

EAST CHINA CHARTER TOWNSHIP

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

JUNE 3, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – Supervisor Westrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., with Clerk Smith, Treasurer Hart, and Trustees Babel, Knotts and Reichle. Trustee Blackstock absent.

Three in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVE AGENDA – Clerk Smith, supported by Trustee Reichle, moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Carried.

APPROVE MINUTES – Trustee Reichle, supported by Trustee Knotts, moved to approve the Minutes of May 6, 2024. Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Phil Oleksiak of Marine City spoke about an issue regarding his FOIA request and response.

Robert Fielitz was present to introduce himself and is running for County Commissioner.

CONSENT AGENDA – Trustee Knotts, supported by Treasurer Hart, moved to accept the Consent Agenda as follows: Financial Reports, Departmental Reports, Yeo & Yeo invoice correction, Historical Minutes for April 2024, Planning Commission Minutes for April 2024, St. Clair Fire Authority April 2024 Report, Employee's request for training. Carried.

Trustee Knotts stated that the budget is at around 51% spent, and we are 1/3 of the year in; best to keep an eye on this.

DISBURSEMENTS – Treasurer Hart, supported by Trustee Knotts, moved to approve payment of the bills as follows: Payroll \$68,866.39, Accounts Payable \$459,101.34, EFT's \$24,916.50, E Checks \$302.30, Invoices \$417,819.76, Tax Account \$7.41. Roll call vote: Yea: Smith, Babel, Reichle, Westrick, Hart, Knotts. Carried.

CLOSED SESSION – Treasurer Hart, supported by Trustee Babel, moved to open the Closed Session at 7:11 p.m., to review written Attorney Client Privileged Opinion Correspondence. Carried.

Trustee Reichle, supported by Treasurer Hart, moved to close the Closed Session at 7:53 p.m. Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

NB-1 Employment Agreement

Treasurer Hart, supported by Trustee Reichle, moved to postpone action regarding the Employment Agreement for the Director of Public Services. Carried. The Agreement was missing

Sections 3, 4 & 5 and need to adjust wording for accrual of paid time off, needs Section 11, and the payout of paid time off accrued at time of exiting position.

NB-2 Code Enforcement Compensation

Trustee Knotts, supported by Trustee Reichle, moved to approve the Code Enforcement salary increase to \$8,400 per year and a \$30 phone stipend. Roll call vote: Yea: Knotts, Reichle, Babel, Smith, Hart, Westrick. Carried.

NB-3 Medical Benefits for non-union employees

Treasurer Hart, supported by Trustee Reichle, moved to postpone the discussion of medical benefits for non-union employees. Carried.

NB-4 MML Workers Compensation Renewal

Clerk Smith, supported by Trustee Babel, moved to approve an invoice in the amount of \$9,783, for the 2024-2025 policy of the Michigan Municipal League Workers Compensation Fund. Roll call vote: Yea: Smith, Babel, Hart, Knotts, Reichle, Westrick. Carried. GL#101-267-724.00 \$587.04; #590-539-724.00 \$5,282.76; #591-537-724.00 \$3,326.16; #208-751-724.00 \$587.04.

NB-5 MTA Annual Membership Renewal

Treasurer Hart, supported by Trustee Babel, moved to approve the invoice from Michigan Townships Association of \$7,538 without the legal defense fund. Roll call vote: Yea: Smith, Hart, Babel, Reichle, Knotts, Westrick. Carried.

NB-6 MAMC Annual Conference

Treasurer Hart, supported by Clerk Smith, moved to approve attendance at the MAMC Annual Cemeteries Conference by 1-employee, and 1-committee member, at a cost of \$600 each. Roll call vote: Yea: Smith, Hart, Babel, Reichle, Westrick. Nay: Knotts. Carried. GL#101-567-956.00 & #101-216-961.00.

NB-7 Employee education reimbursement request

Trustee Reichle, supported by Trustee Babel, moved to approve \$1,004 for employee education reimbursement. Roll call vote: Yea: Smith, Hart, Babel, Reichle, Knotts, Westrick. Carried. GL#101-216-961.00.

NB-8 Ordinance #328 1st Reading

Supervisor Westrick offered the 1st reading of Ordinance 328 as follows:

**ORDINANCE NO. 328
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA
ST. CLAIR COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF
ORDINANCES 320, CHAPTER 480-12 H (1) (b)**

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF EAST CHINA ORDAINS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this amendment is to allow an expectation of keeping of small hobby animals chickens (*hens only*) on lots less than one acre.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENTS

1). 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 acres. Two large hobby animals shall be permitted for the first three acres. For each additional one acre, one additional large hobby animal shall be permitted.
- (b) For small hobby animals, one acre. Six small hobby animals shall be permitted for the first one acre. For each additional one acre, six additional small hobby animals shall be permitted.

[1] An exception shall be made for the keeping of up to four chickens (*hens only*) on lots less than one acre.

- (c) Lots greater than 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.

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.

NB-9 MSHDA Housing Incentive Grant

Supervisor Westrick, supported by Clerk Smith, moved to authorize the Township Manager to execute the MSHDA Grant Agreement to receive \$30,300 for Ordinance review.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Trustee Babel stated that the Red Brick School will begin their open house schedule June 8th and continue the 2nd Saturday monthly from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

MEMBER COMMENTS – Trustee Reichle said GFS trash company was purchased by Priority, when we are ready to obtain quotes for our next contract. He asked about the progress of the water/sewer project. Supervisor Westrick said that the valve work at the north-end is 50% done. Restoration is being completed throughout the Township. The boring along M-29 has had some delays. Reichle said that the corner of Meisner/Vista Belle has a pool of standing water and needs to be addressed; and Bryson Lane needs gravel and grading, it is in bad shape. He asked about the residents at the last meeting regarding their meter. The meter has been replaced and the old one is sent for testing. Treasurer Hart said the new sign is going well and that we need more information posted on there.

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

Sandra Smith, Clerk

Verne Westrick, Supervisor