

Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2020

5:30 pm Chair Don Smucker called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Present: Don Smucker, Kris Thwaites, Jackie McGill, Lori Williams, Chuck Miel

Absent: Judy Guevara

Approval of Agenda 1st motion made by Chuck Miel 2nd by Jacky McGill, passed 5-0

Approval of Minutes from October 7, 2020 meeting 1st motion made by Jacky McGill, 2nd by Chuck Miel passed 5-0.

Public Comments: None

Reports: None

Summary of Ordinances: Done by Tim Johnson of Main Street Planning

Public Hearing:

Four citizens addressed the planning Commission discussing why they feel that the City of Stanton should not approve ordinances allowing marijuana facilities in the city. Domonic B and John Kronek, both of the Montcalm Prevention Coalition, raised concerns relating to the potential impact of marijuana becoming more easily available to our youth. They cited statistics from other states that have allowed marijuana establishments, documenting negative impacts on student's grades and school attendance. Traffic fatalities and public health effects including impacting negatively the brain development of youth were discussed. Serious impacts to the liver and circulatory system of adults were mentioned, and it was stated that many of these effects have not been studied adequately and since there are so many unknowns regarding many health impacts of marijuana it would be prudent not to increase marijuana use by allowing more local access to it.

Ray Holloway, Stanton City Commissioner also voiced health concerns of marijuana use affecting our adult population, and that he felt marijuana sales would disproportionately negatively impact our low income population. He also suggested that the City should consider starting with Adult Use only as he felt that this would be easier for the City to manage and enforce.

Ron and Denise Peterson of Stanton gave written comments questioning where facilities would be located and stating that they did not want marijuana establishments in the City of Stanton.

Jane Basom, Stanton City Commissioner, stated that the age for allowing youth to be marketed should be set at 21 rather than 17, and that the city should limit retail outlets of any kind to two only.

Some discussion followed where questions were raised regarding the economic impact of marijuana and opposing points of view were expressed. The concern was also stated the public perception of Stanton would be negatively impacted by allowing marijuana sales to take place here.

Travis Jensen, owner of the Brickyard Restaurant in Stanton spoke in support of allowing marijuana sales stating that the added commercial activity would favorably impact other businesses by bringing more potential patrons into their establishments, particularly in the evening hours.

Since Tim is addressing a lot of Jane's concerns I won't comment more on that. She did mention many specific ordinance related issues that we will not to either act on or comment on.

Due to in proper electronic meeting notification no action could be taken at this meeting, and the planning commission will need to hold another public hearing before making any motion to send the proposed Ordinances to the City Commission for Consideration.

6:40 pm Chuck Mield made motion to adjourn the meeting, Jacky McGill Seconded passed 5-0

Respectfully Submitted by Lori Williams, Secretary/Mayor