

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 12, 2020

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Bronson via teleconference at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Absent:

Public Comments:

- RJ Archambo discussed the process undertaken to receive a medical marihuana permit from the City of Cheboygan. He is not in favor of amending the Zoning Ordinance to include additional zoning districts as allowable use for medical marihuana establishments.
- John Stritmatter thanked Council for addressing the wording of the Medical Marihuana Ordinance to include a preapproval letter, he felt it was too restrictive before. He is also open to additional zoning districts to be added to the Zoning Ordinance.
- Lindsey Miller addressed Council as a concerned downtown business owner. With the passing of the current ordinances she will be displaced from her current location.
- Cory Budnick discussed the lack of stance from the DDA Board and the Chamber of Commerce on the Medical Marihuana Ordinance. She suggested getting feedback from the community and existing businesses to amend the current Ordinance.
- John Jankoviak voiced his support for the amendment presented tonight and all small businesses.
- Matt Lahaie fully supports Council and the work that has gone into creating the Medical Marihuana Ordinances.
- Christy Stempky discussed the work that Council has put in to creating the Medical Marihuana Ordinances. Additionally, she discussed the public hearings and discussions that have already been held on these Ordinances.
- Tania Berden commented that she is against big businesses coming in and taking away from our local stores.
- Bill Fornes is in favor of any lawful business in Downtown Cheboygan.
- Stephanie Preston called in as a parent and teacher; she would like to see medical marihuana setbacks from parks as well as churches and schools.
- Emily Eckhart discussed the Main Street initiative of a family friendly theme in relation to the medical marihuana establishments; family friendly includes everyone in the family not just children. In addition, the DDA Board is looking at design guidelines for signage; every business along Main Street should adhere to standards.
- Sharen Lange discussed the breakdown in communication between the Council, the DDA, the Chamber, and the community. She also discussed the comparison between liquor licenses and medical marihuana permits and the application process.
- Damien Philips is in favor of amending the ordinance to allow anyone with a State of Michigan prequalification to apply for a permit. He is in favor of any new business that wants to come to Cheboygan.

- Philip Bonsegren voiced his support for the amendment of the Ordinance to include more businesses.
- Jeanette Hudak from Chelsea's Closet discussed her concern for medical marihuana establishments on Main Street. She recommended seeking an outside attorney to review the Ordinance for modification.
- John Costin would like to see a decision made in the best interest of the downtown community.
- Chuck Gravilla is concerned that the rules are changing in the middle of the process but is in support of the medical marihuana establishments.
- Jamie Philips agreed with the comments made by Mr. Gravilla, and Matt Lahaie, she is in support of Council and all of the time that has gone into creating these ordinances and the currently proposed amendment to include prequalification letters.
- Ashley Brandt from The Coop Flower Shop inquired about what impression the councilmembers had regarding the Medical Marihuana Ordinances. She is in support of any business coming to Cheboygan but she is concerned misleading information was shared regarding these Ordinances.
- Louis Vallance inquired about the status of summer festivities including the fireworks. He also commented on the posted meeting minutes that were missing the public comments.
- Joanne Stritmatter voiced her support for the revision to the Ordinance and her support for the Council's hard work in passing these Ordinances.
- Ruthann Cantile appreciates all of the hard work on these Ordinances.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of April 28, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing:

- Consideration to Amend the Code of the City of Cheboygan by Amending Chapter 121, Title XI, Section 121.04 B@ to Read: A Full Copy of the Applicant's Current License or Preapproval Letter as Issued by the State of Michigan for the Type of Facility the Applicant is Applying for.
 - The public hearing was opened at 8:05 p.m.
 - RJ Archambo does not support or oppose this amendment; he does not understand if this automatically grants an applicant a permit or if they have to have a completed application with the State of Michigan.
 - John Jankoviak wants Council to consider the tax revenue.
 - Bill Fornes supports the amendment with the prequalification letter.
 - Emily Eckhart is in favor of the amendment to the Ordinance.
 - Sharen Lange has the same concerns that she mentioned prior in the meeting; she is concerned that Council does not understand the proposed amendment.
 - Jamie Philips reiterated her support for City Council and is in favor of the amendment.

- Ashley Brandt from The Coop Flower Shop inquired if Council knew what was being amended and how they are able to make this amendment if other amendments can't be made.
- Public Hearing was closed at 8:20 p.m.
- Councilwoman Johnston explained the amendment will allow a preapproval letter or a State License as acceptable documentation for the purpose of issuing a city permit.
- City Manager Tom Eustice added that there was some misinterpretation of the process.
- Councilwoman Raab moved to amend the code of the City of Cheboygan by amending Chapter 121, Title XI, Section 121.04 B2 to read: A full copy of the applicant's current license of preapproval letter as issued by the State of Michigan for the type of facility the applicant is applying for, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of April 2020.
 - Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Couture to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of April 2020 in the amount of \$624,116.58, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of April 2020.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Johnston to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of April 2020 in the amount of \$24,580.26, seconded by Councilwoman Raab. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:

- Clerk/Treasurer Bridget Brown reported that she is working with State of Michigan and the County Clerk to determine how the August and November elections will work before making an announcement on seeking candidates for council.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Tom Eustice reported that the meeting of May 26, 2020 will include a project update from DPW/Water & Wastewater Director Jason Karmol.
- City Manager Eustice informed council that the Organizational Committee has met and is working on the police contract. He would like to schedule a budget workshop to review the ideas that the Organizational Committee has worked on and other issues that we are facing with budget shortfalls.
- City Manager Eustice discussed his plans to retire in the spring of 2021 and how that transition will work.

Committee Updates:

- Councilman Mallory reported on recent DDA activities. The DDA Board is currently working on a t-shirt contest as well as getting the informational kiosks around town updated. In addition, they have approved their operating budget for the 2020-2021 fiscal year; they will be earmarking \$1,000 for personal protective equipment for downtown businesses.

- Councilwoman Raab discussed the Historic Resource Commission's plan to secure funding for building restorations. Mary Hebert is planning on presenting this information to the Historic Resources Commission and the City Council.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Johnston thanked the public for their input regarding the Medical Marihuana Ordinances. She would like to see some clarification on the ordinance from City Attorney Stephen Lindsay.
- Councilwoman Raab also discussed the concerns raised by the public regarding the Medical Marihuana Ordinances. She is also concerned with the number of allowable establishments downtown but from a legal stand point she feels the ordinance should not be changed.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture agrees with the comments made by Councilwoman Raab. These ordinances have been discussed at length with plenty of time to address any questions before the ordinances were passed. He would like to see a special meeting scheduled to address the questions surrounding the Zoning Ordinance.
- Councilwoman Ptasnik commented that there is still a lot of support for City Council by the community and they should continue to move forward and do the best they can.
- Councilman Mallory agrees with the comments made tonight by other councilmembers.
- Mayor Bronson inquired about the status of the Hope Network. City Manager Tom Eustice responded that Hope Network has submitted their application to MSHDA but he has not heard of any update beyond that. Mayor Bronson also inquired about an additional community garbage drop off. City Manager Tom Eustice explained that the City will have an additional garbage drop off on Saturday, May 16th at City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mayor Bronson discussed the plans for the 4th of July fireworks and whether we can still safely plan that event. City Manager Eustice will work with Chief of Police Kurt Jones to make a recommendation at the next council meeting. Lastly, Mayor Bronson made a statement regarding the Medical Marihuana Ordinances and the timeline for that process. His comparison between the medical marihuana permits and liquor licenses was to illustrate how Council uses the tools that are available to help spur economic development.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:09 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

Councilwoman Ashley Ptasnik