

# City of Potterville Planning Commission Meeting

April 23, 2019- 7:00 p.m. – Potterville City Hall, 319 N. Nelson Street

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**Call to Order:** Mark Swanson, Chair of the Planning Commission, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge:** Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**Roll Call:** Present: Mark Swanson, Tim Maynard, and George Kepler  
Absent: Jeff Bussard and Brent Bruggink

**Agenda:** A motion was made by **Commissioner Maynard** to approve the agenda for the April 23, 2019 meeting. **Commissioner Kepler** supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Minutes:** A motion was made by **Commissioner Maynard** to approve the March 12, 2019 meeting minutes as printed. **Commissioner Kepler** supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Ms. Kathrine Schmidt stated she would like to speak as a citizen of the City of Potterville regarding medical marihuana. Ms. Schmidt stated she is also a member of council but would like to be heard as a resident. Ms. Schmidt passed out packets to the Planning Commission (attached); She stated she is opposed to allowing any marihuana facilities within the City of Potterville. She stated three-hundred sixty-eight communities have applications filed with LARA and more than four-hundred have passed moratoriums banning recreational marihuana in their jurisdictions. Ms. Schmidt stated the number is more than three times the one-hundred fourteen communities that have adopted Ordinances allowing marihuana businesses in their district. She stated the reasons for the moratoriums is simple, the State Legislature is still determining what to do and has yet to draft the real enforceable policies; Marihuana is still illegal with the Federal Government; it is a dangerous drug; creates more crime; decreases property values; and takes a toll on law enforcement. She stated that during the March Council Meeting the Police Chief spoke on this issue of marihuana; the Police Chief informed City Council the biggest issue he and his Officers face is people driving while high. She stated the City of Potterville had a train accident that was caused by someone driving while high; the Police Department does not have enough staff to combat the issue. Ms. Schmidt stated as a citizen of the City of Potterville, she does not believe our people deserve the negative effects that will come from allowing any marihuana businesses. She asked the Planning Commission to not make any considerations for allowing marihuana businesses within the City of Potterville.

Public Comments Closed: 7:07 p.m.

**Old Business:** **Commissioner Maynard** stated the Planning Commission did not discuss medical marihuana at their March meeting because they did not have a full board present.

**Commissioner Maynard** moved to postpone discussions on medical marihuana to a meeting when the all members of the Planning Commission are present. **Commissioner Kepler** supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

**New Business:** **Commissioner Swanson** stated Council Member Jeff Bussard was appointed to the Planning Commission but has not been able to attend a meeting since being appointed.

**Commission Swanson** stated the Planning Commission needs to select new meeting dates due to a conflict with Ms. Brandy Hatt's schedule. Ms. Hatt informed the Planning Commission that Commissioner Bussard communicated to the City Clerk the best date for his attendance is

the third Tuesday of the month. The Planning Commission held a brief discussion regarding a meeting date.

**Commissioner Maynard** moved to hold City of Pottersville Planning Commission Meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. **Commissioner Kepler** supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Commissioner Swanson** asked Ms. Hatt to give an update on the Master Plan update. Ms. Hatt stated she has been in contact with Mr. Nathaniel Mehmed from Williams & Works regarding the City of Pottersville Master Plan update. She stated she was given a rough draft to look over and has already requested changes to the proposed future land use map and annexation map. She stated she has requested a map indicating the properties located in the DDA and TIFA Districts also be included in the Master Plan update. Ms. Hatt stated Williams & Works were not provided with the correct Master Plan to perform the update. She stated she has sent Williams & Works all the correct necessary documents to finish their work. Ms. Hatt stated she has contacted the surrounding communities to ask if they had received a letter of intent to update the Master Plan from the City of Pottersville last year; none of the communities had received the letter of intent. Ms. Hatt stated the letter will be going to the required surrounding communities in the month of May.

**Commissioner Swanson** asked Ms. Hatt to give an update on the Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Hatt informed the Planning Commission that a workable copy of the Zoning Ordinance is now posted on the City of Pottersville website. She stated the Zoning Ordinance is in need of an update to be consistent with current state laws. Ms. Hatt stated she included the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and Michigan Planning Enabling Act in their meeting packets for reference. Ms. Hatt stated there has been some confusion regarding previous updates that were approved by City Council that are not in the Code of Ordinances or Zoning Ordinance. She stated she is working with the City Clerk to determine how to proceed with a correction.

**Commissioner Swanson** asked Ms. Hatt to give a report on the applications included in their packet. Ms. Hatt informed the Planning Commission she has re-written all zoning applications to be consistent with the Zoning Ordinance. She stated the Special Events Permit Application included in their packet is not a zoning application, rather it is a Park and Recreation Department Application; she shared the application with the Planning Commission so they were aware of the difference between a Special Use Permit Application and a Special Events Permit Application. Ms. Hatt briefly went through each application.

**Commissioner/Administrator Report: Commissioner Swanson** asked Ms. Hatt if she has any further information to share with the Planning Commission. Ms. Hatt said no.

**Next Meeting:** May 21, 2019 at 7:00 P.M.

**Excuse absent members: Commissioner Maynard** moved to excuse Commissioner Bussard and Commissioner Bruggink. **Commissioner Kepler** supported. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Motion to Adjourn: Commissioner Maynard** moved to adjourn the April 23, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting. **Commissioner Kepler** supported. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.