



MINUTES

Special Joint Meeting of Newaygo City Council

May 22, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at City Hall located at 136 Croton Road, Newaygo MI 49337 (Loomis Lodge)

Presiding officer: Mayor Fedell

Secretary: Clerk, Kim Biegalle

Roll Call: Present: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Walerczyk
Absent: Palmiter, Santana

Other City Boards Present: **Planning** (Present: Chambers, Day, Westcott, Williams, Wight, Black, Faulkner Absent: Kroll, Fetterley) **TIFA** (Present: Day, Faulkner, Guzniczak, Fedell, Mathis, Ivens, Buckley, Tinkham, Lethorn Absent: Armstrong, Badgero, Leestma, Heinzman) and **NEDO** (Present: Faulkner, Bumstead, Lethorn, Heartwell, Looman, Fedell, Hirdes, Johnson Absent: Armstrong, Johnson, Nelson) Board members

Motion by Hikade, support by Day to excuse absent members. AIF/MC

Motion by Day, support by Hikade to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Fedell welcomed everyone and stated that this meeting was for the boards to gather information; there will be two independent presentations given. Mr. James Barr, Strata Business Services, who is representing an investment group interested in building a medical marijuana manufacturing facility in the City's industrial park, gave his presentation. Went over what has happened in Colorado since marijuana has been legalized. He explained the difference between marijuana and hemp, explained all the items that are made from hemp as well as explained what the potential company will be making/manufacturing. He discussed and explained the Medical Marijuana Act; stated that these kinds of facilities will be regulated by the State. Barr also went over his background and why he is involved with the company interested in building in Newaygo. Barr went over the potential revenue that could potentially be divided up between City, State, County and Police organizations. He also described, in detail, the 30,000 sq. ft. building construction, what will be manufactured and security measures (they will have their own security staff) that will be taken and used for the potentially new business in Newaygo. The building will be FDA and OSHA compliant as well as be organic. They would use local contractors and tradesman for the build and hire local people as employees. Looking at upwards of 100 employees, 45-60 full-time with the rest part-time. They choose Newaygo because of its location to Grand Rapids and Muskegon; it's a beautiful community and a good place to live. Many of the various board members had questions and comments in which Barr answered. Jon Bumstead reiterated that it would be a manufacturing/distribution facility and no resale or sales will be done at the facility.

Chief Andres (City of Newaygo) and Lt. Abendroth of CMET (Central Michigan Enforcement Team) had a PowerPoint presentation. Chief Andres stated that this will be a governmental/Council decision whether to allow this facility in Newaygo. She stated that other area communities are not allowing such a facility and for the City of Newaygo to allow this there would need to be some ordinance changes. She stated various concerns she had with such a facility going in, such as smell, having to possibly hire more officers, not knowing what the Trump administration will do, as well as the effects to the youth and community. Abendroth went over many statistics

he had from his PowerPoint presentation. Abendroth stated Michigan is on the same path as Colorado and that the manufacturing could lead to recreational use and marijuana is not the same as it was in the 80's; more potent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Louis Slater from Holton Township's Planning Commission was present to listen and try to learn.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Johnson stated that this facility may fit into our community and maybe to mitigate the risk, the City can help regulate it.

Look into getting the community involved.

Hikade has lived in Newaygo his entire life, loves the community, wants to see economic development but need to find out if this is what Newaygo wants to portray to other communities. Stated the City could regulate and get ahead of it should it move forward.

Walerczyk stated if it goes forward, hopefully it will be legally.

Day has lived here most of his life, he doesn't smoke or drink and this is hard to swallow.

Schneider stated the City needs to look at the environmental effects, how it will affect the treatment plant and possible federal funding for the sewer plant project. May need to look at some kind of public hearing/input from the community.

Fedell stated that he needs to gather more information, get as much information as possible. Sometimes personal feelings differ from what is best for community.

Motion by Hikade, supported by Johnson to adjourn the meeting. AIF/MC

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Biegalle