

20. Exotic Animals. This ordinance prohibits any person to own, possess, keep, or harbor, an exotic animal, as defined in Chapter 2, except in compliance with 1b.,1 through 4.

- a. It shall be unlawful for a person to breed an exotic animal.
- b. This section shall not apply to:
 - 1. Duly incorporated non-profit animal protection organizations housing an exotic animal at the written request of the animal control authority.
 - 2. Animal control or law enforcement agencies or offices acting under the authority of this section.
 - 3. Licensed veterinary hospitals or clinics.
 - 4. Any lawfully operated circus, rodeo, zoo or preserve.
 - 5. A person(s) using a certified therapy animal.

With the addition of the above, staff would need to add a definition of Exotic Animal.

Proposed Definition of Exotic Animal:

“Exotic animal” means any of the following: a lion, tiger, leopard, ocelot, jaguar, cheetah, margay, mountain lion, lynx, bobcat, jaguarondi, bear, hyena, wolf or coyote, or any poisonous or life-threatening reptile; a non-human member of the order primate, including but not limited to chimpanzee, gorilla, orangutan, bonobo, gibbon, monkey, lemur, loris, aye-aye, and tarsier.

We have also had questions regarding livestock and the keeping or raising of the same in residential areas. Right now there is no definition of livestock. The proposed definition below comes from the Michigan Department of Agriculture:

“Livestock” means those species of animals used for human food and fiber or those species of animals used for service to humans. Livestock includes, but is not limited to, cattle, sheep, new world camels, goats, bison, privately owned cervids, ratites, swine, equine, poultry, aquaculture and rabbits. Livestock does not include cats and dogs.

Mr. Mahlberg directed staff to strengthen “therapy animal” more by making it specific and to look at other communities and how they address this issue. Mr. Brucker also wanted staff to look into exotic birds.

The Planning Commission members discussed the proposed changes and unanimously agreed that staff should prepare text for review at a future meeting and to schedule a public hearing.

B. Ms. Smith spoke with the Planning Commission regarding the retention of professional experts in the field of planning and zoning to review our existing (newly adopted sexually oriented businesses ordinance). They have recommended changing a number

of items. Some are housekeeping items and others are more substantial. Ms. Smith presented the more substantial attorney-recommended changes to the sexually oriented business standards outlined below:

Proposed Changes to Definitions:

1. Previously sexually oriented businesses were permitted only in a B-4, General Commercial District. The proposed changes would permit the uses in a B-3, Community Commercial District as well. All sexually oriented businesses would be subject to the same separation standards as before (1,000 feet from schools, daycares, parks and residential zoning and/or uses).
2. Text has been added that states sexually oriented businesses are subject to special approval through our specific standards, however, they are not subject to the “discretionary” standards included in the Special Use Permits chapter. Although Saginaw Charter Township has always processed special land use approval standards as though they were non discretionary, some courts have found discretionary standards for sexually oriented businesses to be controversial and difficult to defend. These standards typically include items such as “consistent with the character of the community,” etc.
3. The process for suspending or revoking a special land use approval has been detailed. This process applies to all special land uses and is a court tested method of revoking or suspending an approval.
4. Clearly defined what “replacing copy” means and what a “structural alteration” means as we had questions and interpretations regarding the same at the Sign Board of Appeals.

Proposed Changes to Regulations by District:

1. Adjustments were made to provide more flexibility to non-residential uses in residential and agricultural districts, which most typically are private schools and religious uses/places of worship, including the ability to have a digital message board no greater than 25 square feet and to have entrance signs when the parcel is greater than five (5) acres.
2. Commercial districts on corner lots are permitted to have a sign on each road frontage subject to all other provisions of the ordinance.
3. Changes throughout the district regulations limit the size of any sign that is an electronic message board or digital sign to no more than 24 square feet.
4. Permits electronic message boards in industrial districts, where previously they were erroneously omitted.

Other Proposed Changes:

1. Cleans up language and grammatical errors throughout.
2. For signs that deal with land for sale and construction size, adjusts the size and height of the signs.
3. Political campaign signs are permitted on improved lots only.
4. Temporary/portable signs are permitted on improved lots only.

