

**CITY OF ITHACA**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**  
Tuesday, February 12, 2019  
7:00 PM

In the absence of the Chair, City Manager Yonker was asked to chair the meeting. The regular meeting of the Ithaca Planning Commission was called to order by Manager Yonker at 7:06 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Present: Commissioners Richard Teal, Jerry Timmons, Dale Sherman and Alison Jerome

Absent: Chair John Wilson, Commissioner Doug Wright and Mayor Alice Schafer

Staff Present: City Manager Chris Yonker (Deputy Clerk Cathy Cameron was absent due to the weather)

Audience Present: Rob Endter

**Motion by Timmons, second by Sherman to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held December 11, 2018; motion carried.**

**Public Comments**

Manager Yonker asked for any public comments; none were given.

**Public Hearing**

**Motion by Timmons, second by Jerome to open the public hearing for Zoning Ordinance Amendments: Recreational Marihuana Establishments; motion carried. Manager Yonker opened the public hearing at 7:09 p.m.**

Manager Yonker presented the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments regarding recreational marihuana establishments. He stated that the City Council has opted to prohibit the establishment of any marihuana establishments and/or facilities within the boundaries of the City. This also includes the sale or consumption of marihuana in any form in any public place. Public places were defined in the Council's initial ordinance amendments as public streets and alley rights-of-way, including public sidewalks, public parks, recreation areas, trails, pathways and cemeteries, publicly owned/leased parking lots, and publicly owned/leased buildings, structures and grounds.

The recommendation by the consortium attorney is to amend the Zoning Code to reference that recreational marihuana establishments or facilities by definition not be allowed anywhere within the community as either a special use or any other permitted use and that such establishments would not be considered as a home occupation.

**Motion by Teal, second by Sherman to close the public hearing; motion carried. Manager Yonker closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.**

**Motion by Timmons, second by Jerome to recommend Ordinance No. 2019-01: Amending the Ithaca Zoning Code by Amending Chapter 40, Articles 2 & 4; Zoning Ordinance Amendments: Recreational Marihuana Establishments (draft as submitted) to City Council for approval and adoption; motion carried.**

**New Business**

Manager Yonker presented information regarding the requirement under the Michigan Planning Enabling Act that an annual report be submitted to the City Council. The importance of this is to provide updated information on all things considered by the PC. This report may include any provisions as determined by the PC to assist with its process and determinations on future planning. These reports may provide

essential updates and continuation of projects such as the MI Redevelopment Ready Communities program. Discussion was held.

Commissioners requested staff draft an annual report based on the calendar year and submit to the PC in March/April. This would coincide with the time frame for creation of a new Capital Improvements Plan for the budget year beginning July 1, 2019.

Commissioners Timmons and Teal expressed interest in attending any training classes that would assist them in planning and education towards their service on the board. Manager Yonker supported their initiative and will look into classes being offered. He also suggested the possibility of doing a county-wide training session with the cities, county and township planning boards.

Manager Yonker provided a report issued by the MSU Land Use Series program that offers sample provisions and language for the adoption of bylaws for the PC, stating that we need to create our own bylaws for this PC to adopt. These are required under the MI Planning Enabling Act. Manager Yonker inquired if there was interest in creating a small group work session for the creation of the bylaws. The topic will be further discussed with the PC at a future meeting when more PC members are in attendance.

### **Old Business**

None was offered.

### **Transmittals**

Manager Yonker highlighted the City Manager Activity Reports for January 18 and February 1, 2019.

### **Public Comments**

Manager Yonker asked for any additional public comments; none were given.

**Motion by Timmons, second by Sherman to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m.; motion carried.**

---

Dale Sherman, Commission Secretary

---

Cathy Cameron, Recording Secretary