not occur before 6 am or later than 8 pm. The construction shall not take place in a way which allows for unreasonable noise, dust or other negative impacts on nearby or adjoining properties or lands or water. In addition, although the construction is not subject to the operational noise restrictions for data centers and digital mining uses, the Planning Commission may place special noise restrictions on each phase of the construction.
- b. Special Escrows. In addition to all of the escrows provided herein, the owner and operator of any medium-scale and hyperscale data center shall pay or reimburse the Township for all inspections, analyses, reports and expenses incurred by the Township in not only monitoring the construction of the medium-scale and hyperscale data center and/or digital use, but also the ongoing cost of inspections and monitoring and enforcement, including decommissioning, of the medium-scale and hyperscale data centers or digital mining uses. In addition to the escrows provided elsewhere in the Zoning Ordinance, the Township may establish separate and special escrows to cover these costs and expenses.

5. Location Requirements. Medium-scale and hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses shall not be permitted in areas of the Township that do not have sufficient infrastructure or facilities to support those uses.
  - a. Medium-scale and hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses shall be required to locate in an area where it must connect to public water and public sewer. In the event a medium-scale or hyperscale data center and/or digital mining use would demonstrate as part of a special land use application a low water usage, the Planning Commission may authorize alternative water and sewer facilities if justified by the facts and if the standards in the Zoning Ordinance and all other applicable laws are satisfied.
  - b. In addition, medium-scale and hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses shall not be located in areas that do not have existing electrical infrastructure and facilities that are sufficient to support medium-scale or hyperscale data centers or digital mining uses.
  - c. Medium scale and hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses shall be located by highways or roads able to service the construction and use of the data center and/or digital mining use.
  
6. Additional Requirements for Special Land Use Medium-Scale or Hyperscale Data Centers and/or Digital Mining Uses.
  - a. Minimum Lot Area. The minimum lot area shall be 40 acres.
  - b. Building Height. The maximum building height shall be 40 feet.
  - c. Setbacks.
    - (1) The minimum setback for all buildings, structures and equipment from adjoining property lines that are zoned in residential districts shall be 500 feet.
    - (2) The minimum setback for all building, structures and equipment from adjoining property lines that are zoned in non-residential districts shall be 250 feet.
    - (3) Notwithstanding the above, guard stations placed by the entrance to the facility may be setback 150 feet if approved by the Planning Commission.
  - d. Site Design Requirements. The site and buildings shall comply with the Site Design Requirements in Chapter 10 for the Highway Commercial District, unless modified by this chapter or by the Planning Commission as part of special land use approval.

- e. Noise and Vibration.
- (1) Noise emanating or generated by the use, operation, maintenance, or decommissioning of a medium-scale or hyperscale data center and/or digital mining use must comply with the requirements of Section 3.39, and also with all other requirements of federal, state, county, or township regulations, except as provided in this subsection.
  - (2) As part of special land use approval, the Planning Commission may authorize other or different or alternative regulations and conditions, including higher or lower decibel levels, alternative or additional methods of measuring noise, specify hours and days, require additional buffering or screening or special setbacks, include monitoring requirements, and otherwise modify or include regulations and conditions if justified by the facts and circumstances, and if the standards for special land use approval are satisfied.
- f. Greenbelts, Landscaping and Buffering. Greenbelts, landscaping, and buffering shall be provided as follows:
- (1) A 50-foot buffer yard shall be provided along the entire length of any public street frontage of any property upon which the data center is located and which abuts or is within 500 feet of an existing residential property line or zone. A minimum 30-foot buffer yard shall be provided along all other property lines.
  - (2) The buffer yard shall include an earthen berm with a minimum height of six (6) feet and a minimum width of ten (10) feet, unless an alternate width and height is approved by the Planning Commission as part of special land use, and shall contain evergreens and other plantings required by the Planning Commission, so as to provide an effective sound and visual permanent buffer.
  - (3) The Planning Commission may require additional screening or buffering in its discretion.
  - (4) The owner(s) and/or operator(s) of the data center shall continuously maintain the required landscaping and buffering.
- g. Cooling Methods. In addition to the closed-loop requirements in Section 3.39.H.8., the cooling methods for medium-scale or hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses are subject to the additional requirements:
- (1) The Planning Commission may require the use of geothermal, air-cooling, electrical-cooling, waste heat recovery systems, or other

more advanced cooling methods which may become available. Use of open, evaporative cooling towers is prohibited unless specifically permitted as part of special land use approval.

- (2) The facility owner or operator shall maintain a publicly-accessible website and shall provide written notice to the Township of all cooling system flushing, conditioning, or major maintenance at least 72 hours prior to providing that maintenance. In the event of an emergency, notice shall be provided as soon as reasonably possible by the same methods.
  - (3) All cooling system construction, operation, and maintenance shall be done in such a manner as to not negatively impact data center or digital mining center lands, or adjacent or nearby lands or water.
- h. Generators. In addition to all other requirements of the Zoning Ordinance, medium-scale or hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses shall comply with the following additional requirements.
- (1) Generators shall not be operated for ongoing operations except during an emergency disruption of supply.
  - (2) Generators shall not be used for grid support services, peak shaving demand, response programs, or participation in energy markets.
  - (3) All generators, including temporary or emergency generators, must be housed in sound-mitigating enclosures to mitigate noise. Testing of generators may only take place during times approved by the Planning Commission as part of special land use approval.
  - (4) The Planning Commission may require generators to be powered by natural gas or other green energy as part of special land use approval.
- i. Rooftop Appurtenances and Equipment. All roof-mounted appurtenances and equipment shall be screened on four sides with materials that are consistent and harmonious with the building's façade and character. Such screening shall be provided in order to screen the equipment from off-site view and to buffer sound generated by such equipment.
- j. Utilities, Roads and Township Services. Applicants and facility operators and owners of medium-scale and hyperscale datacenters and/or digital mining uses shall provide the Township with an initial study, and with annual studies as requested by the Township, of all utilities, roads, and the type, size and quantity of firefighting equipment that will be used or need to be added to serve a facility of this size and for this particular use. The applicant, facility operator or owner shall pay for all extensions, additions,

improvements or additional facilities, vehicles, or equipment needed to provide the additional utilities, roads, and/or Township services.

- k. Dewatering. Dewatering is specifically prohibited during the construction and operation unless specifically approved by the Planning Commission as part of special land use approval.
- l. Battery Storage. If a facility owner or operator or property owner desires to use battery storage or any other device or group of devices capable of storing energy in order to supply electrical energy at a later time, whether the energy is stored for use on-site or off-site, the facility owner and operator shall demonstrate compliance with all fire standards and other applicable requirements, and must include fire suppression systems and securities designed specifically for battery storage.
- m. Liability Insurance. The facility owner or operator shall maintain a current general liability policy covering bodily injury and property damage with limits of at least \$5 million per occurrence and \$5 million in the aggregate. Certificates shall be made available to the Township upon request.
- n. Annual Inspections and Third-Party Services. As a condition of special land use approval, the facility owner and/or operator shall agree to reimburse the Township for annual professional and independent inspection of the operations, including the use of third parties. In addition to allowing for inspections, the owner and/or operator may be required to provide additional reports as requested by the Township on annual operations, including but not limited to, all water and sewer usage, discharges, electrical usage, noise, and maintenance. The purpose of the inspections and reports is to determine compliance with the Zoning Ordinance, site plan and special land use approval. The applicant, owner and/or operator may be required to post an additional bond, security, or escrow to pay for the annual inspections and reports.
- o. Public Amenities. The Planning Commission may require public amenities consistent with the impact of the special land use medium-scale or hyperscale data center and/or digital mining uses, including the construction and maintenance of pathways along the areas where medium-scale or hyperscale data centers and/or digital mining uses run along public streets as well as additional similar-related public amenities necessary to offset the impact of the special land use medium-scale or hyperscale data center and/or digital mining use.
- p. General Compatibility. No use, activity or operation of a special land use medium-scale or hyperscale data center and/or digital mining use shall be conducted in a manner that is injurious, noxious, or offensive to adjacent or neighboring land uses; interferes with the reasonable use or enjoyment of

life or property, or tends to depreciate the value of surrounding property due to noise, vibration, glare, lighting, omissions, traffic, visual impact, or other nuisance conditions.

Section 8.     **Publication and Effective Date.** This Ordinance, or a summary of its provisions, shall be published in a local newspaper of general circulation within the Township. This Ordinance shall take effect seven days following such publication.

AYES: \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: \_\_\_\_\_

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dorothy Willoughby, Township Clerk

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Township Board of the Township of Solon at a regular meeting held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dorothy Willoughby, Township Clerk