
PUBLIC HEARING
Village of Hesperia, Michigan
May 4, 2022
7:00 PM

Call to order: President Farber called this Public Hearing to order at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall. Roll Call was taken.

Roll Call: Members Present: Dan Herin, Joyce McDonald, Jackie Slocum, Jim Smith, Stephanie Halverson, Mike Farber

Also present: Clerk Burrell, Jane Bostrom, Anna Dukes, Thomas Meoak, Darlene Woodring, Cathy Webster, Racheal Valdes, Sharita Prowant, Terry R. Beardsley Jr., Tammie Nguyen, Markes Ackerberg, Carol Kochans, Lou Nemastil, Kyn Hwang, Ronald Oh, Kyle and others not listed.

THIS PUBLIC HEARING IS CALLED TO DISCUSS REVISTING CURRENT ORDINANCE SECTION #115.01 RECREATIONAL MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS

President Farber thanked everyone for attending and stated that the Public Hearing was to revisit the current Recreational Marihuana Ordinance, Section 115.01 prohibiting Recreational Marihuana Establishments. He stated that there were copies available for viewing. He stated further that this hearing is strictly to discuss the recreational marihuana ordinance. He stated that the council would like to hear from the village residents first and all others would have an opportunity to speak after they had spoken.

He opened the floor to village residents and asked them to approach the podium, state their name and to indicate whether they were a resident or non resident. Comments would be limited to two minutes per person.

Jane Bostrom, resident, stated that she has lived here for 35 years and that she was in favor of allowing recreational marihuana stating that it would bring well needed money back into the community as well as some jobs.

Darlene Woodring, resident, stated she was concerned about what it would do to the community and how not currently having a police force made her very concerned. She stated that she was not concerned about adults using marihuana but was concerned with the youth using it

Sharita Prowant, resident, said that she had concerns and questions. She inquired about where the money would be spent and does the money need to benefit the marihuana establishments. She said that one of her concerns would be late hours and having too many establishments located in one area.

Debra Pagan, resident, stated that she was for allowing recreational marihuana and she spoke about kids gaining access to it would be a parenting problem.

Tammie Nguyen, resident, spoke on how she is for allowing it and spoke about some her health issues and how medical marihuana is the only thing that has helped her seizures subside. She spoke on how all dispensaries have cameras and how regulated they are. She said that no under age child would be allowed on the premises and identification had to be shown to gain access.

Kathy Webster, resident, asked how many jobs the establishments would bring and asked if a stipulation could be put in the ordinance to have the establishments hire local residents. Asked how much the licenses would cost President Farber said that they would be \$5,000 per license. Slocum stated that the State of Michigan gave out approximately \$56,000 to each municipality or township last year that had an active dispensary located in it. Kathy asked if the establishment could be shut down. President Farber said the licenses are renewed annually and that yes, the council could choose not to renew them. She asked about where the money from the establishments could be spent.

Thomas Meoak, resident, stated that he for allowing it. Suggested that a dispensary be opened in each township so both could benefit from the profits. He inquired where the village was at in the process. President Farber explained that we are in the very beginning stages. President Farber stated that if the council approved it, an ordinance would be drafted and presented to the public before going before council for approval.

Kyle Holland, non resident, stated that he was the manager of the cannabis facility on 186th Avenue, Hesperia. He spoke in support of recreational marihuana establishments. He would love to see a dispensary that would compliment his marihuana grow facilities. He stated that there are currently zero marihuana dispensaries in Oceana County.

Rick Roberson, non resident, Hesperia, live long resident of the Hesperia area. Stated that he is a local business owner and has worked on several different community boards over the years. He stated that he would like to advise the council to consider allowing recreational establishments and the benefits that they could bring to the community. He spoke about being on the Newfield Township board and mentioned the good things that he has seen the marihuana operations do for the area.

Rachael Valdes, non resident, she commented on the current medical marihuana ordinance. She also, commented that there were a lot of different kind of consumption establishments options available. President Farber said that by having the public hearing, they are trying to find out what the residents want.

Thomas Meoak, resident, spoke again regarding having a planning commission. President Farber said that the village did not have a planning commission, but had a Marihuana Committee that consisted of a total of three council members. President Farber stated that all meetings are open to the public and ads are posted in the paper in advance.

President Farber stated that he had asked our legal counsel about putting it on the ballot in the fall and was advised that the residents would have to circulate a petition to get it on the ballot.

Tammie Nguyen, resident, spoke again about how the State of Michigan has strict regulations on the sale of marihuana. She stated that she is frustrated on how much negativity there is surrounding marihuana and would like to focus on the positive health benefits it brings.

Debra Pagan, resident, asked the crowd to start to attend meetings and to become more involved with the community.

President Farber read a statement from Eileen Homan, Kimba and Larry Morse and Linda Benedict. It stated that they were for medical marihuana establishments as long as they were strictly regulated but were against recreational marihuana establishments because they thought it would be trouble to the community.

President Farber asked if there were any questions. No one had any questions.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki R. Burrell
Hesperia Village Clerk