

**MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

The Manistee City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 7:00 pm, Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan 49660.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Cooper, Lynda Beaton, Roger Zielinski, Jermaine Cipic, James Grabowski and Erin Pontiac

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Szymanski

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager, Department Directors, Public, and Media

Public Comments

Robert Hynes, RTMC Group, 50 Arthur St. – spoke against increasing the number of recreational marihuana licenses.

Ryan Fitzsimmons, 209 St. Mary’s Pkwy. and 70 Arthur St. - spoke in favor of increasing the number of recreational marihuana licenses.

Paul Adamski, 5915 Tompke Rd. - spoke against increasing the number of recreational marihuana licenses.

Robin Paulus of ECHO His Love, 525 Michael St. – provided information on Safe Harbor services for the homeless population of Manistee and the challenges it faces.

Melisa Bertram, Realtor, representing marihuana company developers – spoke in favor of increasing the number of recreational marihuana licenses.

Keith Zielinski, 5830 – 8 Mile Rd, Onkama – asked Councilmembers to consider the work already invested by current marihuana license applicants when deciding whether to increase the number of recreational licenses.

Joyce Reed, 177 – 8th St. – explained her work with Safe Harbor, which includes homeless families and children, and expressed the need for expanded services.

George Butler, Tabernacle Church Pastor, 547 – 1st St. – expressed the importance of preventing homelessness and providing low cost, smaller space housing options. Asked Council to consider changing square footage requirements to allow for tiny space living options.

Karen Goodman, 1925 – 12th St. – works with Community Mental Health as coordinator for Northwest Coalition to Eliminate Homelessness and would welcome working with the City along with all groups and agencies to address the needs of the homeless in Manistee County.

SUBSTANCE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS SEA YOUTH PRESENTATION – No presentation due to illness.

DISCUSSION ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TIF PLAN – Thrasos Eftaxiadis, DDA TIF Committee Chairperson, presented the DDA TIF Plan and explained that the current version being presented has 2 main changes: 1) Allocation of TIF revenues; 2) Length of TIF capture period changed to 25 years. The main project addressed in the TIF Plan is the West Shore Community College redevelopment of their River Street property, for which the college has requested \$750,000.

Discussion included:

- Costs/Financing
- Façade Improvements
- Parking Lot Options
- Economic Development
- Maintenance Agreement with the City
- Timeline for Approval
- Projects are Related to Goals of Project Rising Tide

West Shore Community College President Scott Ward explained that the college has 3 Missions/Goals for the River Street property: 1) Academic work force development which will include offering one full certification program; 2) Economic development for the community; and 3) Social Agency for Students.

CONSENSUS: Council would like to continue discussion on the DDA TIF Plan and directed staff to add this item to the December Work Session Agenda.

CHAMBER QUARTERLY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE – Marc Miller – Mr. Miller presented the six priorities for Economic Development:

1. Business Retention, Attraction and Growth
2. Talent/Workforce Development
3. Tourism
4. Housing Needs

5. Growing Entrepreneurs
6. Building a Collaborative Environment

DISCUSSION ON DRAFT COST RECOVERY ORDINANCE – Public Safety Director Tim Kozal – Chief Kozal presented a proposed Ordinance to recoup costs for certain services provided by City of Manistee. Discussion included possible scenarios subject to cost recovery such as downed power lines, bomb threats, false alarms and excessive assistance requests.

CONSENSUS: Council directed staff to add the proposed cost recovery ordinance to the December 17, 2019 City Council meeting agenda as an action item.

DISCUSSION ON INCREASING THE NUMBER OF RECREATIONAL MARIHUANA LICENSES – Councilmembers discussed the possibility of increasing the number of recreational marihuana licenses in the City of Manistee.

CONSENSUS: There is no Council support for increasing the number of recreational marihuana licenses in the City of Manistee.

DISCUSSION ON MARIHUANA GROW LICENSES – City Manager Thad Taylor explained that he has contact with three potential developers interested in opening marihuana grow facilities in the City of Manistee. Discussion included increased job opportunities associated with additional grow facilities.

CONSENSUS: Council directed staff to research increasing the number of marihuana grow facility licenses and make a recommendation to Council.

DISCUSSION ON SAFE HARBOR AND HOMELESSNESS – Council discussed Safe Harbor and services it provides to the homeless population in Manistee County. Discussion included:

- Difficulty finding volunteers for the overnight shifts
- Area churches are providing a valuable service
- Possibility of daytime warming/empowerment center
- Zoning issues

CONSENSUS: Council directed staff to look into zoning issues regarding a daytime warming/empowerment center and smaller space housing options.

DISCUSSION ON COUNTY RESOLUTION DECLARING GREAT LAKES COAST A DISASTER AREA – City Manager Thad Taylor – City Manager Thad Taylor presented a resolution recently passed by the Manistee County Board of Commissioners declaring the Great Lakes Coast a disaster area. The County passed this resolution to start a conversation about the damage caused by recent high water levels. Manistee County Chairperson Jeff Dontz explained that this resolution has had an impact and the intent is to get the State of Michigan to declare a Disaster Area and then apply for federal relief funds.

CONSENSUS: Council directed staff to add a resolution declaring the Great Lakes Coast a disaster area to a future Council Meeting Agenda as an action item.

OTHER: None.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Y Laurain
Deputy Clerk