

**WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2022**

Present: Joseph Stepich, Deane Fizzell, Colleen Curtis, Louis Nordell, Deanna Heminger, Linda Rizzo.

Also Present: Craig McGrew, Kevin Schuhknecht, Mark Smith

Chairperson D. Heminger called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Roll Call was taken.

The minutes of the December 7, 2021 meeting were read. C. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes as read. L. Rizzo seconded and the motion carried.

J. Stepich took a moment to recognize K. Schuhknecht for 23 years of service to the Township as a Planning Commission member - most of that time as its Chairman.

Proposed Medical / Recreational Marihuana Ordinance

J. Stepich opened discussion by stating that the only amendment to the draft ordinance he would recommend would be to increase the fines in Section 8 - Violations and Penalties, from "not less than \$250 and no more than \$500 for the first offense" to not less than \$500 for the first offense, but not more than \$1,000; not less than \$1,000 for the second offense; and not less than \$1,500 for each subsequent offense. All stated they were in favor of that change. With everyone in concurrence that the draft ordinance was ready to send to the Township Board, D. Fizzell made a motion to send a recommendation for adoption by the Township Board of the Watervliet Township Medical and Adult Use Marihuana Ordinance No. 85 with the inclusion of the amendment to Section 8 of not less than \$500 for the first offense, but not more than \$1,000; not less than \$1,000 for the second offense; and not less than \$1,500 for each subsequent offense. C. Curtis seconded. A roll call vote is as follows: L. Nordell, yea; C. Curtis, yea; L. Rizzo, yea; D. Fizzell, yea; J. Stepich, yea; D. Heminger, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Parallel Towers Special Land Use Permit Application

The Commission was presented with an application for a Special Land Use Permit request by Parallel Towers for the location of a cell phone tower at 3860 Hennesey Rd. A roll call vote to set the public hearing for February 1, 2022 at 2:05 p.m. went as follows: C. Curtis, yea; D. Fizzell, yea; L. Nordell, yea; L. Rizzo, yea; J. Stepich, yea; D. Heminger, yea. Motion carried unanimously.

Berrien County Master Plan

J. Stepich told the Commission that Berrien County is updating their Master Plan and has invited the various municipalities in the county to participate. He asked the membership to read the documentation provided and discuss it at the February regular meeting.

Covid Money

J. Stepich noted that the township is receiving \$363,000 in federal covid relief money. He added that there are certain requirements and restrictions placed on the funds and asked the commissioners to research what those restrictions are and what specifically the funding can be spent on. Of what the Township can spend it on, he asked them to compile a list of priorities and report at the next meeting. He added that if the members had any difficulty with obtaining or interpreting the information they can feel free to consult outside sources such as the Michigan Townships Association or township legal counsel.

With no further business before the Commission, C. Curtis made a motion to adjourn. L. Nordell seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Lohr
Zoning Administrator