
PUBLIC HEARING
Village of Hesperia, Michigan
October 13, 2025
7:00 PM

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

Roll Call: Members Present: Don Bostrom, Dan Herin, Sheri Hunt, Joyce McDonald, Jennifer Nearanz, Jackie Slocum, Mike Farber
Members Absent:
Also present: Clerk Burrell, Treasurer Borgman, Todd Hren, Steve Micklin, Joel Catts, Sara Richards, Matt Richards, Jordan Tryon, Mercedes Gale, Jane Bostrom, Kevin Hunt Robert Smith and others not listed.

President Farber opened the public hearing and gave a summary of the wording change for Ordinance 2025-01 Chapter 153 Adult Use Marihuana Zoning Ordinance removing the word church from the ordinance. He asked the public for their comments.

Sara Richards introduced herself from Revive Church. She stated that her concern was the village removing the word church or house of worship from the above mentioned ordinance. She stated that their church purchased the property because of the ordinance that was in place that a marihuana facility could not be within in 800 feet of a church. She stated that she had the realtor confirm with the village prior to the purchase. She also stated that members of her church had come to a previous meeting and introduced themselves and that the village said they were happy to have them in Hesperia. President Farber stated that he is still happy that the church is in the village. She said that there will be children and adults that will be passing a marihuana establishment and she said they could be exposed to drugs. She said that she would like the original ordinance to stay in place.

President Farber and Council member Slocum stated that the church knew they were moving into a marihuana district. President Farber said the village has the right to change our ordinance per our attorney because there is no distance set by the State of Michigan.

Matt Richards also commented that he would like the ordinance to remain in place.

Mercedes Gale said that she lives across from the church and does not want a marihuana facility opened near her home and she would like the council not to change the ordinance.

Council Member Nearanz asked some questions about the ordinance and where the boundaries of the marihuana district was. She stated that a dispensary would only be resale and not for consumption.

Jordan Tryon from Revive Church asked why there are districts for the sale of marihuana. He said it was to protect the vulnerable, schools, daycare and people visiting the parks. He said if the ordinance was changed, it could decline foot traffic in the downtown area and children could be exposed. He is concerned for public safety and said that it would attract criminal activity. He made a statement that he loves freedom, democracy and America. He asked the council to possibly think about moving the marihuana district elsewhere and leave the ordinance as it is. He would like a happy median and would like everyone to come to a compromise for a town that he loves.

Kevin Hunt stated that even though marihuana is legal in Michigan, Federal laws still prohibit it marihuana and we should follow those laws.

Robert Smith asked what the difference was being next to a bar and a marihuana facility. They are both legal in the state of Michigan. Mr. Smith addressed the audience and was told to address the council. The discussion got a little heated and President Farber called the meeting back to order. He stated that no one should be verbally attacked during this hearing and there will be no discussion back and forth between audience members. All statements should be addressed to the council.

Steve Micklin stated that cannabis communities could not have any marihuana words or advertising in them according to state law and said that there was a study conducted in Michigan that showed no increase in crime in marihuana districts.

President Farber told the attendees that he appreciated all of the comments and thanked everyone for attending. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Vicki R. Burrell
Hesperia Village Clerk