
Village of Hesperia, Michigan
Special Council Meeting
October 8, 2018
6:00 PM

Call to Order: President Farber called this Special Council Meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Village Hall. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll Call was taken with a quorum noted.

Roll Call: Members Present: Jayne Biggart, Carol Kochans, Joyce McDonald, Jim Smith, Mike Farber
Absent: Arthur Raymond

Also present: Clerk Burrell, Chief FitzGerald, Zaneta Adams, Bonnie Robinson, Bill Rumsey, Chuck Yob, Gina Yob, Dennis Pellegrini, Valeria Poholski, Gail Tilley, Lil Eitnrear, Ryan Good, Mike Kraus, Josh Jones, Dan Lash, Patti Wildfong, Connor VanBuskirk, Shelly Goings, Tristin Grey.

This meeting was called to order to discuss Medical Marihuana Facilities

Motion by McDonald **Seconded** by Biggart to set agenda as presented. **(motion CARRIED)**
Yeas: Biggart, Kochans, McDonald, Smith, Farber
Absent: Raymond

Brief Public Comment: Gina Yob talked about what it took to get a medical marihuana card and that no one without a card and driver’s license would not be allowed to enter any facility. She stated that there were 4,000 Medical Marihuana cardholders in Newaygo County. Oceana County is ranked 10th in the State of Michigan and Newaygo County is ranked 31st. She talked about handling her personal pain without opiates by using medical marihuana. She spoke about other controlling their pain by using medical marihuana. She quoted the Drug Policy Alliance “research does not support that marihuana is not a gateway drug”. She spoke on the building that they purchased and that they would be investing approximately \$500,000 into it. She said that she hopes this will help Hesperia flourish again. Chuck Yob thanked the council for their time and he said that he went to his investors and fought very hard to get them to bring their investment to Hesperia. He brought up how we did not how to worry about security because his investors will make sure that the Michigan laws are followed and they would spare no expense for security. He urged us not to pass on this opportunity. Valeria Poholski spoke on the benefits of medical marihuana and if it could help family members alleviate their pain, she would support that. She made it clear that she is not recreational marihuana. Chuck Yob stated that he is not for recreational marihuana. Kochans asked if recreational marihuana passed in the State of Michigan, if they would sell it at this facility and Gina Yob replied that they would not. A gentleman asked about oils and said that he had heard Vietnam veterans who had sores put the oil on it and it healed them. Josh Jones inquired if we would be hiring any more police officers. Tristin Grey commented that he thought that marihuana would become more accessible if we allowed the facility within the village.

Motion by Farber **Seconded** by McDonald

(motion CARRIED)

A motion was made to “Opt In” to allow Medical Marihuana Facilities in the Village of Hesperia

Discussion:

Zaneta Adams, lawyer from William Hughes office, spoke about the medical marihuana ordinance. She said that we would have to decide if we were going to allow stacking of licenses, how many facilities we wanted, how many growing licenses, how you choose the people who have the licenses, lottery, first come first come basis or on a point system. She said that if we opt in tonight, she would recommend having a work session at a later date to discuss all of the perimeters we would like to see put in place. McDonald inquired if we had to have consent of the townships. Attorney Adams said that we did not. President Farber said we get to lay out what we would like in the ordinance, that it is for medical marihuana only, not recreational marihuana. Zaneta Adams said that we could opt out for recreational marihuana if it passes in November. Kochans mentioned that we should not be a vote on this because it has not gone to the ordinance committee. Attorney Adams recommended that the council make the vote to Opt In or Opt Out then work on the details at a later date. Kochans brought up that she thought the full council should be there to vote. Biggart inquired about the legal fees. Kochans asked Chief FitzGerald for his input. He said that he has spoken to other chiefs and they have not had anything bad to say about it. He said that rules of the State of Michigan are pretty strict and he does not anticipate any issues. Zaneta Adams said that this will be an annual license and for any reason, the village has the right not to renew that license.

Kochans read attached statement

As a Village Counsel Trustee serving on this board, I feel it is essential to know if village residents are in favor of a medical marijuana facility that would be located in the heart of our downtown. This board serves the community and its residents. Village resident need to be part of the process and have a say in this most important decision.

In particular, there are five categories of licenses that we must consider under the proposal: grower, processor, provisioning center, secure transporter and a safety compliance facility. All of these operations involve substantial planning and understanding.

Before this council moves forward on this request, this council should take the initiative and conduct a professional survey within the village limits asking residents if they are in favor of this proposal.

Not only would it be the right thing to, it is the responsibility and obligation of this council to involve village residents and to know if village residents are in support of taking on the challenges and responsibilities of hosting a medical marijuana dispensary in the Village of Hesperia.

President Farber called for Roll Call Vote

If we vote yes, we move forward on adopting an ordinance and if we vote no, we are opting out. McDonald asked what would happen once we opted in if the ordinance did not pass. Zaneta Adams said that the council would have to amend the ordinance until the council was satisfied with it. Kochans brought up some points about the jobs and demographics of our town and President Farber told her that the time for discussion had passed and it was time to vote. Kochans said that she thought we still in discussion mode. President Farber said it was time to vote. Kochans said that she was going to excuse herself from the meeting.

Yeas: Biggart, McDonald, Smith, Farber

Nays: Kochans

Absent: Raymond

Kochans left the council meeting at 6:50 PM

Motion by McDonald **Seconded** by Biggart to adjourn.

(motion CARRIED)

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM

All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted

Vicki R. Burrell

Hesperia Village Clerk

“Village of Hesperia is an equal opportunity provider and employer”