

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

November 12, 2018
Conference Room #119
5:30 P.M.

Present: Commissioners: Mayor Pro-Tem Michael Brown, Betsy Artz, Emily Bridson, Richard Clanton, Robert Coughlin, Thomas McKelvey, and Mayor Stephen Kepley. Also present: Engineering and Inspections Director Tim Bradshaw, Deputy Finance Director Bhama Cairns, Finance Director Tom Chase, Public Works Director John Gorney, Police Chief Tom Hillen, City Clerk Dan Kasunic, Fire Chief Brent Looman, Deputy Administrator Mark Rambo, Deputy Police Chief Richard Roberts, Parks and Recreation Director Val Romeo, Fire Department Administrative Assistant Nancy Shane, and City Attorney Jeff Sluggett.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

A. RECOMMEND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 22-104 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES (KENTWOOD FIRE PREVENTION CODE).

Fire Department Administrative Assistant Shane informed the Committee with an accidental occurrence of finding a legal grow operation that the City did not have the legal ability to implement a safety inspection of the facility. The 2015 International Fire Code does not have any provision for inspections by the local municipality and the 2018 Code will not be adopted until 2020. The department wanted to amend the current ordinance to allow for a fire safety inspection. City Attorney Sluggett was on hand to provide for what is allowed by State Law and what is allowed for the City to implement. A discussion ensued regarding home based businesses and business licenses.

Motion by Coughlin, seconded by Artz, to recommend to the City Commission to adopt an amendment to the Kentwood Fire Prevention Code to regulate growing and processing of marihuana within new and existing buildings.

Motion Carried.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT:

A. RECOMMEND PROJECTS FOR SUBMISSION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDING FOR FY 2019-20.

Economic Development Planner Golder defined the guidelines allowed for CDBG funds and reviewed the proposed projects. She noted the public hearing scheduled for the Planning Commission and then will be brought before the City Commission. No action is needed is needed at this time.

CITY ATTORNEY:

A. ACTION ON PROPOSED ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE TO ADD SECTIONS 26-700 THROUGH 26-702 TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO PROHIBIT MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE CITY OF KENTWOOD.

City Attorney Sluggett reviewed the proposed ordinance in response to the ballot proposal that passed in the General Election. He spoke of the option under State Law to opt-out of allowing marihuana establishments in the City of Kentwood. Many of the commissioners spoke in favor of this ordinance, they wanted to understand how the new law will affect the city and wanted to take a wait and see approach. Commissioner Bridson did not agree and wanted to reflect the 56% of the voters who approved the legalization.

Motion by Clanton, seconded by McKelvey, to recommend to the City Commission to consider and take action on an amendment to the City Code of Ordinances to prohibit marijuana establishments in the City of Kentwood as that term is defined in the recently approved Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act.

Motion Carried.

ENGINEERING & PARKS AND RECREATION:

A. VETERAN’S PARK PROJECT UPDATE AND DISCUSSION.

Engineering and Inspections Director Bradshaw including Parks and Recreation Director Romeo reviewed the Master Plan for Veteran’s Park and the revisions made to keep within budget. This meant removing the improvement to the parking lot, one shelter and the play structure. Deputy City Administrator Rambo noted that Kelloggsville School intends to close and move the school close by and build a sport complex and that the City is working with them to align their facilities with ours and to grow together.

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

A. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR SECOND HAND DEALERS AND BEGGING AND SOLICITING IN THE CODE OF ORDIANCES.

Police Chief Hillen reviewed the two proposed amendments to the Code of Ordinances explaining the need for the amendments were because of the change in State Law. The allowance for automated “Secondhand Dealers” and for Charitable or Civic Organizations to solicit on the Right-of-Way with the recommended conditions, that they shall file a permit with the City Clerk’s Office and meet the requirements set forth in MCL 257.676(b). In addition to meeting those requirements, applicants shall be limited to within two feet of the curb of the innermost curb lane of the affected roadway.

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Mayor Kepley spoke briefly to keep the Commissioners informed in regards to the court's request for a 0.5 FTE and the concern that sustainable revenue will not be available and would then need to be reduced

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Dan Kasunic
City Clerk

Michael Brown
Mayor Pro-Tem