Council January 17, 2022

Present for this special meeting of the Village of West Liberty Council was Mayor McKelvey, Mr. Hoffman, Mrs. Zerkle, Mrs. Griffith, Ms. Kauffman, Mr. Spriggs, Clerk Boyd, Shannon Maier Chairman of Planning Commission, Brad Bodenmiller LUC, Chief Oelker and Kris Allen of WPKO radio. Absent: None.

Guests: Jay and Kathy King, Rick Zerkle, Larry Edwards, Pat McGill, Leica McGill, Allen McGill, Nate Wilcoxon, Julie Burkett, Melinda Ridgeway, and Mike Freeze.

Mayor McKelvey greeted everyone and explained anyone who signed in can speak for 2 minutes and President of Council Mrs. Griffith will be timing. The purpose of this meeting is to consider proposed zoning amendments initiated by motion of Planning Commission. This is a public hearing is formal because we want to hear what people have to say and to make sure each person has an opportunity to speak, be heard and not be talked over. Once public comments conclude there may be a discussion period for Village Council.

The overview of proposed amendments – the council is considering amendments regarding medical marijuana entities. Brad Bodenmiller from LUC will present the proposal and Village Council options.

Shannon Maier spoke on the last meeting and Planning Commission made a motion to prohibit Medical Marijuana dispensaries, cultivator, processing, and testing within the West Liberty Village limits.

Public Participation started with Jay King. He feels everyone should read the book “Tell Your Children about Marijuana and Mental Illness. He feels West Liberty doesn’t need to sell Medical Marijuana.

Larry Edwards said he has lived in West Liberty 37 years. He asked Council if you are willing to take this risk to sell Medical Marijuana but it will be difficult to UNDO.

Greg Hostetler does not want to sell MM within Village limits.

Pat McGill has been a registered nurse for 45 year and 25 years in ER. She said we are foolish to think marijuana is not a gateway to other drugs. It would be a disservice to the Village and need to value our quaint town. She lives in West Liberty for a reason and a dispensary is not.

Leica McGill has lived here since 1989 and loves West Liberty without a dispensary. Allowing a dispensary would be a mistake.

Allen McGill was live here for 31 years and it’s a great place to send the kids to school and a place for worship. A dispensary would be a mistake.

Nate Wilcoxon said every pastor should be here and voice their opinion. He said he walked into a doctor’s office and received a MM card in 45 minutes and $300. He wanted to see how easy it was to get a card. He his not against Medical Marijuana but they can go 30 minutes North/South of West Liberty.

Brad Bodenmiller spoke about the language of prohibit Medical Marijuana within the Village of West Liberty. The Council has three choices 1. Nothing 2. Prohibit 3. Allow with conditions.

Jim Hoffman thanked Planning Commission for doing research. He feels Medical Marijuana doesn’t need to be in West Liberty.

Mrs. Zerkle said she has friends who are addicted to drugs and it started with Marijuana. She is opposed to any MM within the Village. Council members need to take this very seriously and she will be on vacation and will not be able to vote.

Mrs. Griffith recognize the Medical Marijuana and could help some people. She thanked the Planning Commission for all the footwork they did. She was concerned, if Ohio allows Recreational Marijuana and what this would do to the Village. She was concerned because if people wanted a dispensary they would have been here to answer questions or make comments.

 A MOTION was made by Mrs. Griffith seconded by Mr. Hoffman to pass Section 1150.01 Prohibiting Medical Marijuana dispensary, testing, cultivating, and processing within the Village of West Liberty. Motion Carried. 6-0

Mayor McKelvey said if within 30 days after the date of adoption a petition can be signed by a number of qualified voters residing in the Village can force the Village to put the decision on the ballot.

A MOTION was made by Ms. Kauffman seconded by Mr. Spriggs to adjourn at 7:29 PM. Motion Carried.

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Clerk/Treasurer Cindee M. Boyd Mayor Jill C. McKelvey