

**AN ORDINANCE INSTITUTING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE
PERMITTING OF DATA CENTERS, DATA PROCESSING FACILITIES,
CRYPTOCURRENCY MINING OPERATIONS AND ANY USE ASSOCIATED
WITH DATA PROCESSING FACILITIES WITHIN THE ZONING
JURISDICTION OF THE CITY OF TRINITY,
NORTH CAROLINA PURSUANT TO NCGS 160D-107**

WHEREAS, pursuant to NCGS 160D-107, Local Governments may adopt an ordinance authorizing a temporary moratorium on any development approval required by law; and

WHEREAS, the City of Trinity Land Management Ordinance does not define cryptocurrency mining, data processing, and other uses associated with data centers as specific uses; and

WHEREAS, the Trinity City Council at its August 3, 2026, meeting held a legislative hearing regarding this moratorium in accordance with NCGS 160D-601.

WHEREAS, the Trinity City Council believe such a moratorium will protect the public interest and welfare of the residents of the City of Trinity until such regulations regarding the aforementioned uses are adopted.

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Trinity City Council as follows:

Section 1. A temporary moratorium is hereby imposed commencing on August 4, 2026, and expiring no later than August 4, 2027, or on approval of new zoning regulation regarding data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining operations, and uses associated with data processing facilities not yet defined in the City of Trinity Land Management Ordinance. This moratorium specifically includes corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Trinity.

For the purposes of this moratorium, a data center, data processing facility, or cryptocurrency mining operation is a building, a dedicated space within a building, or group of buildings housing computer systems and associated components, such as telecommunication and data processing systems, to be used for remote storage, processing, or distribution of large amounts of data. Examples of such data, include but are not limited to, computationally intensive applications such as cryptocurrency mining, artificial intelligence (A.I.) computing, weather modeling, genome sequencing, application hosting, cloud storage, video and technical streaming services, etc. Such facilities may include but are not limited to air handlers, power generators, water cooling and storage facilities, utility substations, and other infrastructure to support operations.

Section 2. In compliance with the requirements of NCGS 160D-107, the City of Trinity makes the following statements:

(1) Data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining operations, and any other uses associated with data processing facilities require considerable amounts of electricity and water usage, which can result in greenhouse gas emissions, as well as additional pollution, e-waste, noise, and other local impacts to residents and communities living near the facilities. The City of Trinity Planning Department is in the process of developing zoning standards and mitigation methods for these intensive land use types which may cause detrimental harm to the natural environment and the quality of life of City residents. The City seeks time to develop such standards. The City has looked at alternative solutions to a moratorium but found none. The City has determined that to simply allow these intensive land uses to be permitted without regard to location, height, size, density, population and type of trade, industry, residence or other purposes would be counter to the stated goals of City of Trinity Comprehensive Land Use Plan and hinder the implementation of the Trinity Land Development Ordinance.

(2) The Permitted Uses Table in the Land Management Ordinance does not include “data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining operations, and uses associated with data processing facilities”. The uses are not defined and there are no development standards for these specific uses. The City seeks to update the Permitted Uses Tables, Definition, and Development Standards for Specific Uses Sections of the Land Development Ordinance to align with current industry practices, and to specifically define “data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining operations, and uses associated with data processing facilities” as specific land uses. Therefore, the City seeks to place a moratorium on the use of property within the zoning jurisdiction of the City of Trinity for data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining, and any other uses associated with data processing facilities for a period of twelve (12) months or until such time that specific land use standards for these uses can be developed. All development approvals for data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining operations, and any uses associated with data processing facilities are subject to the moratorium.

(3) The moratorium shall begin on August 4, 2026, and shall last until August 4, 2027, or upon a Land Management Ordinance Text amendment addressing the land uses of data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining, and associated uses, whichever comes first. This twelve (12) month moratorium is necessary to allow the City of Trinity Planning Staff sufficient time to study these uses and their impacts, to consider zoning standards and mitigation methods, and to prepare an amendment to the Land Management Ordinance to address data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining, and associated uses prior to the expiration of the moratorium.

(4) In the first four (4) months, the City of Trinity Planning Staff will study the impacts of data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining, and any other uses associated with data processing facilities on communities. At the same

time, the Planning Staff will investigate how other communities in North Carolina and across the United States have addressed these impacts through zoning regulations. Planning Staff will develop the land use regulations required to mitigate the negative impacts associated with land uses described as data centers, data processing facilities, cryptocurrency mining, and any other uses associated with data processing facilities. Subsequently, a series of text amendments to the Land Management Ordinance will be proposed. In the following six (6) to eight (8) months, the legislative process will be followed to adopt such amendments. Public input will be sought during each part of the process. The research, policy development, and legislative processes necessitate an adequate moratorium time limit of twelve (12) months.

- Section 3. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Trinity City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that anyone or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.
- Section 4. All ordinances or parts of City ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.
- Section 5. The provisions of this ordinance shall become effective August 4, 2026, in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

Adopted this, the 3rd day of August 2026.

Richard McNabb, Mayor

Darien Comer, City Clerk