

City of Albion
Study Session Minutes
April 9, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Members Lenn Reid (2), Marcola Lawler (4) and Andrew French (6) and Mayor Brown.

ABSENT: Council Member Barnes (1), Sonya Brown (3) and Jeanette Spicer (5).

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Kipp, Interim City Manager; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Stacey Levin, Assistant City Manager; and John Tracy, Director Planning, Building & Code Enforcement.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to **agenda items only** and to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required).

No public comments were received.

IV. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Discussion-Medical Marihuana Dispensaries

City Attorney Harkness stated he needed the following information from the Council to proceed with the Medical Marihuana Dispensaries:

1. Hours of Operation:

Council discussed this at the last Council meeting but did not make a determination on the hours of operation. City Attorney Harkness recommends the hours be from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m./7 days a week. He does not suggest changing the hours on Sunday as it could lead to legal implications. He also stated the above hours are conservative and that most municipalities with dispensaries are maintaining later hours with some being open until 11:00 p.m.

2. Fencing Requirement:

City Attorney Harkness stated he would like to see a waiver in the fencing requirement for dispensaries that may be located in a strip mall.

He suggested a waiver stating the fencing requirement would be waived if other security measures are in place for the safety of the business and the public.

3. Number of Licenses:

City Attorney Harkness suggests the City will issue a total of twenty (20) Medical Marijuana licenses with no more than two (2) of the licenses for dispensaries

4. Provision for Dispensaries:

City Attorney suggests adding a provision to the Medical Marijuana Ordinance stating no staff member or doctor may be onsite to issue Medical Marijuana cards. This maintains focus on the medical use and cuts down on abuse.

Questions/Comments from Council were as follows:

- What would the legal implications be if the City choose to have different hours on Sunday? *The City is relating these hours to those of pharmacies which the City does not regulate. If a court action were pursued, the City would be required to provide a compelling & significant reason to change the hours for Sunday. Religious reasons would not suffice as a significant and compelling reason for the change in hours.*
- Where are other municipalities allowing dispensaries? *Most are allowing them in industrial & commercial areas.*
- Adding the dispensaries will change six (6) or seven (7) sections of the Medical Marijuana Ordinance.
- Council would like to bring Ordinance as a 1st Reading/Approval at the next Council meeting on April 16th.

Council consensus on the Medical Marijuana dispensaries are as follows:

Hours of Operation- 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Fencing Requirement- May be waived if located in a strip mall and other security measures are in place for the safety of the business and the public.

Number of Licenses: The City will issue a total of twenty (20) Medical Marijuana licenses with no more than two (2) of the licenses for dispensaries.

Location: Dispensaries shall be limited to the B-3, M-1-P, M-2, and M-2-P Zoning Districts.

Distance:

Schools and child care facilities-no Dispensary shall be located within five hundred (500) feet of real property comprising a public or private elementary, licensed child care facility, vocational or secondary school.

Public parks and places of worship-no Dispensary shall be located within two hundred fifty (250) feet of real property comprising a public park. Any Dispensary located more than two hundred fifty (250) feet but less than five hundred (500) feet

of real property comprising a public park shall be surrounded by a fence as required by city ordinance.

Residential areas-no Dispensary shall be located within two hundred fifty (250) feet of real property.

Comments were received from Council Members French, Reid and Lawler and Mayor Brown.

B. Goal Setting Session

Mayor Brown suggested the following Council goals:

- Neighborhood Stabilization-research & planning
- Infrastructure-Possible millage for sidewalk & street repair
- Economic Development-Employment & Underemployment Issues

Questions/Comments from Council were as follows:

- What is the role of the City pertaining to employment & underemployment?
- Is this to focus the EDC in a certain direction?
- What are the specific goals for neighborhood stabilization and will it involve the newly created Neighborhood Planning Councils?
- Infrastructure is a high priority.
- The City needs to invest in the streets.
- The need for streets is a higher priority than sidewalks.
- Would like to see an alternative senior housing with various income levels such as quality one story houses.
- Would like to see continued partnership with Calhoun County Landbank along with additional partnerships for Neighborhood Stabilization goal.
- Timeframe for Neighborhood Planning Councils to be in place? *Early Spring*
- Important for Council to discuss with the Neighborhood Planning Councils what goals they would like to see accomplished.
- Water/Sewer infrastructure and the new water tower also need to be a component in the infrastructure category.

The consensus of the Council is to establish the following goals:

1. Neighborhood Stabilization
2. Infrastructure- Streets/Sidewalks/Water/Sewer
3. Quality Affordable Housing- Senior & General
4. Governance-Would like to see this completed in the next 3-6 months before New City Manager starts. MML Training for Boards & Commissions/Council Rules with Attorney Scott Smith.
5. Implementing a Master Calendar
6. Vision-What type of community are we planning for and utilizing resources to achieve these goals. Should start with Neighborhood Planning Councils.
7. New Water Tower

Mayor Brown asked for a discussion item on Council goals be added to the April 16, 2018 Council agenda.

Comments were received from Council Members French, Reid and Lawler; Mayor Brown; Interim City Manager Kipp and Andrew Texel, AmeriCorps Vista member.

- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required).

No public comments were received.

- VI. ADJOURNMENT

Reid moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, to ADJOURN Study Session. (4-0, vv).

Mayor Brown adjourned the Study Session at 7:24 p.m.

Date

Jill Domingo
City Clerk