

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE **GEORGETOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP BOARD** HELD JANUARY 23, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Wierenga at 7:00 p.m.

Prayer for guidance by John Schwalm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Roll Call

Members present: Jim Wierenga, Ryan Kidd, Gary Veldink, Becky Steele, John Schwalm, Michael Bosch, Amy Grasman

Also present: Robert Blitchok, Township Superintendent, Roderick Weersing Township Assistant Superintendent

Absent: None

**#230123-01 – Approval of Agenda as presented for January 23, 2023.**

Moved by Becky Steele, seconded by Gary Veldink, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**#230123-02 – Communications, letters and reports: Received for information, to be filed:**

- a. [October 2022](#) Sheriff Report
- b. [November 2022](#) Sheriff Report
- c. [January 9, 2023](#) Utilities Committee meeting minutes
- d. [December 12, 2022](#) Zoning Board of Appeals meeting minutes.
- e. [2023 Finance Committee meeting schedule](#).
- f. [January 16, 2023](#) Finance Committee meeting minutes.
- g. [Cemetery Perpetual Care Annual Letter](#).

**#230123-03 – Public Comments for items remaining on the agenda**

Members of the public were present, and comments were made.

**#230123-04 - Consent agenda**

Moved by Becky Steele, seconded by John Schwalm, to grant the following.

- a. Approval of the [December 12, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes](#).
- b. Approval of the regular monthly bills for [January 23, 2023](#).
- c. Approval of the Final Plat of Rivers Edge Estates ([application](#), [plat plan](#), [block grading plan](#))

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**#230123-05 – GTWP Proposed Secondary and Subdivision Road Re-Surfacing for 2023**

Moved by Becky Steele, seconded by John Schwalm, to approve the proposed [GTWP Proposed Road Re-Surfacing for 2023](#) with the addition of Hunters Drive to the list of roads to be re-surfaced in 2023 as recommended by the Utilities Committee.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Moved by Gary Veldink, seconded by Becky Steele, to amend the motion to approve the Proposed Road Re-Surfacing for 2023 to allow the Township to spend up to 3.25 million dollars at the discretion of the Superintendent.

MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**#230123-06 – Revised Policy #2018-01, Planning and Commission Zoning Board of Appeals Compensation Policy**

Moved by Michael Bosch, seconded by Ryan Kidd, to approve the revised policy [#2018-01 the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Compensation Policy](#), to change the per diem amount to \$100.00, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Yeas: Jim Wierenga, Ryan Kidd, Becky Steele, John Schwalm, Michael Bosch, Amy Grasman

Nays: None

Abstained: Gary Veldink

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**#230123-07 – Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance No. 2023-02, Michigan Vehicle Code and Uniform Traffic Code**

Moved by Gary Veldink, seconded by John Schwalm, to approve the introduction and first reading of Ordinance No. 2023-02, Michigan Vehicle Code and Uniform Traffic Code, as recommended by the Finance Committee:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02  
MICHIGAN MOTOR VEHICLE CODE AND UNIFORM TRAFFIC CODE**

An ordinance to amend Chapter 54 of the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Georgetown, Michigan, to adopt the Michigan Vehicle Code and Uniform Traffic Code by reference.

**THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GEORGETOWN ORDAINS:**

1. Section 1. Amendment. That Chapter 54 of the Code of Ordinances, Charter Township of Georgetown, Michigan, is hereby amended to read as follows in its entirety:

**ARTICLE I. TRAFFIC CODE**

**Sec. 54-1. Michigan Vehicle Code adopted.**

Pursuant to the provisions of the Michigan Charter Township Act, 1947 PA 359; MCLA 42.23; MSA 5.26(23), the Michigan Vehicle Code, Act No. 300 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1949, as amended, MCL 257.1, *et seq.*, is adopted by reference, as if fully set forth herein.

2. Sec. 54-2. References in code.

References in the Michigan Vehicle Code to “local authorities” shall mean the Charter Township of Georgetown, Ottawa County, Michigan.

3. Sec. 54-3. Enforcement; sanctions.

(a) The Michigan Vehicle Code may be enforced by any police officer or other employee of the township authorized to enforce criminal ordinances or authorized to issue civil infractions.

(b) The penalties provided by the Michigan Vehicle Code are adopted by reference, provided, however, that the township may not enforce any provision of the Michigan Vehicle Code for which the maximum period of imprisonment is greater than 93 days.

(c) When any person is found guilty of a misdemeanor or responsible for a civil infraction pursuant to this section, the judge or magistrate shall summarily determine and tax the costs of the action which shall include all expenses, direct and indirect, to which the township has been put in connection with the violation or infraction up to the entry of judgment.

**Sec. 54-4. Uniform Traffic Code Adopted.**

The Uniform Traffic Code for Cities, Townships, and Villages as promulgated by the Director of the Michigan Department of State Police pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act of 1969, 1969 PA 306, MCL 24.201 to 24.328 and made effective October 30, 2002 is adopted by reference, as if fully set forth herein.

4. Sec. 54-5. References in code.

References in the Uniform Traffic Code to “governmental unit” or “municipality” shall mean the Charter Township of Georgetown, Ottawa County, Michigan.

5. Sec. 54-6. Enforcement; sanctions.

(a) The Uniform Traffic Code may be enforced by any police officer or other employee of the township authorized to enforce criminal ordinances or authorized to issue civil infractions.

(b) The penalties provided by the Uniform Traffic Code are adopted by reference, provided, however, that the township may not enforce any provision of the Uniform Traffic Code for which the maximum period of imprisonment is greater than 93 days.

(c) When any person is found guilty of a misdemeanor or responsible for a civil infraction pursuant to this section, the judge or magistrate shall summarily determine and tax the costs of the action which shall include all expenses, direct and indirect, to which the township has been put in connection with the violation or infraction up to the entry of judgment.

**Section 2. Pending Proceedings.** All proceedings pending and all rights and liabilities existing at the time this ordinance takes effect are saved and may be consummated or continued according to the law in force when they were commenced. No prosecution initiated prior to the effective date of this

ordinance or initiated after the effective date of this ordinance for an offense committed prior to the effective date shall be affected by this ordinance.

**Section 3. Publication.** The Township Clerk shall publish a summary of this ordinance in the manner provided by law and shall at the same time publish a supplementary notice setting forth the purpose of the Michigan Vehicle Code and Uniform Traffic Code and the fact that a complete copy of the Michigan Vehicle Code and Uniform Traffic Code are available at the office of the Township Clerk for inspection by the public at all times.

**Section 4. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective on the thirtieth day following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township. This ordinance was introduced and read for the first time on October 23, 2017, published on \_\_\_\_\_, read for the second time and adopted by the Georgetown Charter Township Board on \_\_\_\_\_, published for the second time on \_\_\_\_\_, and effective thirty days from publication\_\_.

**A summary of the Michigan Vehicle Code and Uniform Traffic Code is as follows:**

The Michigan Vehicle Code is an act to provide for the registration, titling, sale, transfer, and regulation of certain vehicles operated upon the public highways of this state or any other place open to the general public or generally accessible to motor vehicles and distressed vehicles; to provide for the licensing of dealers; to provide for the examination, licensing, and control of operators and chauffeurs; to provide for the giving of proof of financial responsibility and security by owners and operators of vehicles; to provide for the imposition, levy, and collection of specific taxes on vehicles, and the levy and collection of sales and use taxes, license fees, and permit fees; to provide for the regulation and use of streets and highways and to provide penalties and sanctions for its violation.

The Uniform Traffic Code is an administrative rule promulgated by the Michigan Department of State Police to provide local law enforcement officers with the authority to locally enforce traffic laws; to provide for local traffic administration; to provide for the rights and duties of pedestrians; to regulate the operation of motorcycles, mopeds and toy vehicles; to provide for the rights and duties of drivers and others; to provide for the establishment and maintenance of traffic control devices; and to compel obedience to traffic regulations and provide sanctions for their violation.

Yeas: Jim Wierenga, Ryan Kidd, Gary Veldink, Becky Steele, John Schwalm, Michael Bosch, Amy Grasman  
Nays: None  
Abstained: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**#230123-08 – (REZ2301) (Ordinance 2023-01)** To change from (RR) Rural Residential to (LDR) Low Density Residential a parcel of land described as P.P. # 70-14-31-200-023 located 4261 Barry St., Georgetown Township, Ottawa County, Michigan. ([staff report](#))

**Georgetown Charter Township  
Ottawa County, Michigan  
(Ordinance No. 2023-01)**

At a regular meeting of the Georgetown Charter Township Board held at the Township offices on January 23, 2023, beginning at 7:00 p.m., Township Board Member Gary Veldink made a motion to deny this Ordinance because the proposed zoning designation **is not consistent** with the Master Plan and the Future Land Use Map for the area; the area **is not capable** of sustaining the uses within the LDR district without addition public funds; the uses allowed within the LDR district **are compatible** with the neighboring uses and to adopt the staff report as finding of fact, which motion was seconded by Township Board Member Jim Wierenga

**AN AMENDMENT TO THE GEORGETOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
ZONING ORDINANCE, AS AMENDED, AND MAP**

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF GEORGETOWN (the “Township”) ORDAINS:

ARTICLE 1. The map of the Georgetown Charter Township Zoning Ordinance, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**(REZ2301) (Ordinance 2023-01)** To change from (RR) Rural Residential to (LDR) Low Density Residential a parcel of land described as P.P. # 70-14-31-200-023 located 4261 Barry St., Georgetown Township, Ottawa County, Michigan.

Except as expressly modified by the above, the balance of the Zoning Map of the Georgetown Charter Township Zoning Ordinance, as amended, shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 2. Severability. In the event that any one or more sections, provisions, phrases, or words of this Ordinance shall be found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity or the enforceability of the remaining sections, provisions, phrases, or other words of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE 3. Except as specified above, the balance of the Georgetown Charter Township Zoning Ordinance, as amended, and map shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 4. Effective Date. The provisions of this Ordinance shall take effect upon the expiration of seven (7) days from the date of publication after the adoption of this Ordinance or a summary of its provisions in accordance with the law.

The vote in favor of adopting this Ordinance was as follows:

Yeas: Jim Wierenga, Ryan Kidd, Gary Veldink, Becky Steele, John Schwalm, Michael Bosch, Amy Grasman.

Nays: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AND ORDINANCE DECLARED DENIED.

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of an Ordinance adopted by Georgetown Charter Township Board at the time, date, and place specified above pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 23, 2023

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Kidd  
Georgetown Charter Township Clerk

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **#230123-09 – Public Comment**

Members of the public were present, and comments were made.

#### **#230123-10 – Discussion and General information**

Discussion took place.

#### **#230123-11 - Meeting Adjourned**

Moved by Gary Veldink, seconded by Becky Steele, to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Wierenga, Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ryan Kidd, Clerk