

**CITY OF IONIA**  
**Planning Commission**  
**January 11, 2017**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

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CALL TO ORDER

Annual Meeting

The City Manager called the Annual Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission to order at 4:35 PM. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to select a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary for 2016.

Chairperson: It was moved by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough to select Commissioner Lee as Chairperson for 2017. MOTION CARRIED.

Vice-Chairperson. It was moved by Commissioner Young, seconded by Commissioner Lee to select Commissioner Hoppough as Vice-Chairperson for 2017. MOTION CARRIED.

Secretary. It was moved by Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough to select Commissioner Cook as Secretary for 2017. MOTION CARRIED.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.

CALL TO ORDER

Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the City of Ionia Planning Commission for January 11, 2017 was called to order by Chairperson Tim Lee at 4:39 PM.

ROLL CALL

Roll Call revealed Commissioners Dave Cook, Boomer Hoppough, Mark Jennings (arrived at 5:10 PM), Gordon Kelley, Tim Lee, and Chris Young present.

City Manager Jason Eppler, District Library Director Dale Parus and Attorney Andria Ditschman were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairperson Lee reviewed the agenda with the Commission. After review, it was moved by Commissioner Hoppough, seconded by Commissioner Cook to approve the agenda for the January 11, 2017 meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the minutes of the December 19, 2016 Regular Meeting. After review it was moved by

Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Young to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2016 Commission meeting as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Library Street Reconstruction – Parking Configuration: The City Manager reported that the Library Board will be reviewing the parking configuration options for Library Street at its January meeting. Additionally, he reported that the information shared with the Commission regarding Library Street at the December Planning Commission was also shared with the City Council at its January meeting. Feedback from the Library Board will be shared with the Commission at its February meeting at which time a final decision regarding the Library Street configuration can be made.

Mr. Parus stated that from his perspective he anticipated that the Library Board will be interested in maximizing the number of parking spaces along Library Street considering that the Board is informally researching the pros and cons of constructing an addition to the Library building. No formal action, however, has been taken by the Library Board at this time regarding both Library Street and a building addition.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Updating the Medical Marihuana Provisions of the City Code: The City Manager reported that statutory changes made by the State during 2016 concerning the use of medical marihuana, its distribution, licensing, etc., has prompted the need for the Commission to review the City’s current regulations concerning medical marihuana as contained in the zoning ordinance. He introduced Attorney Andria Ditschman who has assisted the Commission previously with drafting the current regulations pertaining to medical marihuana within the zoning ordinance. Ms. Ditschman reviewed with the Commission her memorandum dated January 4, 2017 on the subject. Specifically, she shared the following with the Commission:

- The new Medical Marihuana Facilities Licensing Act addresses the commercial/business aspect of medical marihuana rather than the caregiver/patient relationship;
- The new act prohibits commercial uses in a municipality unless a municipality adopts an ordinance permitting specific business uses;
- The new act addresses a number of commercial activities associated with medical marihuana including (referenced as a “marihuana facility” in the act):

- Grower
- Processor
- Provisioning Center
- Secure Transporter
- Safety Compliance Facility
- The new act addresses the financial side of medical marihuana including the ability of local units to charge a licensing fee, the state to charge a licensing/regulatory fee and taxation and distribution of the money collected through the tax structure (including to local units of government who permit such facilities).
- She stated that there are several options available to the Commission which include:
  - Taking no action and therefore prohibiting the various commercial uses;
  - Permitting one or more of the commercial uses permitted by the new act and determining which zoning districts are appropriate for the use;
  - Taking action to amend the zoning ordinance expressly prohibiting the commercial uses permitted by the new act.
- At a minimum she recommended updating the current patient/caregiver regulations contained in the zoning ordinance to reflect recent court decisions.

After asking several questions of Ms. Ditschman regarding the new act, the Commission discussed several options for soliciting public input as to whether one or more of the commercial operations permitted by the new act should be included/permitted in the zoning ordinance. The City Manager reminded the Commission that later this year it will begin completing a comprehensive review of the City's Master Plan as required every five years by state statute. He suggested that the Commission begin the process to update the portion of the zoning ordinance pertaining to the patient/caregiver relationship and defer taking action regarding the new act until after public input on the subject can be solicited through a citizen survey conducted as part of the Master Plan update.

After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Commission to pursue this approach. Chairperson Lee asked Ms. Ditschman to work with the City Manager in drafting the zoning ordinance amendment pertaining to the patient/caregiver relationship.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS None.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Cook, seconded by Commissioner Hoppough to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Eppler  
City Manager  
Recording Secretary for Dave Cook, Secretary