

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 25, 2020

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Bronson in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7:08 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Bronson, Mallory, Temple, Couture, Johnston, and Raab

Absent:

Public Comments:

- Mr. Clarence Roznowski commented that he is currently working on establishing a medical marijuana business and has been preapproved by the State of Michigan to apply for a license. He plans to use an area of the Tissue Plant for a grow facility and the old Boathouse Restaurant as a dispensary; he would like Council to take this into consideration as they establish local regulations.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

- Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Agenda and receive and file all communications, seconded by Councilman Mallory. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the Special City Council Meeting minutes of February 5, 2020, seconded by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.
- Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting minutes of February 11, 2020 as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

- Consideration to Adopt an Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Cheboygan by Adding to and Amending the City of Cheboygan Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 154, Article 2 Definitions, Article 4 District Regulations, Article 7 Specific Use Standards, and Article 13 Nonconforming Lots, Uses and Structures.
 - The Public Hearing was opened at 7:16 p.m.
 - Ms. Brandy Mulak from the Flower Station is in the preapplication process through the State of Michigan. She would like to open a dispensary in her current location but is not located in the correct zoning; she would like council to consider expanding the zoning.
 - Ms. Suzan Cheli shared information regarding a video titled, "Chronic State." The video highlights the impact of the normalization of marijuana in communities; she would like council to consider the consequences of passing the ordinance.
 - Ms. Trudy Lofgren commented that she is in agreement with Ms. Suzan Cheli and is not in favor of the ordinance.
 - Mr. Philip Vansegren shared that he is a Vietnam Veteran and uses medical marijuana to treat his PTSD; he is in favor of the ordinance.

- Pastor Matt Reisinger commented that is also a Veteran of the Iraq War but is in favor of the 500' setback for churches out of respect for all of the services that the churches offer for addiction groups.
- The Public Hearing was closed at 7:38 p.m.
- Councilwoman Johnston commented this decision is not being made lightly, a lot of research and due diligence has gone into establishing this ordinance in order to meet the needs and wants of the community.
- Councilwoman Johnston moved to adopt an ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Cheboygan by adding to and amending the City of Cheboygan Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 154, Article 2 Definitions, Article 4 District Regulations, Article 7 Specific Use Standards, and Article 13 Nonconforming Lots, Uses and Structures, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.
- Consideration to Adopt an Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Cheboygan by adding Chapter 121, Title XI, RE: An Ordinance to Authorize and Regulate the Establishment of Medical Marihuana Facilities Pursuant to the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act Being Public Act 281 of 2016.
 - The Public Hearing was opened at 7:40 p.m.
 - The Public Hearing was closed at 7:41 p.m.
 - Councilwoman Johnston inquired about the differences in formatting between the Zoning Ordinance and the Medical Marihuana Ordinance. City Manager Eustice responded that the Zoning Ordinance is an amendment to an existing ordinance and the Medical Marihuana Ordinance is a completely new ordinance.
 - Council inquired if the City would have any control over medical marihuana businesses if they are not operating within the regulations. City Manager Eustice responded that the permits need to be renewed annually which gives the City the opportunity to not let the business continue to operate. In addition, the State of Michigan monitors these businesses and can also shut down an operation if it is not operating within the regulations.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired about the wording in the ordinance, specifically Section 121.04 B 2. Council discussed if businesses applying for a permit through the City would need to have a current license from the State prior to applying at the City.
 - Council discussed reviewing the ordinance annually to see if any language needs to be changed and or updated and also to assess the number of licenses issued.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to adopt an ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Cheboygan by adding Chapter 121, Title XI, RE: An Ordinance to Authorize and Regulate the Establishment of Medical Marihuana Facilities Pursuant to the Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act Being Public Act 281 of 2016 and to set the initial and ongoing permit fee at \$5,000, seconded by Councilwoman Raab. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Department, Boards and Commission Reports:

- Department of Public Safety Monthly Statistics, January 2020.

General Business:

- Consideration of Appointment to the City Council to Temporarily Fill Vacated City Council seat.
 - Councilman Temple moved to temporarily appoint Ms. Ashley Ptasnik to fill the vacated City Council seat, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken. Yes votes: Johnston, Temple, Couture, and Raab. No votes: Bronson and Mallory. Motion passed.
- Consideration to Reappoint Bobie Crongeyer to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to reappoint Bobie Crongeyer to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors, term to expire January 27, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of Appointment of Kay Forster to the Historic Resources Commission.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to appoint Kay Forster to the Historic Resources Commission, term to expire March 25, 2021 (remainder of term vacated by William Price), seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint Vincent Hillesheim to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors.
 - Councilman Mallory moved to reappoint Vincent Hillesheim to the Main Street Downtown Development Board of Directors, term to expire September 13, 2022, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint Christine Khan-King to the Planning Commission.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to reappoint Christine Khan-King to the Planning Commission, term to expire January 14, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Raab. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint Roger Kopernik to the Planning Commission.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to reappoint Roger Kopernik to the Planning Commission, term to expire October 10, 2022, seconded by Councilman Mallory. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of Appointment of Michael O'Brien to the Planning Commission.
 - Councilman Mallory moved to appoint Michael O'Brien to the Planning Commission, term to expire May 5, 2022 (remainder of term vacated by James Maynard), seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Yays: 5, nays: 1, motion passed.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:

- City Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported that the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting on March 10, 2020 is the same day as the presidential primary. She will be in the office that evening but will not be in the Council meeting.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that the City was designated an official Trails Town by the State of Michigan on February 19, 2020.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the City was awarded a \$327,000 grant from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust which is contingent upon the City being awarded a \$300,000 grant from the

Department of Natural Resources Land Trust Grant and land control. The funds will be used on the west side of the Cheboygan River for fishing piers. The application for the DNR Land Trust Grant will be submitted by April 1, 2020.

- City Manager Eustice discussed the Great Lakes Waterway Conference that he attended the second week in February. He met contacts with Viking Expedition Cruises and is hoping to have further conversations about cruises in the Great Lakes. He also met with Coast Guard officials about the possibility of getting another boat here.
- City Manager Eustice mentioned the Readers Digest article that named Cheboygan one of the top 20 small cities to visit in 2020, which was submitted by Mr. Jim Soubly.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the Coast Guard City Application has been submitted and will be reviewed by a committee.
- City Manager Eustice discussed the issues the City is having with the Black River Watershed and the dam. The State of Michigan is requiring the work to be done by February 28, 2020; the City will be requesting a 60 day reprieve.
- City Manager Eustice mentioned that there will be a Public Hearing at a Special Planning Commission meeting on March 10, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to review the newest rendition of the Hope Network project; the new plan includes additional units and parking.

Committee Updates:

- Councilwoman Johnston reported that the Ordinance Enforcement Committee needs to schedule a meeting.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture reported that the Organizational Committee has met and will continue to meet prior to the regularly scheduled council meetings as needed.
- Councilwoman Raab discussed the Historic Resources Commission; they are considering hiring a grant writer to assist with funding.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture applauded the candidates who expressed interest in the open Council seat.
- Councilman Mallory reported that the DDA/Main St Program is looking for more volunteers.
- Councilwoman Raab discussed that the DDA/Main St Board is currently reviewing applications to hire a part time employee.
- Councilwoman Johnston reported that she is attending a Michigan Municipal League training over the weekend and plans on sharing what she learns with the other Councilmembers.
- Mayor Bronson discussed a workshop he is attending in Alpena regarding Federal Grants. He also discussed the snowmobile routes that are located throughout town and especially the Lincoln Ave Bridge, he would like to see the sidewalks kept clear of snow for pedestrians. Director of Public Safety Chief Jones responded that there are rubber pads across the bridge that snowmobilers should use if there is insufficient snow.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Mayor Mark C. Bronson

Clerk/Treasurer Bridget E. Brown

Councilman Brett Mallory

Councilwoman Sara Johnston

Councilman Vaughn Temple

Mayor Pro Tem Nicholas C. Couture

Councilwoman Diane E. Raab