

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CLAYTON
PLANNING COMMISSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 19, 2019**

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Kevin DePottey, George Sippert, Tom Spillane, Dennis Milem, Dwight Dennings, Ed McCartney, Andy Suski

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Ted Henry, Building Official/Code Enforcer; Ken Tucker, Attorney; Sherylynn Russo, Stenographer

APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA

Action Taken: Motion by Suski, supported by Spillane, to approve the proposed agenda for the November 19, 2019, Clayton Township Planning Commission meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 15, 2019

Action Taken: Motion by Sippert, supported by Dennings, to approve the minutes of October 15, 2019 Clayton Township Planning Commission meeting.

MOTION CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS

SOLAR ORDINANCE.PUBLIC UTILITY DISCUSSION

Mr. Henry advised the Board that an issue arose in Shiawassee County whereby solar installation may fall under the umbrella of "utility company" and as such does not require licensed electricians for the install. The Board was also advised that Utility Codes differ from local codes and a public utility does not require licensed electricians. It was noted during discussion that this could be a union as well as a safety issue.

Our ordinance currently states that installer must comply with all local building codes.

The attorney was questioned as to whether our ordinance can be circumvented by a company if they are designated a utility.

Mr. Tucker stated that we cannot override a state statute. He will look into and recommend verbiage to present at the next Board meeting to cover our interests, if possible, i.e., require proof of public utility designation by the state.

REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES:

NONE.

Mr. Henry advised the Planning Board that we need to review ordinance/permit schedule(s) at the January meeting.

Mr. Milem advised the Planning Board that the review of the Master Plan has to be scheduled in 2020. It is due in 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE.

NEW BUSINESS / DISCUSSIONS

PRESENTATION FROM GINA ALESSANDRI, INDUSTRIAL HEMP PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND NATHAN KARK, LEGISLATIVE LIAISON, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MGARD)

Ms. Alessandri provided a very informative and complete overview of the Industrial Hemp Program in Michigan. It is currently in it's pilot phase under Public Act 641.

Numerous questions were asked and answered by MGARD and Mr. Jeff Dennings a Clayton Township resident and licensed hemp grower. These questions consisted of extent of background checks, minimum/maximum field size, testing requirements, long term goals of this program, insurance availability, harvesting equipment development, etc.

In summary this is a Federal/State initiative and thus pursuant to Public Act 641 there is no "opt out" option or any ability for cities or townships to hinder or require additional restrictions.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

NONE.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

NONE.

ADJOURNMENT:

Action Taken: Motion by Suski, supported by Spillane, to adjourn the Planning Commission meeting at 7:27 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryllynn Russo, Stenographer

Kevin DePottey, Chairperson

Dennis Milem, Secretary