

March 24, 2021
City Council Special Meeting

A special meeting of the Eaton Rapids City Council was conducted by electronic remote means (online and/or by phone) on March 24, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Due to public safety concerns resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic, this meeting was conducted via Zoom Conferencing using Meeting ID 884 0416 6285.

Mayor Malewski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present were:

Mayor Malewski remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Councilwoman Colestock remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Councilwoman Politza remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Councilman Steele remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan
Councilman Wichman remotely from Eaton Rapids, Michigan

Also in attendance via audio/video were City Manager Desentz, City Clerk Boomer, Police Chief Weeks, and City Attorney Harkness.

Colestock moved, Steele seconded, PASSED, to approve the agenda.

Public Comments: None

New Business: Marijuana Discussion

City Manager Desentz introduced a discussion on the proposed medical marijuana ordinance. He reviewed the pros and cons of the proposed ordinance. He also reviewed the timeline for adoption and implementation.

City Attorney Harkness advised the ordinance allows manufacturing/grow businesses to operate in an overlay district (South Industrial Park) with a special permit. He advised the ordinance requires an odor abatement system with a reasonable person standard. Background checks would be required. He reviewed federal enforcement. He advised that if adopted, the City must anticipate change and expect litigation.

Council discussed the staff time required to process applications and enforce the ordinance. City Attorney Harkness reviewed the process for noncompliance of the ordinance.

Council discussed the city image implication of the ordinance and impact on the community. They voiced concerns over marijuana use by minors. Police Chief Weeks advised the marijuana manufactured today has much higher levels of THC. City Attorney Harkness advised that there has been increase in the number of OUID's (operating under the influence of drugs) since the legalization of marijuana.

Mayor Malewski advised that the Marijuana Ordinance Committee took an impartial approach to the drafting of the ordinance.

City Manager Desentz advised Council to send any questions or concluding thoughts to him.

Public Comments: None

Colestock moved, Wichman seconded, PASSED, to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Paul Malewski, Mayor

Laura Boomer, City Clerk