

Charter Township of Ypsilanti

Ordinance No. 2021 – 494

An ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti

The Charter Township of Ypsilanti **ordains** that the Charter Township Code of Ordinances is amended as follows:

Delete in its entirety **Chapter 37**, entitled “**LIQUOR.**”

Add in its entirety the following new **Chapter 37**, entitled “**LIQUOR**” with the following new language:

Chapter 37 - LIQUOR

ARTICLE I - IN GENERAL

Sec. 37-1. – Liquor Committee.

The township liquor committee is comprised of members recommended by the township supervisor and appointed by the township board. The purpose of the liquor committee is to receive and review applications for new and transferred on-premise liquor licenses and associated permits; to receive recommendations from township departments regarding such applications; and to make recommendations to the township board for approval or denial of such licenses. The liquor committee may, in its discretion, seek to meet with applicants and obtain any information it deems appropriate in order to determine the applicant's suitability to be granted a township liquor license, the suitability of the proposed location and facilities where the license would be used, and the long term viability of the applicant's business plan. The liquor committee shall act in the best interests of the community to promote and preserve public health, safety and welfare; to promote economic development and prevent the economic loss of transferable liquor licenses; and to make recommendations for the equitable use of quota-restricted on-premise liquor licenses and permits available for use in the township through the state liquor control commission.

Secs. 37-2 —37-20. - Reserved.

ARTICLE II. - LICENSES

Sec. 37-21. - Title.

This article shall be known and cited as the Charter Township of Ypsilanti Liquor License Ordinance.

Sec. 37-22. - Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to promote and preserve the public peace, health, safety and welfare through the local regulation of the application, transfer, relocation, review, issuance, renewal, and revocation of liquor licenses for liquor establishments to the fullest extent permissible under state law, based upon a recognition of the impact of liquor licenses upon the well being of the community as a whole.

Sec. 37-23. - Required.

No person, firm, corporation, association or partnership (hereinafter "person") shall sell alcoholic liquor or any other beverage defined in section 37-24 below, whether for consumption on or off the premises, within the Charter Township of Ypsilanti (Township), without first obtaining a license as provided by state law. Furthermore, such person shall, in addition to compliance with the requirements of state law, establish compliance with all local building, property maintenance, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, fire, zoning and public health regulations, and obtain a special conditional use permit if required. This shall not apply to special licenses granted by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for one day events allowed by statute, the procedures for which shall be governed by such statutes.

Sec. 37-24. - Definitions.

- (a) *Alcoholic liquor* means any spirituous, vinous, malt, or fermented liquor, powder, liquids, and compounds, whether or not medicated, proprietary, patented, and by whatever name called,

containing 1/2 of 1% or more of alcohol by volume that are fit for use for food purposes or beverage purposes as defined and classified by the state liquor control commission.

- (b) *Beer* means any beverage obtained by alcoholic fermentation of an infusion or decoction of barley, malt, hops or other cereal in potable water.
- (c) *Wine* means the product made by the normal alcoholic fermentation of the juice of sound, ripe grapes, or any other fruit with the usual cellar treatment, and containing not more than 21% of alcohol by volume, including cider made from apples or pears, or both, which contains at least ½ of 1% of alcohol by volume, or mead, or honey wine made from honey, fermented fruit juices other than grapes, and mixed wine drinks.
- (d) *Spirits* means any beverage which contains alcohol obtained by distillation, mixed with potable water or other substances, or both, in solution, and includes wine containing an alcoholic content of more than 21 percent by volume, except sacramental wine and mixed spirit drink.
- (e) *Alcohol* means the produce of distillation of fermented liquid, whether or not rectified or diluted with water, but does not mean ethyl or industrial alcohol, diluted or not, that has been denatured or otherwise rendered unfit for beverage purposes.
- (f) *Sacramental wine* means wine containing not more than 24 percent of alcohol by volume which is used for sacramental purposes.
- (g) *Brandy* means alcoholic liquor as defined in Federal Regulations, 27 CFR 5.22d (1980).
- (h) *Mixed wine drink* means a drink or similar product marketed as a wine cooler and containing less than seven percent alcohol by volume, consisting of wine and plain, sparkling, or carbonated water and containing any one or more of the following:
 - (1) Nonalcoholic beverages.
 - (2) Flavoring.
 - (3) Coloring materials.
 - (4) Fruit juices.
 - (5) Fruit adjuncts.
 - (6) Sugar.
 - (7) Carbon dioxide.
 - (8) Preservatives.
- (i) *Mixed spirit drink* means a drink produced and packaged or sold by a mixed spirit drink manufacturer or an outstate seller of mixed spirit drink which contains ten percent or less alcohol by volume consisting of distilled spirits mixed with nonalcoholic beverages or flavoring or color materials and which may also contain water, fruit juices, fruit adjuncts, sugar, carbon dioxide, or preservatives.
- (j) *Alcohol vapor device* means any device that provides for the use of air or oxygen bubbled through alcoholic liquor to produce a vapor or mist that allows the user to inhale this alcoholic vapor through the mouth or nose.

Sec. 37-25. - Application for new "on-premises" license.

- (a) In addition to such application as may be required by the state liquor control commission for licensing or permitting by the state, applications shall also be made to the township board for a township license to sell or sample alcoholic liquor, beer, wine, or spirits, etc., for all types of on-premises consumption. Such separate application shall be filed in writing and submitted to the township clerk's office with all required fees. It shall be signed by the applicant if an individual or by a duly authorized agent, if a partnership or corporation, verified by oath, or affidavit, and shall contain, at a minimum the following information:
 - (1) The name, birth date and address of the applicant in the case of an individual; or in the case of any type of partnership, the partners thereof (anyone entitled to share in the profits); in the case of a corporation, the object for which organized, the names and addresses of the officers and directors and of all shareholders holding directly or indirectly five percent or more of the voting stock or shares of the corporation.
 - (2) The citizenship and place of birth of the applicant, and, if a naturalized citizen, the time and place of naturalization.
 - (3) The nature of business that the applicant is engaged in; and in the case of a corporation, the object for which it was formed.
 - (4) The length of time said applicant has been in business of that nature, or, in the case of a corporation, the date when its charter was issued.
 - (5) The location and description of the premises or place of business which is to be operated under such license.
 - (6) A statement whether applicant has ever operated or made application for a similar or other license or permit on any premises other than described in this application, and the disposition of such operation or application.

- (7) A statement indicating whether the applicant has ever had a similar or other license suspended, revoked, or was found responsible for regulatory violations, and the disposition of such suspension, revocation, or regulatory non-compliance.
 - (8) A statement indicating whether the applicant has ever been found guilty, pled guilty, or pled no contest to a criminal charge or any local ordinance violations, and to list any such relevant information; that the applicant is not disqualified to receive a license by reason of any matter or thing contained in this division or the laws of the State of Michigan. Such statements shall be verified, to the extent possible, by the township's designated liquor enforcement officials who shall report the results of such investigation to the township liquor committee prior to any final decision by the township board upon the application.
 - (9) A statement that the applicant will not violate any laws of the State of Michigan or of the United States or any ordinances of the township in the conduct of its business.
 - (10) The application shall be accompanied by building and site plans showing the entire structure and premises and, in particular, the specific areas where the license is to be utilized. The plans shall demonstrate zoning and building code compliance including adequate off-street parking, lighting, refuse disposal facilities, landscaping, and where appropriate, adequate plans for screening and noise control.
 - (11) The application shall be accompanied by a general area plan encompassing a one-quarter mile area showing the proximity of churches and schools (giving distances in lineal feet) to the proposed building.
 - (12) Authorization shall be provided to the township for access to any and all files which may be in the possession of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission regarding that commission's investigation of the transferee as a present licensee, as a previous licensee, or with regard to any license which the transferee has held a partial interest in.
 - (13) A statement that all personal property taxes, all real property taxes, business registration, code enforcement, and inspection fees, and all other obligations due and payable to the township have been paid with regard to the premises for which a license is sought or from which it is being transferred.
 - (14) The liquor committee may require any additional information it deems appropriate in order to make a fully informed recommendation to the township board.
- (b) *Restrictions on licenses:* No license shall be issued to:
- (1) A person whose license, under this division, has been revoked for cause.
 - (2) A person who, at the time of application or renewal of any license issued herein, would not be eligible for such licenses upon a first application.
 - (3) A partnership, regardless of type, unless all of the members of such co-partnership shall qualify to obtain a license.
 - (4) A corporation, if any officer, manager or director thereof, or a stock owner or stockholders owning in the aggregate more than five percent of the stock of such corporation, would not be eligible to receive a license hereunder for any reason.
 - (5) A person whose place of business is conducted by a manager or agent unless such manager or agent possesses the same qualifications required of the licensee.
 - (6) A person who has been convicted or found responsible for a violation of any federal or state law or administrative rule of the state liquor control commission concerning the manufacture, possession or sale of alcoholic liquor or a controlled substance.
 - (7) A person who does not own the premises for which a license is sought or does not have a lease therefore for the full period for which the license is issued, or to a person, corporation, or partnership (of any type) that does not have sufficient financial assets to carry on or maintain the business.
 - (8) Any law enforcing public official or any member of the township board, and no such official shall be interested in any way either directly or indirectly in the manufacture, sale or distribution of alcoholic liquor.
 - (9) For premises where there exists a violation of applicable building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, fire, or zoning codes, or public health regulations, or any other applicable township ordinance.
 - (10) For any premises not having obtained a special conditional use permit as required by the zoning code.
 - (11) A person who is in default of any personal property taxes, property taxes, real property taxes, or any other obligations due and payable to the township.
 - (12) For premises where it is determined by a majority of the township board that the premises does not, or will not reasonably soon after commencement of operations, fully comply with zoning and site plan requirements including having adequate off-street parking, lighting, refuse disposal facilities, screening, landscaping, noise, or nuisance control; or where a nuisance exists or will exist as a result of approval of a liquor license at the location.

- (13) Where the township board determines, by majority vote, that the proposed location is inappropriate considering the character of the area; the attitude and perspective of adjacent residents and property owners who would be impacted by issuance of a license; traffic safety; accessibility to the site from abutting roads; capacity of abutting roads to accommodate the new commercial activity; distance from public or private schools for minors; proximity of the inconsistent zoning classification; and accessibility from primary roads or state highways.
- (c) *Recommendation from the liquor committee and township departments.* Following receipt of a fully completed application, fees and other information as may be required by the township, such application shall be forwarded to the township liquor committee, the office of community standards, the applicable law enforcement agency, the fire department, the building department, the township treasurer, and such other departments as may be required by the particular case. The applicable departments shall fully investigate the applicant, inspect the site and building where the requested license would be used, and submit recommendations to the liquor committee. The liquor committee, upon receipt and review of all applicable reports and recommendations, shall make an informed final recommendation to the township board for its consideration. The township board may request from the applicant other pertinent information as it deems necessary in order to make a determination. For license applications that also require local governmental approval for a state license, the township clerk's office shall submit the township board's approval or disapproval to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission as required by state law.
- (d) *Application fees.* At the time of filing an application for any type of license or permit required in this division, the applicant shall pay all required fees established by resolution of the township board, some or all of which may be nonrefundable.
- The established fees shall be charged for each license requested; provided, however, that individuals making applications for more than one license for use concurrently at the same location may be required to pay only one license fee, or a prorated license fee, at the discretion of the township clerk. When exercising this discretion, the township clerk shall consider the related nature of the licenses and the type of investigation warranted.
- All fees shall be paid in full at the time application is made and prior to dissemination of the application for investigation and recommendation by the liquor committee and applicable township departments.
- (e) *Term of license.* Approval of a license shall be for no more than a period of one year and shall conform to requirements and expiration cycles of state law. . Furthermore, approval of a license by the township shall be with the understanding that any necessary remodeling or construction for the use of the license shall be commenced pursuant to required building permits within six (6) months of the action of the township board or final approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. Any unreasonable delay in the completion of such remodeling or construction, or any unreasonable delay in placing the subject license into active use for any reason, as well as any other violation of state or local law, may subject the license to revocation upon notice and hearing as detailed elsewhere herein.
- (f) *License renewal.* Each license approved under this article shall expire each year concurrent with the expiration of the required state license or permit. Each license holder shall apply to the office of community standards to renew their license no later than 90 days prior to its expiration date and shall pay all required license renewal fees in advance. The office of community standards shall review the licensee's regulatory compliance history, public safety response history, and account status for applicable taxes and fees. The office of community standards and the fire marshal shall inspect the licensed premises for compliance with all applicable codes and regulations, shall cite the licensee for code deficiencies, and shall verify compliance prior to the expiration date of the license. The office of community standards shall determine whether there is cause to object to the renewal of the license in accordance with the criteria for nonrenewal or revocation described elsewhere herein. If necessary, the office of community standards shall initiate the procedure for objections as described elsewhere herein. When there is no cause to object, then the license shall automatically renew for a period not to exceed one year. The office of community standards shall report the renewal status of each active township license to the township liquor committee and the township board on an annual basis.
- (g) *Reservation of authority.* No such applicant for a liquor license has the right to the issuance of such license, and the township board reserves the right to exercise reasonable discretion to determine who, if anyone, shall be entitled to the issuance of such license. Additionally, no applicant for a liquor license has the right to have such application processed and the township board further reserves the right to take no action with respect to any application filed with the township board. The township board further reserves the right to maintain a list of all applicants and to review the same when, in its discretion, it determines that the issuance of an additional liquor license is in the best interest of the township at large and for the needs and convenience of its citizens.
- (h) *License hearing.* The township board shall grant a public hearing upon the license application when, in its discretion, the township board determines that the issuance of an additional liquor license is in the best interests of the township at large and for the needs and convenience of its citizens. Following such hearing, the township board shall submit to the applicant a written statement of its findings and determination. The township board's determination will be at a minimum based upon satisfactory compliance with the appropriate requirements and restrictions set forth in subsections (a) and (b) above.

- (i) *Application denied—Reapplication.* No person whose application is denied regardless of the reason, may re-apply for a period of a minimum of one year from the date of such denial, regardless of the proposed location.

Sec. 37-26. - Inspection required.

All licensees, whether "on-premises" or "off-premises" shall make the licensed premises available for inspection and search by either a state liquor control commission investigator or a local law enforcement officer designated by either the state or the township, during regular business hours or when the licensed premises are occupied by a licensee or a clerk, servant, agent or employee of the licensees. Evidence of a violation discovered pursuant to this subsection may be seized and used in an administrative or court proceeding. Furthermore, all prospective licensees and applicants shall make the premises available for inspection by the township's representatives so as to establish compliance with all applicable building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, fire, zoning, public health regulations, or any other applicable township ordinance or regulation.

Sec. 37-27. - Revocation/nonrenewal authorized.

Each establishment within the township for which a license or permit is granted, whether for consumption of alcohol "on-premises" or "off-premises" shall be operated and maintained in accordance with all applicable state laws, local ordinances, laws and regulations (in addition to the provisions contained in this article), and in a clean and sanitary manner meeting the approval of applicable township departments and policing agencies. Upon any violation of this division, or such other applicable laws, ordinances and regulations, the township board may, after notice and hearing described below, request the state liquor control commission to refuse renewal, revoke, or take such other action as may be required with regard to such licenses.

Sec. 37-28. - Procedure for objections and request for revocation.

- (a) *Procedure.* If the township receives information that any licensee has committed a violation of state or local law, including but not limited to, the terms and provisions of this article, the liquor enforcement officer involved shall prepare a report in writing specifying (i) the specific factual details of such violation(s); (ii) the particular law or ordinance violated; and (iii) any other information or recommendation relevant to a proper determination by the township board as to the nature of such violation(s) and the appropriate action to be taken by the township.
- (b) The liquor enforcement officer shall file the original report prepared under subsection (a) above with the township board, and serve a copy of such report upon the licensee or its authorized agent or employee, personally or by registered mail.
- (c) Within 20 days from the date such report has been filed with the township board, the township clerk shall set a date for a hearing before the township board on the alleged violation(s) for a determination by the township board as to whether or not the township board shall require and recommend to the state liquor control commission that the commission revoke, or deny the renewal of, any license. Notice of this hearing shall be served by the township clerk upon the licensee or its authorized agent or employee, personally or by registered mail, not less than ten days before the scheduled hearing date, and such notice shall contain the following:
 - (1) Notice of proposed action;
 - (2) Reason for the proposed action;
 - (3) Date, time and place of the hearing;
 - (4) A statement that the license holder may present evidence and testimony and confront adverse witnesses;
 - (5) A statement that the license holder has the right to be represented by legal counsel at the hearing.
- (d) At all such hearings, the licensee shall have the legal right to defend against the allegations made by way of confronting any adverse witnesses, by being allowed to present live witnesses in its own behalf, by being allowed to present other evidence in its own behalf, and by being allowed to present arguments personally or through legal counsel in its own behalf.
- (e) The township board shall prepare a written statement of its findings, which may be formal or informal in nature within a reasonable time, not to exceed 60 days, after the conclusion of all such hearings. Such statement of findings may be embodied in a resolution as described in subsection (f) below, if the township board determines that objections to renewal, or request for revocation of, a license or related permit is appropriate.
- (f) If the township board determines after due notice and proper hearing that competent, material and substantial evidence exists that a violation of state or local law has been committed by a licensee or that, even if no violation has been demonstrated, nevertheless the interests of public health, safety or welfare warrant that the township board object to renewal or request revocation of any existing license

issued to such licensee, the township board may adopt a resolution recommending to the state liquor control commission that it deny renewal or revoke any such license to such licensee.

- (g) Within ten days of the township board's final approval of any such resolution, the township clerk shall forward a copy thereof to the state liquor control commission pursuant to MCLA 436.1501 as amended, as the township board's official notice of objection to renewal or request for revocation of any existing license or related permit, a copy of which shall be sent by registered or first class mail to the licensee.
- (h) *Criteria for nonrenewal or revocation.* The township board may recommend nonrenewal or revocation of a license to the state liquor control commission upon a determination by the township board that based upon competent material and substantial evidence presented at the public hearing, any of the following exists:
 - (1) Violation of any of the restrictions of licenses set forth in, or any provision of, this article or any other law, ordinance, or state statute or the administrative rules or provisions of the State Liquor Control Act.
 - (2) Maintenance of a nuisance upon the premises, including, but not limited to, any of the following:
 - a. Existing violations of building, property maintenance, zoning, health, fire or regulatory codes.
 - b. A pattern of patron conduct upon or in the neighborhood of the licensed establishment which is a violation of the law or which disturbs the peace, order, and tranquility of the neighborhood including, but not limited to, on-street parking congestion, diminished traffic and pedestrian safety, litter, and unreasonable noise.
 - c. Failure to maintain the grounds and exterior of the licensed establishment, including litter, debris, or blowing refuse, or any of these being deposited upon adjoining properties.
 - d. Failure to maintain the safety and security of the licensed premises and exterior grounds free from dangerous or unlawful activity.
 - e. Any advertising, promotions or activity which by its nature causes, creates or contributes to disorder, disobedience to rules, ordinances or laws, or contributes to the disruption of normal activities of those in the neighborhood of the licensed establishment.
 - (3) Any condition of delinquency or default in the payment of any tax, fee, charge, utility bill, special assessment, other debt, or unpaid judgment to the township, whether owed by licensee, establishment or property owner.
 - (4) Perjury or any material misrepresentation of information in any application required or hearing held pertaining to the grant, renewal, or revocation of any license or permit.
 - (5) Any other appropriate reason as determined by the township board.

Sec. 37-29. - Transfer of existing licenses.

The transfer of any existing "on premise" liquor license covered hereunder shall be subject to each of the requirements, criteria and procedure, including fees, set forth in this article for the granting of a new liquor license. Notwithstanding the above, where the requested transfer is for the purpose of transferring the ownership of an existing facility, and no changes or renovations are proposed for the site or to the building, the applicant is not required to provide the building and site information which would otherwise be required for a new license applicant. In addition, the transferee or applicant shall furnish any necessary authorization to permit the township access to any and all files which may be in the Michigan Liquor Control Commission's possession regarding that commission's investigation of the transferee as a present licensee, or as a previous licensee, or with regard to any licensee in which the transferee has held a partial interest.

Sec. 37-30. - Transfer of existing location.

No existing "on premise" license location shall be transferred within or without the township boundaries without proper application to and approval of the township board.

Sec. 37-31. - Penalties.

Any person, whether licensed or not, who furnishes those substances defined in section 37-24 "Definitions" without having obtained the appropriate license therefore as required, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 90 days or by a fine of not more than \$1,000 plus court costs, or both, in the discretion of the court. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

Secs. 37-32—37-50. - Reserved.

ARTICLE III. - LIQUOR INSPECTIONS

Sec. 37-51. - Title.

This article shall be known as and cited as the Charter Township of Ypsilanti Liquor Inspection Ordinance.

Sec. 37-52. - Definitions.

Those definitions enumerated in section 37-24 of this Code shall be and hereby are specifically incorporated herein by reference as if each and every one were more particularly set forth.

Sec. 37-53. - Liquor Control Act of the State of Michigan.

All alcoholic liquor traffic, including but not limited to, the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, consumption, storage for sale, possession and/or transportation thereof within Township of Ypsilanti shall comply within the provision of the Michigan Liquor Control Act, being Public Act 8 of 1933, as amended, and the provisions of this Code.

Sec. 37-54. - Enforcement.

The township ordinance department officers are authorized to enforce the provisions of the Michigan Liquor Control Act, being Public Act 8 of 1933; the rules and regulations of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission adopted pursuant to said Act; and the provisions of this chapter. Any duly sworn law enforcement officer with proper jurisdiction is authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 37-55. - Inspection.

The township ordinance department officers shall inspect, on a regular basis, all liquor establishments licensed under the Liquor Control Act of the State of Michigan, and report the results of all inspections promptly to the township board. The township ordinance department officers shall further promptly investigate all complaints received by it concerning violations of the Michigan Liquor Control Act or improper operations and practices concerning alcoholic liquor traffic within the township and report the same to the township board and, where appropriate under the Michigan Liquor Control Act, to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission, for appropriate proceedings against the violator.

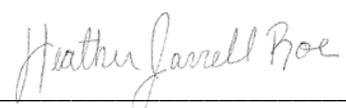
All ordinance department officers enforcing the Michigan Liquor Control Act shall carry appropriate identification issued by the township identifying them as township liquor control inspectors and shall present said identification to the owner or manager of every place inspected by them when making an inspection upon demand for identification by such owner or manager.

Inspectors have the right to inspect any place in the township where alcoholic liquor is manufactured, sold, offered for sale, kept for sale, possessed, or transported, or where the inspector has a reasonable suspicion that the same is being thus manufactured, sold, offered for sale, kept for sale, possessed or transported. Whenever possible, all inspection reports shall be made on liquor law enforcement forms furnished by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission or on forms similar to the forms furnished by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Sec. 37-56. - Penalties.

Any person, whether licensed or not, who shall violate any of the provisions of the Michigan Liquor Control Act or any rule or regulation of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission promulgated thereunder, or who shall violate any of the township's ordinances pertaining to the regulation of alcohol traffic, or any person who shall prohibit or interfere with the authorized inspection by a member of the township ordinance department shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment in the county jail not more than 90 days or by a fine of not more than \$500 or both, in the discretion of the court. Each day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate offense.

I, Heather Jarrell Roe, Clerk of the Charter Township of Ypsilanti, County of Washtenaw, State of Michigan hereby certify approval of the first reading of Proposed Ordinance No. 2021-494 by the Charter Township of Ypsilanti Board of Trustees assembled at a regular meeting held on February 2, 2021. The second reading is scheduled to be heard on March 2, 2021.



Heather Jarrell Roe, Clerk

Charter Township of Ypsilanti