

## EAST CHINA CHARTER TOWNSHIP

### OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

MAY 3, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER** – Supervisor Rausch called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., with Clerk Smith, Treasurer Hart, and Trustees Blackstock, Babel, and Reichle. Trustee Knotts absent.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVE AGENDA** – Trustee Blackstock, supported by Trustee Reichle, moved to approve the Agenda with the addition of New Business: Consultation fees by UHY (auditor) representative to review State mandated Chart of Accounts conversion, and Closed Session. Carried.

**MINUTES** – Trustee Reichle, supported by Trustee Babel, moved to approve the Minutes of April 19, 2021. Carried.

**GUEST SPEAKER** – St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security representative Bob Currier was present to review information pertaining to the County Siren system and the 3-sirens that East China owns that need maintenance and updates to bring them back into working condition. The County has secured grant funds for technology updates of about \$10,020.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Jennifer Hines at 5564 River Road, was present to ask about the keeping of chickens. She was provided a copy of Ordinance #320 and was very happy about these changes.

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Clerk Smith, supported by Treasurer Hart, moved to accept the Consent Agenda items as follows: St. Clair River Sewer & Water Authority Minutes of April 20, 2021, Historical Commission Minutes of April 7, 2021, Planning Commission Minutes of April 13, 2021, Zoning Board of Appeals Minutes of April 26, 2021, Building Report for April 2021, Building Bond Returns for April 2021. Carried.

**DISBURSEMENTS** – Clerk Smith, supported by Treasurer Hart, moved to approve payment of Accounts Payable in the amount of \$101,591.28, Payroll \$28,759.77, EFT's \$10,590.99, E-checks \$302.30. Voided #36192 \$594.80. Roll call vote: Yea: Smith, Hart, Babel, Blackstock, Reichle, and Rausch. Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Clerk Smith, supported by Trustee Babel, moved to approve repairs to East China Township's 3-sirens through St. Clair County, in the amount not to exceed \$10,000. Roll call vote: Yea: Smith, Babel, Blackstock, Reichle, Hart, and Rausch. Carried.

Trustee Blackstock, supported by Treasurer Hart, moved to approve the SEMCOG 2021 membership fee of \$803. Roll call vote: Yea: Blackstock, Babel, Reichle, Hart, Smith, and Rausch. Carried.

Members discussed establishing a Water and Sewer Rate Committee that will be comprised of Department Supervisors, and former and current Board Members.

**ORDINANCE 320** – Clerk Smith, supported by Trustee Blackstock, offered the first reading of Ordinance #320 – The keeping of animals. Amending Chapter 480, Article 2, Section 480-5; Article 4, Section 480-11; and Article 4, Section 480-12. Carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 320**  
**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA**  
ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 480, ARTICLE -2 SECTION 480-5, CHAPTER 480, ARTICLE- 4, SECTION 480-11 CHAPTER 480, ARTICLE-4, SECTION 480-12.

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA ORDAINS:

**SECTION 1.**     PURPOSE

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend the keeping of animals.

**SECTION 2.**     AMENDMENTS

**1). Chapter § 480-5 Definitions.**

FARM

The land, plants, animals, buildings, structures, including ponds used for agricultural or aquaculture activities, machinery, equipment, and other appurtenances used in farm operations and the commercial production of farm products.

FARM OPERATION

The operation and management of a farm or a condition or activity that occurs at any time as necessary on a farm in connection with the commercial production, harvesting, and storage of farm products.

FARM PRODUCT

Those plants and animals useful to human beings produced by agriculture and includes, but is not limited to, forages and sod crops, grains and feed crops, field crops, dairy and dairy products, poultry and poultry products, Cervidae, livestock, including breeding and grazing, equine, fish, and other aquaculture products, bees and bee products, berries, herbs, fruits, vegetables, flowers, seeds, grasses, nursery stock, trees and tree products, mushrooms, and other similar products, or any other product which incorporates the use of food, feed, fiber, or fur, as determined by the Michigan commission of agriculture.

**2). Chapter § 480-11 Principal use permitted.** (R-1, R-2 and R-3 One-Family Residential Districts.

B. Farms, including the raising of poultry and livestock, within the R-3 District only.

**3). Chapter § 480-12 Uses permitted subject to conditions. (R-1, R-2 and R-3 One- Family Residential Districts)**

H. Hobby animals. The keeping of animals for non-farm use accessory to a one-family residence, referred to as hobby animals, is permissible, subject to the following conditions. This subsection shall not apply to the keeping of dogs, cats and other household pets ordinarily kept indoors. This subsection shall also not apply to livestock and other animals kept as part of a farm or farm operation. For the purposes of this subsection, large hobby animals shall include horses and other equines, cattle, swine, sheep, lambs, goats, ostrich, emu, llama, alpaca and similar sized animals. Small hobby animals shall include rabbits, chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, and similar sized animals.

- (1) The minimum lot size for the keeping of hobby animals shall be as follows:
  - (a) For large hobby animals, three (3) acres. Two (2) large hobby animals shall be permitted for the first three (3) acres. For each additional one (1) acre, one (1) additional large hobby animal shall be permitted.
  - (b) For small hobby animals, one (1) acre. Six (6) small hobby animals shall be permitted for the first one (1) acre. For each additional one (1) acre, six (6) additional small hobby animals shall be permitted.
  - (c) Lots greater than forty (40) acres shall have no animal quantity restrictions.
  - (d) Notwithstanding the above, offspring of said hobby animals may be kept on the lot for the time period which is customary for the species involved.
- (2) Any structure erected for the purpose of keeping large hobby animals shall be located in the rear yard and no less than seventy-five (75) feet from any lot line. Any structure erected for the purpose of keeping small hobby animals shall be located in the rear yard and no less than twenty (20) feet from any lot line.
- (3) All hobby animals shall be kept within a fenced enclosure or other appropriate barrier sufficient to contain the hobby animals on the lot.

- (4) Stables and similar structures for the keeping of hobby animals shall be kept clean and manure shall be treated and handled in such a manner as to control odor and flies and shall be suitably screened from view.

**SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY.**

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, rule, regulation, section or subsection is declared void or inoperable for any reason by any Court, it shall not affect any other part or portion thereof, other than the part declared void or inoperable.

**SECTION 4. REPEAL.**

All Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Ordinance shall become effective upon publication after adoption.

**SECTION 6. INSPECTION OF ORDINANCE.**

A copy of this Ordinance may be inspected or purchased at the Township Hall, 5111 River Road, East China, Michigan 48054, during regular posted office hours.

**CLOSED SESSION** – Clerk Smith, supported by Trustee Blackstock, moved to enter into closed session at 8:22 p.m. to discuss the purchase of property. Carried.

Clerk Smith, supported by Trustee Reichle, moved to adjourn the Closed Session at 8:31 p.m. Carried.

**ADJOURN** – Trustee Reichle, supported by Clerk Smith, moved to adjourn at 8:32 p.m. Carried.

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Sandra A. Smith, Clerk

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Brian Rausch, Supervisor