

**WATERVLIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION  
PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 15, 2019**

Present: Kevin Schuhknecht, Scott McKee, Colleen Curtis, Glen Giannetti, Deanna Heminger, Joseph Stepich.

Also Present: Mike Gray, Brad Burkett

Chairman Schuhknecht called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes of the March 26, 2019 meeting were read. D. Heminger made a motion to approve the minutes as read. C. Curtis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

At 6:03 p.m. J. Stepich made a motion to close the special meeting and move into the scheduled public hearing. G. Giannetti seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The proposed changes in the zoning ordinance needed to permit the decided upon Medical Marihuana Facilities and the permitted zones was reviewed. After that time 2 written correspondences were read. The first from Dr. Stephen Myers M.D. who voiced favor for the township permitting medical marihuana facilities and one by Pastor Brian Hall who voiced his opposition. *(The complete text of both correspondences are attached to these minutes.)* With no input from those in attendance, K. Schuhknecht entertained a motion to close the public hearing and reenter special session.

C. Curtis made a motion to close out of the public hearing and reenter the special meeting. G. Giannetti seconded and the motion carried. The public hearing was closed at 6:08 p.m.

Back in the special meeting, J. Stepich made a motion to recommend adoption of the changes to Zoning Ordinance No. 77 as proposed. K. Schuhknecht seconded and a roll call vote resulted as follows: D. Heminger, yea; C. Curtis, yea; S. McKee, yea; J. Stepich, yea; K. Schuhknecht, yea; G. Giannetti, yea.

With there being no further business before the Commission, K. Schuhknecht made a motion to adjourn. C. Curtis seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert Lohr  
Zoning Administrator

March 31, 2019  
8578 Orchard Drive  
Watervliet MI 49098

Zoning Administrator  
Watervliet Charter Township  
Watervliet Township Hall  
4959 M-140 Highway  
Watervliet MI 49098

**Re: Public hearing April 15, 2019 on Medical Marihuana Special Land Use Permit(s)**

I write to support the proposed amendments to Article V and thank the Township leaders with bringing this topic forward when so many Michigan communities have suppressed it. The majority vote of public support for marihuana voiced in the 2018 referendum on recreational use should not be forgotten by elected leaders in our cities and townships.

The Township should make use of this opportunity to bring more jobs to our industrial park and potentially future shops and residents to our area. The marihuana production and retail businesses stand to be among the most highly regulated ones in Michigan and cannot pose any meaningful risk to our community.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Myers".

Stephen Myers, M.D.

# WATERVLIET

FREE METHODIST CHURCH

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April 11, 2019

Dear Watervliet Township Board,

This letter is in response to the proposed Ordinance for Medical Marihuana Facilities in Watervliet. I see this in the same light of a "liquor store" and reading the Ordinance the Township is treating it like a "liquor store". For example it must be so many feet away from schools, parks, residences and places of worship.

I know the liquor stores supply liquor to people. Some of those people drive after drinking, some go home and fight with their spouse, and some lose their job. I think we all realize the devastation alcohol can have and has had on families in our community over the years.

A better comparison might be smoking cigarettes. The Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act of 1965 required this caution on all cigarette packages: "CAUTION: CIGARETTE SMOKING MAY BE HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH". 50 years after that landmark warning there were 8 million fewer smoking deaths. In 1969 the statement changed to "WARNING: THE SURGEON GENERAL HAS DETERMINED THAT CIGARETTE SMOKING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH". Then there's this statement, "R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company believes that individuals should rely on the conclusions of the U.S. Surgeon General, the Centers for Disease Control and other public health and medical officials when making decisions regarding smoking", found on their website.

Not knowing the total effect of Marihuana why would we put our community at risk? I know the State of Michigan voted to approve Marihuana (just like we did with alcohol back in 1933) but is it best for Watervliet and for the families of Watervliet? I don't believe so.

I deal with families in our community each year who suffer from the results of alcoholism and drug use. I pray that you will not allow this into our community.

I vote no.

Serving HIM



Pastor Brian E Hall