

Chapter 1: General Provisions

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Section 1-1. Designation and citation of Code.

The ordinances embraced in this and the following chapters shall constitute and be designated the "Code of Ordinances, St. Joseph Charter Township, Michigan," and may be so cited. Such ordinances may also be cited as the "St. Joseph Charter Township Code."

State Law References: Authority to codify ordinances, MCL 42.1, 42.20, 41.186.

Section 1-2. Definitions and rules of construction.

The following definitions and rules of construction shall apply to this Code and to all ordinances and resolutions unless the context requires otherwise:

Generally. When provisions conflict, the specific shall prevail over the general. All provisions shall be liberally construed so that the intent of the township board may be effectuated. Words and phrases shall be construed according to the common and approved usage of the language, but technical words, technical phrases and words and phrases that have acquired peculiar and appropriate meanings in law shall be construed according to such meanings.

Code. The term "Code" means the Code of Ordinances, St. Joseph Charter Township, Michigan, as designated in section 1-1.

Computation of time. In computing a period of days, the first day is excluded and the last day is included. If the last day of any period or a fixed or final day is a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the period or day is extended to include the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

Conjunctions. In a provision involving two or more items, conditions, provisions or events, which items, conditions, provisions or events are connected by the conjunction "and," "or" or "either. . . or," the conjunction shall be interpreted as follows:

- (A) "And" indicates that all the connected terms, conditions, provisions or events apply.
- (B) "Or" indicates that the connected terms, conditions, provisions or events apply singly or in any combination.
- (C) "Either . . . or" indicates that the connected terms, conditions, provisions or events apply singly but not in combination.

County. The term "county" means Berrien County, Michigan.

Delegation of authority. A provision that authorizes or requires a township officer or township employee to perform an act or make a decision authorizes such officer or employee to act or make a decision through subordinates.

Gender. Words of one gender include all other genders.

Includes, including. The terms "includes" and "including" are terms of enlargement and not of limitation or exclusive enumeration, and the use of the terms does not create a presumption that components not expressed are excluded.

Joint authority. A grant of authority to three or more persons as a public body confers the authority on a majority of the number of members as fixed by statute or ordinance.

May. The term "may" is to be construed as being permissive and not mandatory.

May not. The term "may not" states a prohibition.

Month. The term "month" means a calendar month.

Number. The singular includes the plural and the plural includes the singular.

Oath, affirmation, sworn, affirmed. The term "oath" includes an affirmation in all cases where an affirmation may be substituted for an oath. In similar cases, the term "sworn" includes the term "affirmed."

Officers, departments, etc. References to officers, departments, boards, commissions or employees are to township officers, township departments, township boards, township commissions and township employees.

Owner. The term "owner," as applied to property, includes any part owner, joint owner, tenant in common, tenant in partnership, joint tenant or tenant by the entirety of the whole or part of such property. With respect to special assessments, however, the owner shall be considered to be the person who appears on the assessment roll for the purpose of giving notice and billing.

Person. The term "person" means any individual, firm, partnership, corporation, association, club, joint venture, estate, trust, or governmental unit, and any other group or combination acting as a unit, and the individuals constituting such group or unit.

Personal property. The term "personal property" means any property other than real property.

Premises. The term "premises," as applied to real property, includes land and structures.

Property. The term "property" means real and personal property.

Public acts. References to public acts are references to the Public Acts of Michigan. (For example, a reference to Public Act No. 246 of 1945 is a reference to Act No. 246 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1945.) Any reference to a public act, whether by act number or by short title, is a reference to such act as amended.

Real property, real estate, land, lands. The term "real property" includes lands, tenements and hereditaments.

Shall. The term "shall" is to be construed as being mandatory.

Sidewalk. The term "sidewalk" means any portion of the street between the curb, or the lateral line of the roadway, and the adjacent property line, intended for the use of pedestrians.

Signature, subscription. The terms "signature" and "subscription" include a mark when the person cannot write.

State. The term "state" means the State of Michigan.

Street, highway, alley. The term "street" or "highway" means the entire width subject to an easement for a public right-of-way or owned in fee by the township, county or state, or every way or place, of whatever nature, whenever any part thereof is open to the use of the public as a matter of right for purposes of public travel. The term "alley" means any such way or place providing a secondary means of ingress and egress to and from property.

Swear. The term "swear" includes affirm.

Tenses. The present tense includes the past and future tenses. The future tense includes the present tense.

Township. The term "township" means the Charter Township of St. Joseph, Michigan, or St. Joseph Charter Township, Michigan.

Township board. The term "township board" means the township board of the Charter Township of St. Joseph, Michigan.

Week. The term "week" means seven consecutive days.

Written. The term "written" includes any representation of words, letters, symbols or figures.

Year. The term "year" means 12 consecutive months.

State Law References: Definitions and rules of construction applicable to state statutes, MCL 8.3 et seq.

Section 1-3. Catchlines of sections; history notes; references.

- (A) The catchlines of the several sections of this Code printed in boldface type are intended as mere catchwords to indicate the contents of the section and are not titles of such sections, or of any part of the section, nor unless expressly so provided shall they be so deemed when any such section, including the catchline, is amended or reenacted.
- (B) The history or source notes appearing in parentheses after sections in this Code have no legal effect and only indicate legislative history. Editor's notes, cross references and state law references that appear in this Code after sections or subsections or that otherwise appear in footnote form are provided for the convenience of the user of the Code and have no legal effect.
- (C) Unless specified otherwise, all references to chapters or sections are to chapters or sections of this Code.

State Law References: Catchlines in state statutes, MCL 8.4b.

Section 1-4. Effect of repeal or amendment of ordinances.

- (A) Unless specifically provided otherwise, the repeal of a repealing ordinance does not revive any repealed ordinance.
- (B) The repeal or amendment of an ordinance does not affect any punishment or penalty incurred before the repeal took effect, nor does such repeal or amendment affect any suit, prosecution or proceeding pending at the time of the amendment or repeal.

State Law References: Effect of repeal of state statutes, MCL 8.4 et seq.

Section 1-5. Amendments to Code; amendatory language.

- (A) All ordinances adopted subsequent to this Code that amend, repeal or in any way affect this Code may be numbered in accordance with the numbering system of the Code and printed for inclusion in the Code.
- (B) Amendments to provisions of this Code may be made with the following language: "Section _____(chapter, article, division or subdivision, as appropriate) of the St. Joseph Charter Township Code is hereby amended to read as follows:..."
- (C) If a new section, subdivision, division, article or chapter is to be added to the Code, the following language may be used: "Section _____(chapter, article, division or subdivision, as appropriate) of the St. Joseph Charter Township Code is hereby created to read as follows:..."
- (D) All provisions desired to be repealed should be repealed specifically by section, subdivision, division, article or chapter number, as appropriate, or by setting out the repealed provisions in full in the repealing ordinance.

State Law References: Ordinance adoption procedures, MCL 42.20, 46.22.

Section 1-6. Supplementation of Code.

- (A) Supplements to this Code shall be prepared and printed whenever authorized or directed by the township. A supplement to this Code shall include all substantive permanent and general parts of ordinances adopted during the period covered by the supplement and all changes made thereby in the Code. The pages of the supplement shall be so numbered that they will fit properly into the Code and will, where necessary, replace pages that have become obsolete or partially obsolete. The new pages shall be so prepared that, when they have been inserted, the Code will be current through the date of the adoption of the latest ordinance included in the supplement.
- (B) In preparing a supplement to this Code, all portions of the Code that have been repealed shall be excluded from the Code by the omission thereof from reprinted pages.
- (C) When preparing a supplement to this Code, the person authorized to prepare the supplement may make formal, nonsubstantive changes in ordinances and parts or ordinances included in the supplement, insofar as necessary to do so in order to embody them into a unified code. For example, the person may:
 - (1) Arrange the material into appropriate organizational units.
 - (2) Supply appropriate catchlines, headings and titles for chapters, articles, divisions, subdivisions and sections to be included in the Code and make changes in any such catchlines, headings and titles or in any such catchlines, headings and titles already in the Code.
 - (3) Assign appropriate numbers to chapters, articles, divisions, subdivisions and sections to be added to the Code.
 - (4) Where necessary to accommodate new material, change existing numbers assigned to chapters, articles, divisions, subdivisions or sections.
 - (5) Change the words "this ordinance" or similar words to "this chapter," "this article," "this division," "this subdivision," "this section" or "sections _____ to _____" (inserting section numbers to indicate the sections of the Code that embody the substantive sections of the ordinance incorporated in the Code).
 - (6) Make other nonsubstantive changes necessary to preserve the original meaning of the ordinances inserted in the Code.

Section 1-7. General penalty; continuing violations.

- (A) In this section, the term "violation of this Code" means any of the following:
 - (1) Doing an act that is prohibited or made or declared unlawful, an offense, a violation or a misdemeanor by ordinance or by rule or regulation authorized by ordinance.
 - (2) Failure to perform an act that is required to be performed by ordinance or by rule or regulation authorized by ordinance.
 - (3) Failure to perform an act if the failure is prohibited or is made or declared unlawful, an offense, a violation or a misdemeanor by ordinance or by rule or regulation authorized by ordinance.
- (B) In this section, the term "violation of this Code" does not include the failure of a township officer or township employee to perform an official duty unless it is specifically provided that the failure to perform the duty is to be punished as provided in this section.
- (C) *Section 1-7 C is amended to read as follows:* A violation of this Code shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00, and costs of prosecution or by imprisonment for a period of not more than 90 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment except as amended and listed in Sec. 1-7 (3g) provided, that:

- (1) A violation of this Code is punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or a fine of not more than \$500.00, and costs of prosecution, or any combination thereof, if the violation substantially corresponds to a violation of state law that is a misdemeanor for which the maximum period of imprisonment is 93 days.
- (2) Subject to the limitations on penalties for violations of charter township ordinance imposed by law, a violation of this Code that substantially corresponds to a violation of a state law shall be punished by the same fine and imprisonment that may be imposed for violation of such state law.
- (D) Except as otherwise provided by law or ordinance, with respect to violations of this Code that are continuous with respect to time, each day that the violation continues is a separate offense. As to other violations, each violation constitutes a separate offense
- (E) The imposition of a penalty does not prevent suspension or revocation of a license, permit or franchise or other administrative sanctions.
- (F) Violations of this Code that are continuous with respect to time are a public nuisance and may be abated by injunctive or other equitable relief the imposition of a penalty does not prevent injunctive relief or civil or quasijudicial enforcement.
- (G) *Municipal civil infractions.* The following sections of the St. Joseph Charter Township Code are hereby amended to be municipal civil infractions pursuant to MCL 600.8701, et seq:
 - (1) Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6-35. (Animal Running at Large).
 - (2) Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6-37. (Barking Dogs).
 - (3) Chapter 10, Article III, Div. 3, Section 10-104 (Fence Maintenance).
 - (4) Chapter 10, Article V, Section 10-182. (Swimming Pool Enclosure).
 - (5) Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-31. (Litter & Debris).
 - (6) Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-32. (Storage of Garbage).
 - (7) Chapter 22, Article II, Section 22-33. (Non Operable Vehicles).
 - (8) Chapter 22, Article III, Section 22-62. (Cutting Nuisance Weeds).
 - (9) Chapter 26, Article II, Div.2, Section 26-54. (Trespassing).
 - (10) Chapter 26, Article IV, Div. 2, Section 26-152. (Unnecessary Noise).
 - (11) Chapter 26, Article IV, Div. 2, Section 26-153. (Specific Noise Prohibited).

State Law References: Penalty for ordinance violations, MCL 42.21.

(Ord. 4-21-2008, 4-11-2022)

Section 1-8. Severability.

If any provision of this Code or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid or unconstitutional, the invalidity or unconstitutionality does not affect other provisions or application of this Code that can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Code are severable.

State Law References: Severability of state statutes, MCL 8.5.

Section 1-9. Provisions deemed continuation of existing ordinances.

The provisions of this Code, insofar as they are substantially the same as legislation previously adopted

by the township relating to the same subject matter, shall be construed as restatements and continuations thereof and not as new enactments.

State Law References: Similar provisions as to state statutes, MCL 8.3u.

Section 1-10. Code does not affect prior offenses or rights.

- (A) Nothing in this Code or the ordinance adopting this Code affects any offense or act committed or done, any penalty or forfeiture incurred, or any contract or right established before the effective date of this Code.
- (B) The adoption of this Code does not authorize any use or the continuation of any use of a structure or premises in violation of any township ordinance on the effective date of this Code.

Section 1-11. Certain ordinances not affected by Code.

Nothing in this Code or the ordinance adopting this Code affects the validity of any of the following ordinances or portions of ordinances, and such ordinances or portions of ordinances continue in full force and effect to the same extent as if published at length in this Code:

- (1) Annexing property into the township or describing the corporate limits.
- (2) Deannexing property or excluding property from the township.
- (3) Promising or guaranteeing the payment of money or authorizing the issuance of bonds or other instruments of indebtedness.
- (4) Authorizing or approving any contract, deed, or agreement.
- (5) Making or approving any appropriation or budget.
- (6) Providing for salaries or other employee benefits, not codified in this Code.
- (7) Granting any right or franchise.
- (8) Adopting or amending the comprehensive plan.
- (9) Levying or imposing any special assessment.
- (10) Dedicating, establishing, naming, locating, relocating, opening, paving, widening, repairing or vacating any street, sidewalk or alley.
- (11) Establishing the grade of any street or sidewalk.
- (12) Dedicating, accepting or vacating any plat or subdivision.
- (13) Levying, imposing or otherwise relating to taxes.
- (14) Granting a tax exemption for specific property.
- (15) Rezoning property or amending the zoning map.
- (16) That is temporary, although general in effect.
- (17) That is special, although permanent in effect.
- (18) The purpose of which has been accomplished.