

**TOWNSHIP OF SHALER
ORDINANCE NO. 1990**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SHALER,
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING
THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF
SHALER AT CHAPTER 225, ZONING, TO AMEND
ARTICLE IX, SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS,
SUBARTICLE E, FENCES, WALLS AND HEDGES TO
AMEND THE REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO
RETAINING WALLS WITHIN RESIDENTIAL DISTRICTS
OF THE TOWNSHIP, AND TO ESTABLISH REPEALER,
EFFECTIVE DATE AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES.**

WHEREAS, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, 53 P.S. §10101 *et seq.*, (“MPC”) authorizes the Township of Shaler (“Township”) by and through its Board of Commissioners (“Board”) to regulate zoning and land use within the Township; and

WHEREAS, the First Class Township Code, 53 P.S. §55101-58502, authorizes the Board to make regulations, as necessary, for the beauty of the Township and its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that certain building and construction materials which are suitable for commercial and industrial uses are inappropriate for use in residential districts where their use is detrimental to the beauty of the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to promote the preservation of the residential character of its residential districts through the promotion of appropriate building materials and standards and the prohibition of certain materials detrimental to the purpose and intent of said districts; and

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2025 the Shaler Township Planning Commission (“Planning Commission”) reviewed this ordinance to the Board; and

WHEREAS, a duly advertised public hearing on this Ordinance was held on October 14, 2025; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of Shaler Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, hereby ordains and enacts as follows, incorporating the above recitals by reference:

Section 1. Article IX, Supplemental Regulations, Subarticle E, Fences, Walls and Hedges, of the Township Zoning Ordinance, is revised by inserting the underlined terms and deleting the stricken terms as follows:

• • •

§225-103 Special exceptions.

~~All fences and walls that are constructed with generally accepted building materials and which comply otherwise with the permit requirements of this section and the performance standards of this article shall be permitted in all residential districts, with the exception of fences and walls constructed with jumbo concrete block, precast or poured concrete, or of the gabion basket type, none of which shall be permitted without approval by the Zoning Hearing Board for use as a special exception in those residential districts.~~

[RESERVED]

...

§225-111 Materials, construction and drainage

- A. All walls shall comply with all requirements of the Uniform Construction Code.
- B. All fences and walls shall be constructed and located in strict conformance with all Township grading and stormwater standards and shall not cause additional runoff from the property on which they are sited.
- C. Materials and Decorative Finishes/finished side of fences and walls:
 - (1) ~~Fences that have one finished or decorative side shall be oriented with the finished or decorative side facing outward toward adjacent parcels and away from the interior of the lot to which the fence is associated. All fences and walls shall be constructed with generally accepted building materials.~~
 - (2) ~~Masonry enclosure walls shall be finished in a similar manner on all sides. Fences and walls constructed with jumbo concrete block, precast or poured concrete, or of the gabion basket type, shall not be permitted in any residential district of the Township.~~
 - (3) ~~Except where provided as a special exception~~ Where retaining walls or high foundation walls are required and would be visible from a public right-of-way or residentially zoned property, the following shall apply to retaining walls more than four feet in height:
 - (a) The retaining wall shall be constructed of or faced with brick, stone, split-face or fluted concrete block, textured poured-in-place concrete, or other materials with texture to reduce the apparent mass of the wall; or
 - (b) In order to soften the appearance of the wall, hanging and/or climbing vegetation shall be planted on the retaining wall.

- (4) Fences or walls that have one finished or decorative side shall be oriented with the finished or decorative side facing outward toward adjacent parcels and away from the interior of the lot to which the fence is associated. Masonry enclosure walls shall be finished in a similar manner on all sides.

SECTION 2. Should any sentence, section, clause, part or provision of this Ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the Ordinance as a whole, other than the part declared to be invalid.

SECTION 3. All prior ordinances are hereby repealed in whole or in part to the extent inconsistent herewith.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance shall take effect in accordance with applicable law.

ORDAINED and ENACTED this 14th day of October 2025, by the Board of Commissioners of Shaler Township.

ATTEST:

SHALER TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

By:



Judith Kording,
Township Manager

By:



David Shutter,
President of the Board of Commissioners

(SEAL)

