

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2019, 7:30 P.M.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by Chairman Dausman with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer. Commission members present: Rich Dausman, Steve Van Timmeren and Dan VanDyke. Commission members absent: Gary Karr and Steve Gray. Also present were Township Planner Brian Werschem and Clerk Maureen Carmody as Recording Secretary.
2. No parking in the reserved fire spaces was announced.
3. For the election of officers for 2019, a motion was made by VanDyke and supported by Van Timmeren to re-elect Rich Dausman as Chairman, Steve Van Timmeren as Vice-Chairman and Gary Karr as Secretary. Motion carried.
4. There were no additions to the agenda.
5. A motion was made by VanDyke and supported by VanTimmeren to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018 Planning Commission meeting as written. Motion carried.
6. There were no public comments.
7. A Public Hearing was held to consider Ordinance 136, an amendment to Chapter 3 of the Wright Township Zoning Ordinance, adding Section 328 entitled "Marihuana Establishments and Facilities Prohibited" which prohibits marihuana establishments within the boundaries of Wright Township pursuant to Section 6 of the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act. The Public Hearing was opened at 7:55 p.m. William Reames, 151 Arthur St., Marne, inquired whether the adoption of this ordinance would affect the ability to grow marihuana for personal use, and was informed by Planner Werschem that Ordinance 136 would prohibit marihuana establishments and facilities. Residents would be able to grow limited quantities of marihuana for personal use per state law, but would not be allowed to sell it or engage in any commercial activity involving marihuana within Wright Township. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:58 p.m. A motion was made by VanDyke and supported by VanTimmeren to recommend that the Wright Township Board adopt Ordinance 136. There was discussion among the Commissioners regarding the proposed ordinance and its potential relevance to the agricultural community. Werchem informed the Commissioners that most municipalities are treating it as an Industrial use instead of an Agricultural use due to particular requirements including security and that it be grown indoors. It was also noted that in the November 2018 general election, two-thirds of voters in Wright Township voted "no" on the proposal to legalize recreational marihuana. Motion carried.
8. There were no Commission member concerns.
9. There were no Wright Township Board communications.
10. A motion was made by VanDyke and supported by Van Timmeren to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maureen Carmody
Recording Secretary

