

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, Jeff Elwell, Pat Bournes, Kevin Fisher, and Jack Griffes

Absent: none

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting:

Motion to approve 23 July 2020 minutes by Jeff, 2nd by Sheri, motion passed.

IV. Additions/Changes to Agenda: none

Motion to approve agenda by Sheri, 2nd by Pat. Motion carried.

V. Reports:

-Township Board – Leo was reporting for past two months - Board granted Special Use Permit for Clayton W. Adkins to run his business, Optimize Heating and Cooling, from his AG zoned property. Roads, fire contract, discussed comments Wayne Boggs put in newspaper before the election, Township has signed up for online training for all Township officials and employees (need to check with Robin about how to participate in the training). Road Commission sent out a letter saying they may pave Forrister Road this year - if they do it this year they will put two two inch layers of asphalt this year and then a third two inch layer of asphalt next year. This is follow-up to their road longevity extension experiment by allowing time and traffic to settle the base before paving the road.

-Zoning Officer – did the requested research on Kennel Laws of the State - she feels our ordinance covers things pretty well in line with State and County - may need to add a phrase saying that they need to come to the Township first then the County because currently some people are bypassing the Township and seeking licensure directly from the County. Violations - 3 citations are at the Court level. Complaints received one in Hazen Park subdivision - a neighbor changed a fence without consulting with neighbor - took down a cyclone fence put up 6"x6" posts put cyclone fence back up then put a board fence up on their own side. This leaves a gap of about six inches which is now weedy because the cyclone fence and board fence make weed control difficult. Resident who did not work on fence was complaining. Zoning Enforcement Officer suggests this may indicate the need for a fence ordinance. --- Zoning Enforcement Officer wants it considered to post in Township Hall info showing Right of Ways in Rome Center and Hazen Park - **Sheri moved to approve and Jeff seconded - motion passed to allow the Maps to be posted in the Township Hall with other zoning maps there posted.**

-Zoning Board of Appeals – none

-Planning Board Commission - none

VI. Order of Business:

The two Public Hearings - one for Adam Hinde, RidePro LLC, and another for Thomas Rupley which were supposed to happen today (per 23 July 2020 minutes) have been postponed to 24 Sept 2020 because of a misunderstanding of an email to Township Clerk from Secretary of

Planning Commission which resulted in the Township Clerk not putting out the lawfully required Public Notice in newspaper and directly to nearby neighbors. Adam Hinde was disappointed when Jack G. communicated with him and is expecting Public Hearing to occur at the Regular Meeting on Thursday 24 Sept 2020. Thomas Rupley is also expecting Public Hearing to occur at the Regular Meeting on Thursday 24 Sept 2020.

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 (time did not allow work on this at this Aug meeting)

Marijuana Ordinances (Medical and Recreational) - Chris Bayles came to Township Board meeting asking about it and attended this Planning Commission Meeting as well. Charlie Esterline (sp), gave members part of the 8 Feb 2018 minutes in which Township Attorney, Phil Shaedler spoke about Medical Marijuana while his interest is in completion of a Recreational Marijuana Ordinance. --- Today Leo reported that the Township Board kicked back the Medical Marijuana Ordinance back to the Planning Commission due to need to specify "where" the Medical Marijuana facilities could be. Chris Bayles and his business partner Charlie Esterline are no longer considering a Recreational Marijuana microbusiness but are now based on legal advice considering a Class B license. Chris says there are no active microbusinesses in Michigan at this time because, in his opinion, they are cost prohibitive for what you can do. Brenda copied off the 2018 Medical Marijuana Sample Ordinance which was believed to be put together by the Township Attorney and distributed it to Planning Commission members so they can review it before next meeting at which it is to be discussed, amended as needed, then taken to the Township Board to vote to approve or not AND if they want something changed to send back in writing areas they feel require changes to be acceptable. Kevin suggested that if Board approves Medical Marijuana Ordinance we could use it for a template for the Recreational Marijuana ordinance. Jack suggested that Chris Bayles emailed us a Sample Ordinance for Recreational Marijuana many months ago which several of us read and Leo and Jack made suggestions on additions needed - so how about sending Chris the suggestions and having him amend his Sample Ordinance and resubmit to the Planning Commission for consideration. This would allow Chris's self-interest to push the work forward more expeditiously. Motion by Sheri to approve sending the suggestions in a 6 April 2020 email to Chris Bayles so he can amend his Sample Recreational Marijuana Ordinance and resubmit to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Pat. Motion passed. Email was sent to Chris Bayles by Jack Griffes and Bcc'd to all Planning Commission members with email before Jack left the Hall. Email is quoted on next page so it remains together for better understanding.

Chris,

Thursday 27 Aug 2020 8:20pm EDT

Below is the email the Planning Commission approved to send to you so you can amend the Sample Recreational Marijuana Ordinance to include these things and then resubmit it to the Planning Commission. You may email the amended version to me and I can then distribute it to the other members of the Planning Commission.

From: **Jack Griffes** <countryjackg@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Apr 6, 2020 at 8:35 AM

Subject: Re: Copy of Ordinance Rome Township C. Bayles.docx

Monday 6 April 2020

Leo suggests:

"There are several things that I think could be included in a Recreational Ordinance:

- 1) Nothing in this ordinance shall prohibit an individual from growing marijuana for personal use provided all state laws, regulations and rules pertaining to personal growing, possession and or use are followed.
- 2) Nothing in this ordinance shall prohibit Federal authorities from enforcing any Federal Law, regulation or rule.
- 3) Nothing in this ordinance shall be interpreted to imply that the licensed entity does not need to follow all Laws, Rules and regulations issued by the State of Michigan.
- 4) By allowing the growing, processing, testing, transporting and consumption of Marijuana products as allowed by law in the State of Michigan; this ordinance shall in no way imply that the township of Rome is encouraging the consumption of the substance.
- 5) If any part of this ordinance shall conflict with Michigan Laws, regulations or rules; the Michigan Law, Regulation or rule shall have precedence."

Jack agrees with the 5 things Leo suggests and further suggests two additional things:

1. Severability clause - so that if a part of the ordinance is found in conflict with the law that it only negates that portion of the ordinance and NOT the rest of the ordinance
2. Statement pointing out that it remains against federal law to grow, sell, or possess marijuana and the township is to be held harmless by those permitted under State Law if they are prosecuted for violation of either State or federal law.

Hoping to hear more from others. Hope all are healthy and have all the basic necessities of life.

Jack Griffes

517-759-2918

countryjackg@gmail.com

-----end of quoted email sent to Chris Bayles-----

VII. Public Comment:

VIII. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn @ 8:15pm by Pat , 2nd by Jeff - motion carried unanimously, meeting adjourned

Meeting to be held 4th Thursday 24 Sept 2020 @ 7:00 pm

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

Minutes approved by: Mike Griffith, Chairman _____