

Vehicle Ordinance Amendments

Common Council

July 27, 2026



City of South Bend
Legal

Filed in Clerk's Office

JUL 28 2026

Bianca Tirado
City Clerk, South Bend, IN

Overview & Purpose



Updates South Bend's vehicle regulations across the Municipal Code to close gaps in enforcement

Aligns local rules with Indiana law and the City's Zoning Ordinance

Strengthens the City's ability to address nuisance, abandoned, and improperly parked vehicles

Clarifies nuisance ordinances, parking rules, and regulation of large vehicles

Supports safe, clean, and orderly neighborhoods



City of South Bend
Legal

The Four Ordinances at a Glance

Four related amendments modernize how the City regulates vehicles on public and private property

Shared goals:

- Close gaps in vehicle-related nuisance enforcement
- Align local code with Indiana law and the Zoning Ordinance
- Keep streets and neighborhoods safe, accessible, and attractive

The four ordinances

40-26
Public Nuisance
Vehicles

41-26
Abandoned
Vehicles

42-26
Improper Vehicle
Parking

43-26
Parking of Large
Vehicles



City of South Bend
Legal

Bill 40-26 — Vehicles Constituting Public Nuisances

Clarified scope of nuisance rules

- Applies to nuisance conditions in unapproved vehicles or containers
- Defines real or personal property to include structures and vehicles

Expanded enforcement reach

- Covers wrecked vehicles that do not meet the abandoned-vehicle definition
- Addresses vehicles parked in a way that creates a nuisance
- Promotes safe, clean, and attractive neighborhoods



Bill 41-26 — Abandoned Vehicles

- Local abandoned-vehicle rules are updated to match Indiana law and reflect real conditions on city streets
- Clarifies definitions, procedures, and exceptions for towing, storage, and removal

Update
definitions

Street-
parking
carve-out

Consistency
in removal
process



City of South Bend
Legal

Bill 42-26 — Improper Vehicle Parking

- Parking restrictions are clarified to protect sidewalks, alleys, tree lawns, and rights-of-way
- Consolidates rules relocated from the large-vehicle article
- Establishes a progressive penalty structure for continuing violations

Clarifies where
parking is
prohibited

Absorbs parking
restrictions
relocated from the
large-vehicle article

Adds a progressive
penalty structure



Bill 43-26 — Parking of Large Vehicles

Article 11 is refocused on large vehicles and aligned with the City's Zoning Ordinance

Defines large vehicles consistently with the City's Zoning Ordinance

Updates zoning-district references so the rules stay consistent

Moves parking rules for other vehicle types to Section 20-84



Key Takeaways

Taken together, the four ordinances update how South Bend regulates vehicles — closing enforcement gaps and strengthening quality of life across neighborhoods

Cleaner, safer neighborhoods:
nuisance, abandoned, and
improperly parked vehicles are
addressed consistently —
protecting property values,
access, and neighborhood
appearance

Closed enforcement gaps:
clearer definitions and
authority, aligned with Indiana
law and zoning, let the City act
with fair, graduated penalties



City of South Bend
Legal

Questions & Discussion?



City of South Bend
Legal