

MINUTES OF THE VAN WERT CITY COUNCIL

July 8, 2024

Council President Pro Tempore Judy Bowers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Bill Watson from Pentecostal Way Church gave the invocation.

On call of the roll: Ringwald, Kallas, Bowers, Agler, Moore and Marshall were present.

Agler made a motion to excuse Dettrow from the meeting. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

MAYOR: Not present.

SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR: Not present.

AUDITOR: The auditor stated there is a list of supplemental appropriations that will need presented to funds 101, 208, 601, 602, and 701.

Reported monthly financials for June. All funds are positive and in balance. June revenue was \$650k+ and expenses were \$606k+.

The auditor needs tax budget for the year prepared explaining the expectation of tax money that the city receives. This will be for next year, but gets passed on July 15th. Auditor was unaware this needed passed through council, so she is asking for the budget to be prepared on an emergency basis because of when it is due.

The Ohio State Auditor has a new requirement for fraud prevention training. Any person employed by the city must complete the 7 minute video, print certificate and sign an acknowledgement to turn in to the city auditor. These will be audited next year and must be completed in 90 days. Handouts with instructions were provided to council to complete.

LAW DIRECTOR: No report.

COMMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Keri Stan, District Manager for all 5 Cannabist Medical Cannabis Retailers in Ohio was present to offer her expertise through questions on how dispensaries operate, security, and impacts on community. Stan is the District Manager oversees all Ohio and Illinois dispensaries for this company.

Ringwald suggested Stan run through operations, security and impacts in order for the council and community to get a good idea of a dispensary as a whole. Stan describes many details from a

customer's point of view from ID checks, to product selection, to check out. She states customers have their ID's checked not only to enter the facility but then at minimum twice before even being escorted back to the locked dispensing room. All shopping is done in a one to one ratio (associate to customer) in a private room. Customer leaves with an opaque bag (required by law) and can also make purchase anonymously if they so choose. Stan describes purchase limits for both medicinal and recreational customers. She mentions all inventory is tracked from "seed to sale" through a tracking software called "Metric"; once a seed grows to a few inches tall it receives a unique identifier that follows it clear up to the sale. Each seed is tested by a pharmaceutical grade lab approved by the state. All lab results are then summed up on the label of the product sold. Product unloading is heavily secured. When store is not operating, all product is kept in a biometric vault. Security systems are live feed directly to the state regulators office with absolutely no blind spots. Community impacts includes fundraisers and donations working with veterans, supporting local clubs, organizations, humane societies, etc.

Eric McCracken, 1410 Krendl Dr., asked how many dispensaries started as medicinal turned into dual use facilities. Stan answered that she hopes all five Ohio locations she currently has would become dual use. McCracken's passion is behind the D.A.R.E. program in Van Wert. His worries with a dispensary is the conflict between the education to the youth with the D.A.R.E. while allowing the adults access to the drugs the youth are taught not to use.

Kallas advocates for medicinal marijuana and reiterates that council is passing for a medical dispensary tonight. Not for recreational, but council can not control what future council passes, votes, chooses, etc.

Bill Watson, 526 S. Race St., suggests that with a dispensary in Delphos, the council should wait to see how that dispensary affects their community in schools, within law enforcement, addiction rates, etc. that we could view in a year or so.

Stan shares that there are many studies released stating legal marijuana dispensaries help crime rates in communities go down because of the level of security surrounding the facilities. Stan also reiterates the issue with the youth is not that they are getting it from the dispensaries, but from illegal means in the community.

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., asks Stan for an average customer count in a dispensary located in a city populated similarly to Van Wert. Stan answered 100-200 customers a day in a medicinal only dispensary. Davis asks logistics behind the difference of what is sold in a medicinal dispensary versus what is sold in an adult use dispensary. Stan states that Ohio does not have laws indicating separate rules for adult use, so all products have to follow medicinal laws in Ohio; anything sold to a medicinal user may also be sold to a recreational user, the difference comes in the amounts allowed to be sold. A medicinal user may purchase 4.5 oz every 45 days; a non medicinal user may purchase up to 1 oz daily.

Joe Jared, 113 W. Main St., shares relief knowing exactly what is being consumed within what you are purchasing from a dispensary versus not knowing contents of what is being sold on the streets. Jared states drugs are already here, so placing a dispensary here will not make matters

worse. Jared also shares that responsibility lies within our parenting to our children and it is not on the city to take care of by banning everything.

Stacie Lippi, 121 Shepherd St., Convoy, shares a story and a letter she wrote after the passing of a relative who overdosed presumably whose journey with drugs began with marijuana. She ends the letter encouraging council to reject the ordinance to allow marijuana within the city.

Kirby Kelly, 221 N. Wall St., mentioned, under the Sunshine Law, he had requested via email, all council's email and text correspondence from the community about marijuana be remitted to him. The Law Director confirms council must comply with this request.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE: Mrs. Ringwald made a motion to prepare supplemental appropriations for the auditor as an emergency. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

Ringwald made a motion to prepare a resolution for the city tax budget as an emergency. Moore seconded; all concurred. City auditor states she will submit the tax budget next Monday (on the due date) to county pending council approval since it will not be able to pass until July 22's meeting.

STREETS AND ALLEYS: No report.

JUDICIARY AND ANNEXATION: No report.

PROPERTIES AND EQUIPMENT: Agler made a motion to introduce ORDINANCE Number: 24-07-041; AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN CONTRACTS WITH AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING OUR CELL TOWER LEASES. Kallas seconded; all concurred.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Not present.

HEALTH, SERVICE AND SAFETY: Moore stated she is working with administration on the blighted properties list.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Marshall met with Community Reinvestment Board on June 27th as a council representative. The Board interviewed a company, TNT Holdings, who is putting a building in on John Brown Rd., bringing in a number of jobs and a \$2,500,000.00 investment. Marshall made a motion to have an Ordinance prepared for this. Agler seconded; all concurred.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL and PUBLIC: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Swimming Pool - meeting upcoming.

NEW BUSINESS: None

RESOLUTIONS & ORDINANCES:

Third and final reading for Amended ORDINANCE Number: 24-06-035; AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 150: ZONING BY ADDING SECTION 150.03 DEFINITIONS, SECTION 150.15 PERMITTED AND CONDITIONAL USES AND SECTION 150.21 FLOOR AREA REQUIREMENTS OF THE VAN WERT CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES. All concurred. Ordinance passed.

Official final reading for ORDINANCE Number: 24-06-039; AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VAN WERT CITY ORDINANCE 31.04(C) OF THE VAN WERT CODE OF ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. All concurred. Ordinance was passed at 06/24/24 meeting.

Second Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-06-037; AN ORDINANCE BANNING THE PURCHASE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION OR USE OF CANNABIS BY PERSONS UNDER THE AGE OF TWENTY-ONE YEARS AS AN EMERGENCY. All concurred.

Second Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-06-038; AN ORDINANCE BANNING THE PURCHASE, POSSESSING, OR CONSUMING TOBACCO PRODUCTS INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE NICOTINE PRODUCTS, ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES AND CORRESPONDING VAPOR PRODUCTS IN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AS AN EMERGENCY. All concurred.

First Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-06-036; AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE CITY OF VAN WERT'S PROCESS FOR PUBLIC NOTIFICATION. All concurred.

Kallas made a motion to introduce Number: 24-07-040. Ringwald seconded; all concurred. Kallas made a motion to suspend statutory rules for Number: 24-07-040. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Kallas made a motion to pass, as an emergency, Number: 24-07-040; A RESOLUTION PROHIBITING THE ISSUANCE AND PROCESSING OF ANY PERMITS OR CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ALLOWING THE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING OR RETAIL DISPENSING OF ADULT USE MARIJUANA WITHIN THE CITY OF VAN WERT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Agler seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

First Reading Advisory for ORDINANCE Number: 24-07-041; AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE SAFETY-SERVICE DIRECTOR TO NEGOTIATE AND SIGN CONTRACTS WITH AMERICAN TOWER CORPORATIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENEWING OUR CELL TOWER LEASES. All concurred.

Moore made a motion to untable Number 24-05-028. Agler seconded; all concurred.

Moore made a motion to pass, on it's Third and Final Reading, Number 24-05-028; A RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION 17-07-045 TO ALLOW THE ISSUANCE AND PROCESSING OF ANY PERMITS OR CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ALLOWING THE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING OR RETAIL DISPENSING OF MARIJUANA FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES WITHIN THE CITY OF VAN WERT. Ringwald, Kallas, Agler, Moore, and Marshall voted yes. Bowers voted no. Resolution passed.

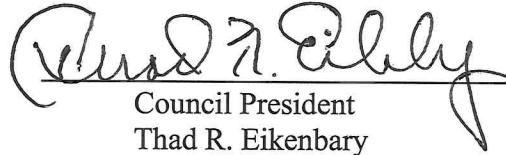
Bowers made a motion to untable amended ORDINANCE Number: 24-05-029. Ringwald seconded; all concurred.

Bowers made a motion to pass, on it's Third and Final Reading, ORDINANCE Number: 24-05-029; AN ORDINANCE TO ADD A NEW PERMITTED USE ALLOWING THE PLACEMENT OF MEDICAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES IN THE CITY OF VAN WERT OHIO, TO CHAPTER 150 SECTION 150.15 (F)(1) PERMITTED AND CONDITIONAL USES B-3 HIGHWAY AND GENERAL BUSINESS OF THE VAN WERT CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, as amended. Kallas seconded; all concurred. Ordinance passed.

Agler made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Kallas seconded; all concurred.



Clerk of Council
Stephanie R. Phillips



Council President
Thad R. Eikenbary

July 22, 2024
DATE

