

I. Call to order:

Mike Griffith, Chairman called the Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission to order at 7pm at the Rome

Township Hall – 9344 Forrister Road - Adrian, MI 49221. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

II. Roll call:

Present: Sheri Wilt, Leo Oswald, Mike Griffith, Rob Apoian, Pat Bournes, Kevin Fisher, and Jack Griffes

Absent:

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Motion to approve 5 Oct 2020 by Kevin, 2nd by Pat, motion passed.

IV. Additions/Changes to Agenda: Add report by Twp Attorney

Motion to approve agenda with addition by Kevin, 2nd by Pat. Motion carried.

V. Reports:

-Township Board – approved two Special Use Permits, appointed new member to Planning Commission

-Zoning Officer – reinspection of properties we had citations on - attorney said a pre-trial occurred and the person said they were diligently working - attorney suggests Zoning Officer monitor progress - complaint was received about mowing but we do not have a mowing ordinance - attorney interjected that we do not have a mowing ordinance because there is no statutory authority to have one and you cannot just make any ordinance you want you must have statutory authority. Attorney believes there is a noxious weed ordinance which might be applied.

-Zoning Board of Appeals – none

-Planning Board Commission - none

VI. Order of Business:

Phil Shaedler, Twp Attorney - appeared at request of Supervisor - reviewed the proposed Recreational Marihuana Ordinance and believes it is more comprehensive than allowed (inferring more comprehensive than allowed by law). He handed out three sample ordinances - one covering Recreational Marihuana Establishments - one covering Medical Marihuana Facilities - one Zoning Ordinance spelling out locations of Recreational and Medical Marihuana Facilities would only be allowed in Agricultural (AG), Industrial (I), and General Commercial (C-2) districts. He emphasized these are simply drafts and need suggestions put forward to attorney so that a second draft can be made and so forth until it was all worked out. He wants to follow that process so that the ordinance covers what the township desires and is legally defensible. Attorney pointed out that fees collected needed to be equal to services provided. Leo asked if fees could be used to cover attorney fees for work done in drafting ordinances since fees would be charged to township. Mike asked if the Public Hearing notice met legal criterion and attorney said it did. Attorney talked about the proposed ordinance which had been put forward to be talked about in Public Hearing tonight - again saying it was too comprehensive covering things he did not believe the township had statutory authority to do - let alone had expertise enough to do.

Proposed Kennel Permit Ordinance - Mike related that in the past the Sheriff Dept has issued a Kennel License without checking to see if they had township approval - he desired attorney to see what we could do about it. Attorney related that Rome Twp Zoning Ordinance defines what a kennel is on pg 99 Section 15.70 and further specifies that kennels must follow Michigan dog laws, Lenawee County ordinances, and applicable rules and regulations of the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Attorney stated that he felt the proposed punishment as a misdemeanor was too severe for a kennel permit ordinance since that would follow a person around the rest of their life - he felt it should be changed to be a civil infraction. Attorney pointed out that Rome is a small rural township with a long history of people apologizing if they get cited rather than seeking permission first. Attorney suggests that current ordinance is likely adequate. Attorney believes we should check with the County and see if they would give us notice when Kennel licenses were issued.

Sheri moved to close regular meeting and open public hearing, seconded by Pat. Motion passed.

Public Hearing regarding Proposed Recreational Marihuana Ordinance

Mike said we would give members of the public 5 minutes each for Pro and Con starting with Con.

Mr. Esterline said he was against the original proposed ordinance by Chris Bayles and suggested that we go with the attorney's suggestion for separate ordinances.

Chris Bayles said he wishes to thank everyone for all their efforts. He hopes to have his proposed business going in the next six months, and hopes to hire a handful of people, hopes to make it work for himself and the township.

Rob moved to close the Public Hearing and Sheri seconded. Motion passed. Regular meeting reopened.

Rob asked Chris Bayles and Mr. Esterline if they wished to grow into multiple facilities. They expressed that they could not stack B licenses and they wanted to keep it a craft product which they would not be able to do if they got too large.

Sheri moved that we table the Proposed Recreational Marihuana Ordinance for further work and study. Seconded by Rob. Motion passed.

4th Thursday of November is Thanksgiving need to post notice it will not be held - need to set Special Meeting time for November

Leo moved to have November Special Meeting on Thursday 19 Nov 2020. Seconded by Sheri. Motion passed.

Attorney said if the Planning Commission gave him feedback on 19 Nov 2020 then he would ensure he went through it and got us back his input so we could look it over during December and have something ready to go in January.

Time did not allow us to continue with Review of Ordinances from where we left off 25 June 2020 - Next up for review is Article Ten - Industrial Districts, I pg. 29

VII. Public Comment: none

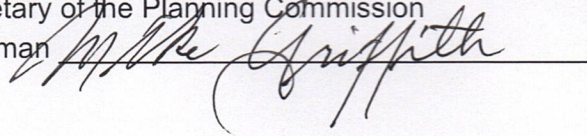
VIII. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn @ 8:16pm by Pat, 2nd by Sheri - motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned

Special Meeting to be held Thursday 19 November 2020 @ 7:00 pm

Minutes submitted by: Jack Griffes, Secretary of the Planning Commission

Minutes approved by: Mike Griffith, Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Griffith", is written over a horizontal line.