

CITY OF MASON

201 West Ash St.
Mason, MI 48854-0370

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PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING - COUNCIL CHAMBER

Tuesday, November 10, 2015

6:30 p.m.

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes: October 13, 2015
4. People from the Floor
5. Announcements
6. Regular Business
 - A. Discussion – Medical Marihuana Ordinance
7. Unfinished Business
8. New Business
9. Correspondence
 - Planning & Zoning News – October 2015
10. Liaison Reports
11. Director's Report
 - Imagine Mid-Michigan Project
 - Capital Improvement Plan update
12. Adjournment

**CITY OF MASON
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2015**

Reeser called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 201 W. Ash Street, Mason, Michigan.

Present: Commissioners: Brown, Hagle, Hude, Reeser, Waxman
Absent: Commissioners Barna (excused), Fischer (excused), Sabbadin (excused), Scott (excused)
Also present: David Haywood, Zoning & Development Director
Deborah J. Cwierniewicz, City Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Regular Minutes of September 15, 2015

The regular meeting Minutes of September 15, 2015, were approved.

PEOPLE FROM THE FLOOR

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

PUBLIC HEARING

Special Use Permit – 125 East Kipp Road – Andrews Automotive

Reeser informed the Commission that applicant Andrews Automotive had withdrawn their request for a special use permit.

REGULAR BUSINESS

Report – Medical Marihuana Ordinance Subcommittee Activity

Haywood gave a brief update on the work of the Medical Marihuana Ordinance Subcommittee activity. A public participation session was held September 24, 2015. A brief discussion ensued.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

Reeser informed the Commission that the draft Capital Improvement Plan in the packet would be review by Council at their next meeting. It will then be presented to the Planning Commission for approval.

LIAISON REPORTS

Brown informed commissioners regarding current City Council business.

DIRECTOR REPORT

Haywood informed the Commission regarding current zoning and development business.

ADOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Deborah J. Cwierniewicz, City Clerk

Seth Waxman, Secretary

City of Mason

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: David E. Haywood, Zoning & Development Director 

RE: Medical Marihuana Ordinance

DATE: November 6, 2015

The Medical Marihuana Committee held a public input meeting on September 24, 2015 for the purpose of recording the communities concerns and suggestions for regulating caregiver operations. Attached is a summary of the comments received. In addition to the committee members, there were six people from the public in attendance. To better make sense of the comments received, they have been assigned a color code as follows:

1. In favor of regulating caregivers (highlighted green)
2. Not in favor of regulating caregivers (highlighted red)
3. Informational comment (highlighted yellow)
4. Not applicable to objective (~~strikethrough~~)

There were three comments in favor of regulating caregivers, two comments against regulating caregivers, seven informational comments, and 14 comments that were not applicable to the objective (typically these were related to dispensaries specifically or to areas that were outside of the control of the City). This is only a draft and the coding is subject to reassignment based on the input from the Planning Commission and Subcommittee.

Although the total number of comments is low, the data suggests that people are in favor of regulating caregivers to some extent. The next step for the subcommittee is to develop a list of pros and cons for any possible regulation of caregivers. At that point it would make sense for the PC to either present the info to or hold a workshop with the Council to determine the best fit for the community.

Lastly, at their last meeting (November 2, 2015), the City Council acted to extend the existing moratorium for an additional 90 days, which will expire January 30, 2015.

Medical Marihuana Public Meeting on September 24, 2015

DRAFT

Number of Attendees: 6

Discussion Comments:

Have legal dispensaries (by state) and regulate like alcohol – coordinate with local police.

~~Would we have to allow dispensaries in Mason? New bill allows to opt out. Not in favor of allowing in Mason.~~

Money leaving Mason to buy marihuana; prefer to have here. Not problem with crime.

May be a taxable activity.

May be hard for some to travel to Lansing for medical marihuana.

Differences in generational perception of harm.

NIH study shows increase in crime; need to consider safety. Study showed increased initiation when dispensaries exist. What's being sold is high THC.

~~Significant problems exist with alcohol in the community.~~

~~Problem in other states with edibles. Risk of people becoming addicted. Don't want to make it easy for kids to access.~~

~~Marihuana is a gateway drug and causes problems.~~

~~Other drugs and alcohol lead to more problems than marihuana.~~

~~Other states have more systems than Michigan for controlled medical marihuana.~~

In favor of licensing caregivers, source of revenue. Want to look into zoning.

Licensing would be a good idea for dispensaries and use revenue for drug abuse treatment.

Limit the number of caregivers in community.

Caregivers register their business like accountants.

Limit the amount of THC in products they sell.

Don't want caregivers to be registered in Mason.

Why not keep extending moratorium?

Would like decision to be made promptly to get access to medical marihuana.

Willing to consider zoning for dispensaries.

Municipalities should not regulate marijuana businesses.

Caregivers have already been operating for several years without problems.

Ordinance should register/license the caregivers.

Possible to not do anything.

Operations are not as bad as perception.