

**VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY**

**ORDINANCE 2025-002**

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING OVERNIGHT PARKING OR CAMPING ON OR IN MUNICIPAL PROPERTY, PARKS, TRAILS, EASEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, AND MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION; REPEALING PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES.**

WHEREAS, the Village of Taos Ski Valley (the “Village”) is empowered by the State of New Mexico under New Mexico Statute, NMSA 1978 3-17-1 to institute ordinances to provide for the health, safety and welfare of the Village and its residents, and

WHEREAS, the Village is distant from regional hospitals, doctors and other non-Village supportive public safety providers and there is limited access in and out of the Ski Valley and some more remote areas of the Village and surrounding lands, and

WHEREAS, multiple seasonal high risk environmental factors such wild fires, sudden evening temperature drops, extreme freezing temperatures, severe winds, heavy snow conditions, dangerous wildlife, high wildfire danger, low oxygen levels, etc. exist at this altitude and environment, and

WHEREAS, the area receives a significant year-round population of visitors to the Village who may be unfamiliar with these conditions and the rapidity and severity with which these life threatening conditions can occur, and

WHEREAS, the Village council, the governing body of the Village (“Governing Body”) finds that rescuing of visitors that become lost, disabled or trapped places the lives of employees of the Village and resident volunteers at risk for their own lives, and

WHEREAS, it is important for public safety reasons to be able to identify from an unattended vehicle after dark if someone may be in need of rescue assistance, and

WHEREAS, the use of parked, attended vehicles for camping, sleeping and similar purposes and the lack of evening accommodations and security for overnight camping or parking can result in issues with garbage, human excrement, unpermitted and uncontrolled fires, noise and behavioral issues, and unnecessary health and safety risks, inconveniences and costs to residents, Village staff, businesses and other visitors the next day,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY:

## SECTION 1. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

- a. Overnight parking on or in Village streets, parking lots, easements, parks, facilities and other Village-owned properties between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. shall be prohibited for anyone not staying at a private residence or commercial residential establishment, doing business with a business located in the Village, or attending an event within the Village. Those attending a business or other activity after 10:00 p.m. shall comply with this ordinance no later than one (1 ) hour after the end of the event or closing of the business.
- b. Open fires, camp stoves, heaters, fireworks, smoking and all other sources of potential fire risk are prohibited on all public property and in all public facilities, except by an approved Village Event Permit.
- c. Camping, sleeping, and sleeping or living in vehicles of any kind on Village property, including streets, parks, trails, parking lots, easements, and public works facilities is prohibited at all times, except by an approved Village Event Permit.
- d. Parking vehicles or equipment on Village property, except where designated and within the hours designated by the Village for approved recreational purposes, attending a Village approved/sponsored event, or conducting business with the Village, is strictly prohibited.

## SECTION 2. EXEMPTIONS

- a. In some instances, overnight/multi-day parking permits for extended parking may be available from the Village in-person at the Village Offices at 7 Firehouse Rd., or on-line through the Village website at <https://www.vtsv.org> for those hiking overnight or attending special events at Taos Ski Valley, but sleeping or camping in vehicles is prohibited at all times.
- b. The availability of overnight/multi-day permits is limited and granted solely at the discretion of the Village and are not permitted when the Carson National Forest or the Taos Pueblo is closed, at times of high fire danger, during anticipated severe weather or during peak visitation, when the availability of parking is limited.

### SECTION 3. ENFORCEMENT

This ordinance shall be enforced by the Village of Taos Ski Valley Police Department and the designated Village Code Officer.

### SECTION 4. PENALTIES

a. INITIAL OFFENSE: Any person who violates a provision of this Ordinance shall be subject to payment of a fine of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$500.00 for the first offense. Violation of multiple sections of this ordinance may result in an additional \$100.00 fine for each separate violation, provided that a single act or connected series of acts constituting violation of multiple sections of this ordinance shall not incur, for a first offense, a fine greater than \$500.00.

b. REPEAT OFFENSES

Repeat offenses under this Ordinance shall be subject to increased fines as provided below. As used herein, "repeat offense" means a second (or any subsequent) violation of this Ordinance committed on a specific parcel or property within any one (1) year period and for which the person admits responsibility or is determined to be responsible. The increased fine for repeat offenses shall be not more than \$500 or 90 days in jail, or both.

### SECTION 5. REPEAL OF PRIOR ORDINANCES

This ordinance shall revoke and replace all prior ordinances and regulations of the Village, and provisions thereof, relating to camping and overnight parking, that are inconsistent with the provisions of this ordinance.

### SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY

If any part of this Ordinance shall be found to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such findings shall not affect the remaining portions hereof, which shall remain in full force and effect.

### SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and publication in accordance with law, but shall not become enforceable until thirty (30) days after publication of the notice of adoption.

PASSED, ADOPTED AND APPROVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE VILLAGE OF TAOS  
SKI VALLEY, THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF MARCH, 2025

VILLAGE OF TAOS SKI VALLEY

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Christ Stanek, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Marlene Salazar  
Acting Village Clerk