

THE CITY OF HURON, OHIO
Proceedings of the Huron City Council
Work Session Meeting Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 5:30p.m.

A work session meeting of the City Council of the City of Huron, Ohio was called to order by Mayor Brad Hartung on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 5:30p.m. in the Council Room of Huron City Hall, 417 Main Street, Huron, Ohio.

The following members of Council were present: Christine Crawford, Brad Hartung, Joe Dike, Sam Artino, and Glen Ginesi. Members absent: Rick Schaffter, Trey Hardy.

City administration/staff present: City Manager Andy White, Law Director Laura Alkire, Assistant to the City Manager Mike Spafford, City Engineer Doug Green, and Management Services Coordinator ~ Clerk of Council Christine Gibboney.

New Business

Planning Commission Zoning Code Amendment Recommendations (recreational & medical marijuana)

The Mayor referenced the Planning Commission recommendations on the motions relative to recreational marijuana and medical marijuana and asked Mr. Artino to provide an overview of the Planning Commission recommendations. Mr. Artino explained the Planning Commission voted 3-1 in making a recommendation to prohibit medical marijuana dispensaries within the city limits as well as a recommendation to prohibit recreational marijuana sales/dispensaries. Mr. Hartung inquired if the motion that was made by Mr. Ginesi, passed by Council, and directed to the Planning Commission was binding. Mr. Artino noted that there was some discussion on the motion, but noted that according to the Planning Commission chair, it was not binding, and the Planning Commission just makes their recommendation to Council with Council being the final authority.

Mayor Hartung recapped the process, noting that the required Public Hearings on the recommendations is set for May 22, 2018. He referenced the draft Business Regulations that Council members have had which were created with input from the Safety Committee, Fire Captains, and Police Chief. He asked for members opinions on whether they wanted these regulations considered on May 22 along with Zoning Code changes or if they wanted this added to the agenda this evening. Discussion ensued regarding the process and the point that if Council votes in favor of the ban on medical marijuana dispensaries, then there would be no need for business regulations on the topic. Mr. Ginesi asked that language in the business regulations referencing the distance from schools be amended to a reference to the Zoning Code section that will specify the distance rather than stating the actual distance in the business regulations section. Brief discussion ensued and Ms. Alkire noted she would make that change. A lengthy discussion then ensued regarding preparation and agenda order of the public hearings and contemplated legislation for May 22. Ms. Alkire recapped that Council must accept, modify, or reject the Planning Commission recommendations, noting that the ordinance for the recreational ban has been completed and that legislation can be prepared for the both the Prohibition legislation and the content of Mr. Ginesi's motion relating to Zoning Code and Business Regulations amendments. She advised that Council would need to be aware when voting of potential conflicting legislation and reviewed process/protocol. It was noted that in the event Council votes in the Zoning Code and Business regulations, the matter would not have to go back to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Spafford recapped the zoning districts included in Mr. Ginesi's motion which limited a dispensary location to B3, I1, and I2 districts. He reviewed the map highlighting these districts, pointing out the locations and issues relative to the B3 districts. He explained upon review, the staff report issued to the Planning Commission contained a recommendation to eliminate the B3 district altogether and include I1 and I2 districts only. In addition, the 1,000 foot distance restriction from schools would be included.

Ms. Alkire recapped some of the business regulations: ability to suspend and revoke the operating license, compliance with the Zoning Code, occupancy permit, non-transferable license, annual renewal of license. Ms. Alkire mentioned the latest news from the state regarding licensing awards timelines. Discussion ensued between members relative to actions Council may consider in the event OPC is not awarded a state license for a dispensary; specifically would Council want to consider legislation to ban dispensaries if OPC is not awarded. Consensus of members voiced interest in a potential five year moratorium. Members also discussed a ballot initiative in the event of OPC not getting awarded, but the Mayor noted that the city does not have the authority to put the issue on a ballot explaining that it would have to be a citizen's initiative.

Other Matters

Mr. Artino inquired if there was knowledge about the loss of 300 jobs over the last few years at IAC. Mr. White referenced conversations with the plant manager who had anticipated a down turn in 2017/2018 and also noted that Ms. Beamis (ECEDC) has been in touch with IAC. Mr. White noted he would try to make contact with IAC and follow up.

In response to a question from Mr. Dike about the Huron magazine, Mr. Spafford explained that Great Lakes Publishing publishes The Current and magazine for the city. Mr. Dike and Ms. Crawford suggested using someone local and mentioned trying to get a quicker turn-around time. Brief discussion ensued regarding a proposal submitted by Ms. Kilbury and the possibility of some type of hybrid effort. It was noted that Great Lakes Publishing also includes articles in the Ohio Magazine which is distributed to several hundred thousand subscribers and it will contain an article about the upcoming Chamber event in a coming issue.

Mr. Ginesi commented that the city should be pursuing the issue of establishing Quiet Zones based on the large number of resident requests stating if Council members feel the same, then Administration can move forward in the matter. Mr. White provided a recap of work performed to date: the study previously commissioned, estimated costs, and previous Council action in the matter. He advised that an engineer still has the discretion to blow the horn within a Quiet Zone and a brief discussion regarding the City of Vermilion's Quiet Zone ensued. Mr. Spafford referenced the option of the wayside horn and noted that a demonstration can be performed. Mr. White advised that if Council wishes to pursue the matter, he would suggest the city talk to Huron Township as well and look into the possibility of grant funding through Norfolk Southern.

Items on the agenda

In response to Mr. Dike, Ms. Alkire reviewed the changes to the lease agreement with 357 LTD which include language referencing the city's noise ordinance and the removal of liquor liability insurance as the city is protected by the required general liability insurance already in the agreement. Ms. Alkire referenced that meetings with the proprietors to discuss the past noise complaints have been held. Mr. Dike inquired on the status of the Main Street project. Mr. Green explained that the city is waiting on cable and phone company coordination and noted the remainder of the pole bases came in today.

In response to Ms. Crawford, Mr. Green provided a status on the Fabens Park Entrance Project, noting the completion date is anticipated by May 24th.

The work session meeting of April 24, 2018 adjourned at 6:26p.m.


Christine M. Gibboney
Clerk of Council