

Minutes
VILLAGE BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
Village Hall – 418 Main Street
December 19, 2019
6:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Lemont Village Board was held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 6:39 p.m., with Mayor John Egofske presiding.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- II. ROLL CALL:** Kwasneski, Kittridge, Maher, McClafferty, Stapleton; present. Sniegowski; absent. Remote access to Trustee Rick Sniegowski, Motion by Stapleton, seconded by McClafferty. Roll call: Kwasneski, Maher, McClafferty, Stapleton, Kittridge; 5 ayes. Motion passed.

III. CLERK'S REPORT

A. Ordinance

1. Ordinance O-103-19 Amending the Municipal Code of the Village of Lemont by the addition of Chapter 5.07 Prohibiting Cannabis Business Establishments

Motion by McClafferty, seconded by Kwasneski, to adopt said ordinance.
Roll call: Kwasneski, McClafferty, Sniegowski, Kittridge; 4 ayes. Maher, Stapleton; 2 nays. Motion passed.

Trustee Maher agreed on a lot but not in support of current ordinance. He says that puts us in a situation that says we do not want it in our town. He believes those not here are a representation of it. Us saying we do not want a dispensary is an under message, telling them we do not want it no matter what. Trustee McClafferty would rather have the clear message that we are opting out until we hear back from the referendum. Mr. Mayor stated this can be reviewed at any time and can be rescinded. Trustee Maher asked, what is the difference between opt out and special use, special use allows us to get the answer opt out is definite. He says, come April, we are going to determine. There are potential good owners that will get the different message.

B. Resolution

1. Resolution R-103-19 to Rescind Resolution #R-101-19: A Resolution Providing for and Requiring the Submission of an Advisory Question of Public Policy Concerning the Dedication of Resources to Fund the Village of Lemont's Unfunded Police Pension Liability, to Appear on the Ballot of the Electors of the Village of the Village of Lemont, in Counties of Cook, Will and DuPage, Illinois at the March 17, 2020 General Primary Election

Motion by Kwasneski, seconded by Maher, to adopt said resolution. Roll call: Kwasneski, Maher, McClafferty, Sniegowski, Stapleton, Kittridge; 6 ayes. Motion passed.

Trustee Maher stated, when putting it in Nov ballot- we will probably be putting it up as an advisory question- not to fund it.

C. Public Comment-

1. Al Rhode asked about other solutions for the Police Pension funding instead of a marijuana dispensary.
2. Edward Gail spoke in favor of recreational marijuana and would like to open a dispensary in Lemont.
3. Debbie Corniker, a nurse, attended a conference about current cannabis and its harmful affect.
4. Matthew Creed is a medical marijuana user who lives in Lemont with his family and has a job. He spoke in support of use of marijuana and recommends a dispensary in Lemont.
5. Joe Karcavich, a physician spoke against recreational marijuana.
6. Mike Gorman stated he is not against medical marijuana. He asked if a dispensary could be more than 100 feet away from childcare facility.
7. Mary Fremarick stated she has lost many people to drugs. She does not want marijuana brought to Lemont because it will just start a drug problem.
8. Carleen Amato, a healthcare worker, feels a dispensary would impact our village and is opposed to a dispensary.
9. Rich Will read a prepared statement opposing to cannabis. He asked the board what message they are going to give by allowing a dispensary in town.
10. Dennis Arkas stated she loves Lemont and thought of bringing recreational marijuana breaks her heart.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT-

1. Kevin Cliff thanked the board for reconsidering the ordinance.
2. Mike Gorman from Kensington estates thanked the board for prohibiting cannabis and said it means the board listened to public. He also asked to look into the minutes and verify if it's incorrect, a cannabis dispensary can be located 100 ft. from a school or childcare facility. He stated state of Illinois allows extra territorial zoning in unincorporated area, he said if we can do something like that and be proactive.
3. Mike thanked for coming out of ordinance. There is a lot of people on social media that are for it. In previous vote, majority opposed it. Think it sends the wrong message that we are not interested. In Denver, it was the same culture, we could get more people to come to Lemont. Denver did not notice people smoking in streets, smelling etc.
4. Nick Rhody stated social media is not all positive. There are a lot of people that do not live in Lemont. All the characteristics stated earlier are false, Denver has a lot of homeless people. Kids are getting it. High intensity drugs are in Illinois. Study this all are in the country. Use rate of juvenile went up and medical fact regular use changes brain structure. Believe the other way could have opened us up to legal issues.
5. Gayle Mccaugherty spend time in Denver and dispensaries she saw were not low profile CNN did a survey. Investigation done in California showed out of \$12 million worth of marijuana sold \$8 million was in black market. In Colorado, there were drug arrests through the black market. Not as concerned about the users, but concerned about trafficking.
6. Dan Noonan is a physician in profession, feels the board has done a dis-service tonight. He feels it does send the wrong message and you should have waited until the vote. If taxed, it could eliminate the problem with it. It is legal in our State, then why not take the opportunity to get the money.
7. Dennis Koveke says this is an open forum where are the people that want it in the meeting. He asked the board how are we doing on money with gaming, can we increase it?
8. Matt Hewitt read some comments from others- read something from website.
9. John Deroche, father of 5 kids says family over profits. You can think of better ways to make money do not give them drug.

10. Richard Wilk asked Trustee Maher if he knows the breakdown of number of registered voters. He says Colorado usage is up, DUI's up. A study done in California found, 1.2 million pounds of excess weed is sold on the black market and goes out east.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS- NONE

VI. NEW BUSINESS- NONE

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION- NONE

VIII. ACTION ON CLOSED ITEM(S)

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Trustee Stapleton left. Rick Sniegowski left.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Kwasneski, seconded by Maher, to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 p.m. VV 4 ayes. Motion passed.