

Chapter 720 – Planning Commission

Section 720.1 – Title

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the “Lenox Township Planning Commission Ordinance.”

Section 720.2 - Intent

An ordinance continuing the Lenox Township Planning Commission previously established by resolution pursuant to the Township Planning Act, 1959 pa 168, which planning commission is for the purpose of having planning and zoning in Lenox Township, to enumerate powers and duties; membership requirements; compensation and removal of members; methods for filling vacancies; meeting requirements; and appropriation of funds to provide for the orderly and efficient operation of the planning commission, and to repeal any and all ordinances and/or resolutions in conflict therewith.

Section 720.3 – Established Planning Commission Continued

- A. In accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, MCL 125.3843, et seq., and specifically, MCL 125.3881(3)(b)-(c), the Lenox Township Planning Commission established by resolution under the Township Planning Act, 1959 PA 168, is hereby continued, with the powers and duties set forth in this Ordinance.

Section 720.4 – Membership

- A. The Planning Commission shall consist of seven (7) members who are qualified electors of Lenox Township, to be appointed by the Township Supervisor with the approval of the Township Board; provided one (1) of such seven (7) members shall be a member of the Township Board as an ex officio member pursuant to MCL 125.3815(5). The membership of the Planning Commission shall be representative of important segments of the community such as economic, governmental, educational and social development of Lenox Township, in accordance with the major interests as they exist in Lenox Township, such as agriculture, natural resources, recreation, education, public health, government, transportation, industry and commerce, pursuant to MCL 125.3815(3). An employee of the Township shall not be a member of the Planning Commission.

Section 720.5 – Terms of Members

- A. The term of the ex-officio member shall correspond to their term of office on the Board of Trustee. Each appointed member shall serve for three (3) years. Members shall be eligible for reappointment for any number of terms. Current members shall serve until their term expires, unless they are removed in accordance with Section 720.7, or they resign.

Section 720.6 – Compensation

- A. Members of the Planning Commission shall be compensated for their services as provided by the Township Board by resolution from time to time.

Section 720.7 – Removal of Members

- A. Any member of the Planning Commission may, after written charges and a public hearing, be removed by the Township Board for nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance in office pursuant to MCL 125.3815(9). Failure to disclose a potential conflict of interest may be considered malfeasance. Failure to repeatedly attend Planning Commission meetings may be considered non-feasance.

Section 720.8 – Vacancies on the Planning Commission

- A. Vacancies occurring for any reason whatsoever shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner provided in Section 720.4 of the original selection of members of the Planning Commission pursuant to MCL 125.3815(2).

Section 720.9 – Meetings

- A. The Planning Commission shall meet each month, if there exists business to be conducted at a Planning Commission meeting. The Planning Commission shall hold not less than four (4) regular meetings each year. The majority of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of ordinary business. All questions which shall arise at Planning Commission meetings shall be determined by a vote of the majority of the members of the Planning Commission present, except for approval of a proposed master plan which shall be by affirmative vote of a majority of all Planning Commission members pursuant to MCL 125.3843(2).

Section 720.10 – Finances

- A. The Township Board shall annually appropriate the funds necessary, in its judgment, for the conduct of the Planning Commission's work for the ensuing fiscal year.

Section 720.11 – Powers and Duties

- A. The Planning Commission shall possess and retain all of the powers and duties set forth in the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, MCL 125.3843 et seq., as amended, and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, MCL 125.3101, et seq., as amended. The Planning Commission shall adopt bylaws for transaction of business and shall keep a record of its resolutions, transactions, findings, and determinations all which shall be a public record.

Section 720.12 – Severability

- A. The various sections and provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be severable, and should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any section or provision of this Ordinance, other than the section or provision so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 720.13 – Conflict

- A. All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent or in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed to the extent of such inconsistency or conflict.

Section 720.14 – Publication

- A. This Ordinance, or a summary of this Ordinance, shall be published within 30 days of adoption in a newspaper of general circulation in Lenox Township pursuant to MCL 41.184(3).

Section 720.15 – Effective Date

- A. This Ordinance shall become effective the day following publication pursuant to MCL 41.184(2)(b).