

Elkton Village Council Public Hearing
Thursday January 9th, 2020
Elkton Village Hall
57 N Main St
Elkton MI 48731
989-375-2270

President Pro-Tem Bridgette McCarty called the Public Hearing of the Elkton Village Council to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 P. M. Trustees present: Dan Armbruster, Gail Schember, Jeff Zarnke, Agnes Kosinski, and Gail Brown. Excused Absent: President Randy Haley.

Bridgette McCarty allowed Ordinance Committee member Jeff Zarnke to explain the purpose of the Public Hearing. Jeff Zarnke stated the Ordinance Committee agreed to review the Recreational Marihuana Ordinance after one year. This is a public hearing to receive public input and no voting will take place this evening. Jeff Zarnke reminded those in attendance of the protocol for speaking at the public hearing. Gail Schember stated she spoke with Chief Jobs regarding the possibility of allowing a recreational marihuana establishment in the Village. Gail Schember stated Chief Jobs did not have an opinion either way and stated it is legal in the State of Michigan now. Jeff Zarnke also spoke with Chief Jobs and received the same feedback from him. Jeff Zarnke then invited anyone who wished to speak to come forward to the podium.

1. Melissa Helmuth questioned whether the Village was looking at medical or recreational marihuana sales. Melissa stated she was opposed to allowing a facility in the Village limits in order to protect her children and all youth in the area. Melissa also was concerned about the odor /smoke being bothersome to neighbors, now that it is legal for use on your own property.
2. Chief Jim Seley spoke on behalf of the Oliver Township Fire Department. He inquired what type of facility would be allowed. Gail Schember described the different types of marihuana businesses and explained the Village could choose what type to allow, along with other guidelines that could be enacted in the Ordinance. Discussion on the limitations that could be imposed. Chief Seley stated his and the department's opinion is that this type of business is not needed in Elkton.
3. Dave Fisher stated that other municipalities are receiving revenue from the taxes on the sales of marihuana and are using that money to purchase park equipment. The Federal government has not legalized marihuana, but residents in our bordering states are traveling to Michigan to purchase, which could also increase the revenues.

Discussion on sales of alcohol and tobacco to bordering states residents and marihuana sales could follow a similar trend.

4. Fred Santos stated he is against having a marihuana store in Elkton. He is worried about the youth being exposed to marihuana. Fred is also worried about people driving under the influence.

5. Deb Leipprandt asked questions regarding the legality of marihuana and whether or not it is FDA approved.

Discussion on fees, taxes, and revenue the Village could receive. Phyllis Baranski discussed the handouts regarding the breakdown of the State revenue dispersement. Everyone is still unclear on how the State of Michigan will disperse the tax money to municipalities, so revenue from a possible new business is not able to be determined at this time. Discussion on application fees and process. Discussion on filling the empty buildings downtown and receiving increased property taxes from the building improvements.

6. Pastor Ean Green stated the Wesleyan Church offers the *Celebrate Recovery* program. He counsels people whose lives have been ruined by chemical dependency. Pastor thought having a dispensary in town would change the atmosphere of this being a family friendly town. Pastor cited that some municipalities have had armed robbery of their dispensary. Pastor also warned the Council that the love of money is the root of all evil and they should not just think solely on the financial aspect of allowing a dispensary in town.
7. Lisa Stanton questioned what issues have other communities dealt with since having a dispensary. She wondered if there was an increase to other businesses in those towns or were there negative things that happened in those towns.

Discussion on medical dispensaries and the differences between medical and recreational marihuana. Jeff Zarnke reminded those present that tonight's public hearing was to review the recreational marihuana ordinance, since it has been in place for one year and the State of Michigan has regulations in place since November 1, 2019.

8. Dwayne Keller stated he felt it was unfair to those with a medical need to not have a local dispensary and to have to drive an hour to purchase medical marihuana. He stated recreational marihuana is new, but it is now legal.
9. Shari (no last name given) stated she has seen the benefits of medical marihuana with patients with all types of diseases. The Village could decide on how they want to have control over a marihuana business

Discussion on medical/recreational marihuana and chemical differences between them.

Jeff Zarnke stated that if the Ordinance Committee and Village Council take no further action on this issue then the Ordinance stands as it is, but reminded everyone that changes can be made in the future.

Motion Dan Armbruster, second Bridgette McCarty to adjourn the Public Hearing.
Public Hearing adjourned at 8:03P.M.

Respectfully Submitted
Phyllis A. Baranski, CMC, CMMC
Elkton Village Clerk/Treasurer

approved 01-14-2020
Phyllis A. Baranski