

Village of Eau Claire
Wednesday, July 12, 2017
Unapproved Public Hearing of the Planning Commission

Public Hearing: Public Hearing called to order at 6:30 by David Ferguson

Members Present: David Ferguson, Ken Karn, Mike Gero, John Glassman, Larry Williams.

Members Absent: None

Visitors-Virginia Gonzalez, Shawn Foster, Tom Wright Jr., Braden Janowski, Tyler S. Judy Ferguson, Donna Williams and Frank Jones of La Port, IN.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by K. Karn to Approve the Agenda as Presented, Second by J. Glassman, All Ayes, Motion Carried.

D. Ferguson opened the meeting with the ground rules, turn off cell phones, raise your hand if you would like to speak, limit comments to 3 minutes, don't interrupt and such.

K. Karn gave a synopsis of the five (7) new Medical Marijuana Licenses that will become available in the State of Michigan beginning in January 2018. He also gave an outline of the Village Medical Marijuana Licensing Ordinance that the Village is currently working on with the Village Attorney Frank De Francesco.

1. Class A, not more than 500 plants
2. Class B, not more than 1000 plants
3. Class C, not more than 1500 plants
4. Processor License
5. Provisioning (Dispensary)
6. Safety Compliance Facility License
7. Secure Transport

The new licenses can be applied for beginning December 17, 2017 and the State will not issue any licenses without an Ordinance in place.

The floor was opened up for questions and comments:

J. Ferguson stated she has seen Medical Marijuana used for cancer treatments in her own family and that Lakeland Hospital gave medications to her family member that contained a derivative of Marijuana to help with the cancer treatments and to give an appetite to the person in treatment.

Village President V. Gonzalez attended State Police meetings with Chief of Police C. Sherene earlier in the spring. The State is very serious and has many checks and double checks in place and a new task force team and this industry will be heavily monitored. She also stated that she does not support the Dispensary license and feels the Village is not the

right place to have a Dispensary that would be open to the public, the Village is too small and that could have an undesirable effect here. Other local Villages and Towns have voted to allow Dispensaries so one is really not needed here. She would encourage other board members to not support Dispensaries in the future. The Village is moving forward with the new Ordinance; no one came to the Public Hearing except spouses of the Planning Commission and no one has come to the Regular Council Meetings regarding the new ordinance either. Economically this will provide income to the Village as well as local good paying jobs.

The current owner of the proposed building (the old Silver Mills) stated that he was not raised around Marijuana and he sought counsel from his pastor. His pastor has seen the medical benefits of its use when used correctly and not abused, especially in Cancer patients.

There was discussion about the Opioid epidemic in America and how bad most chemically made medicines seem to be and have a greater amount of abuse and addiction and side effects than Medical Marijuana.

The old Silver Mills will get cleaned up, the building will be nondescript with no signs, it will not be open to the public and will be entirely fenced in and the State will set up all the required monitoring and security cameras. The facility will also have its own 24/7 security. Employees will be required by the state to have ID badges to enter the building.

Someone asked if the AMA (American Medical Association) was supporting it; they do believe that there are medicinal qualities but they would never recommend smoking it as all smoking is bad for a person. People can get their medication through Edibles and vaporizing.

Comment/Questioner cards were available for attendees to fill out and use during the Public Hearing or fill out & leave. Nine (9) comment cards were left.

Results of comments:

5 cards were unanimous yes's to all categories

1 card was 100% NO

3 cards were all yes to all categories except Dispensaries was a NO

The 5 members of the Planning Commission also filled out the comment cards.

The Planning Commission will hold a Regular Meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 At the Village Hall to go over any amendments; the Planning Commission will present a proposed ordinance by August 2017 to give to the Council and hopefully the ordinance can be voted on by October 2017 so that we can have applications ready for the December 17, 2017 state application day.

Hearing Adjourned

Meeting Minutes by: Shawn Foster, Village Clerk