

Village of Winthrop Harbor
Committee of the Whole
President and Board of Trustees Meeting
August 13, 2019
Village Hall Counsel Chambers

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Bruno at 7:00 PM.

The following Elected Officials were present:

Mayor: Dr. Michael Bruno

Trustees: Buddy Hargett, John Levin, Robert Marabella, Dana McCarthy, Hartmut "Fritz" Weiss, Alanna Whitmore

Also present:

Greg Jackson, Village Administrator
Robert Long, Village Attorney
Julie Rittenhouse, Village Clerk
Lisa Shaw, Finance Director
Pat DiPersio, Community Development Director
Joel Brumlik, Police Chief

The meeting was called to discuss the following item.

Discussion on Cannabis Regulation and Taxation Act

Village Administrator, Greg Jackson, prepared a power point handout and presentation on the sales, licensing, taxing and zoning of cannabis. Along with the power point presentation, were samples of Ordinances for Business Prohibition, Cannabis Zoning and Retailer's Occupation Tax. The presentation was on cannabis possession, sales, expungement of criminal records, types of licenses, taxes, what will be prohibited, zoning, business licensing, regulating personal possession and consumption.

Attorney Long then explained what the Village can do, can't do and what they must do. There are a limited number of licenses granted by the state. The first thing we have to do is set up our local codes of ordinances. Right now there are 55 Medical Marijuana dispensaries in the State of Illinois. The total number of licenses that have been authorized is 494. The first licenses issued will go to those 55 dispensaries. Those licenses can pick up and go anywhere they want. He gave the Board information on how the Village could regulate the areas for dispensaries of cannabis by setting a zoning district. We have to make an amendment to the zoning code and publish it in the local paper. It goes before the Planning and Zoning Board. There would be a recommendation, for or against it. Then it would come before this Board who would adopt an ordinance. The Village could ban the sale of cannabis but cannot ban or regulate the use of

cannabis. We can regulate the use by our employees. Especially our first responders and employees who have CDL's. It is prohibited to sell to anyone under the age of 21. Attorney Long said we will have to modify our codes and our Police Department will need additional training. Also, we will have to expunge records for cannabis convictions, up to 30 grams, at the Village's expense. None of the cities that have the medical marijuana dispensaries have had any problems. We can impose a tax. Any product sold in retail, is subject to regular sales tax and the Village receives 1% of the sales. In addition to that, the Village is given the opportunity to charge up to an additional 3% as a local sales tax.

Trustee Hargett – We are trying to attract destination businesses. It is a different market than we have been going after but it is a destination. Trustee Hargett is in favor of it. When I look at it from a zoning perspective, I look specifically in a B3 zoning only. The only B3 we have is the Plaza. That can accommodate something that is a destination with adequate square footage and parking. This was brought before the EDC Board and the consensus was to approve it, but with special use requirements.

Trustee Weiss - Agrees with Trustee Hargett. Personally he is against marijuana due to the fact that it can cause damage to the brain. Trustee Weiss is in favor of controlling it in our community to the extent that we can.

Trustee Marabella - If we control it and regulate it good enough and the Police Department can handle it, I'm in favor of it and think it will work. We have a great Police Department.

Trustee McCarthy – I agree with Trustee Marabella. As long as it fits in with what we want for the Village, at the same time bringing revenue, I'm in favor of it.

Trustee Whitmore – Put a poll out to her own Facebook page and her Trustee page. There are 500 votes as of right now. 343 are "yes" and 157 are "no". She wanted to reach out and see what the residents wanted. She thinks that the residents really do want this, tax payers do want this, in our town.

Trustee Levin – said he was 50/50

Mayor Bruno opened it up for public comment for Winthrop Harbor Businesses and Residents only.

Katie Roane – 520 Ravine Dr.- told how she had visited a shop in Colorado. She said it was highly regulated and very nice. She is in support of having a retail shop.

Tom – small business owner – Thanked the WHPD for keeping Winthrop Harbor safe

Daane Hoffman – 42797 N. Berrong – would never encourage his family to use cannabis but was in support of it for the taxes it would bring into the Village. He also had toured a dispensary in Colorado and it was completely safe and regulated. It was not some place you would be scared to go into. I support it.

This will be brought before the Planning and Zoning Board in September.

Attorney Long will draft up a proposed ordinance, loosely, on the ordinance that IML has.

ADJOURNMENT

1 - A motion was made by Trustee Weiss and seconded by Trustee Whitmore to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Bruno declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14p.m. on the following roll call vote:

Ayes: (6) Hargett, Levin, Marabella, McCarthy, Weiss, Whitmore
Nays: (0)
Absent: (0)
Passed: (0)

APPROVED:

DR. MICHAEL BRUNO, MAYOR

ATTEST:

JULIE RITTENHOUSE, VILLAGE CLERK

Note: This is not a verbatim record.