

**SPECIAL REVIEW & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

A special Review & Oversight Committee meeting was held on February 7, 2017, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

PRESENT: Committee Members: Chair Dan Kasaris, Vice Chair Paul Marnecheck, Dan Langshaw; **Council:** Larry Antoskiewicz, John Nickell, Gary Petrusky, Cheryl Hannan; **Administration:** Mayor Robert Stefanik, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Service Director Nick Cinquepalmi; **Other:** Lou Krzepina.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Marnecheck to **approve the November 15, 2016 Review & Oversight Committee minutes**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Medical Marijuana

Mr. Antoskiewicz said that legislation is on Council's agenda this evening because the current moratorium that is in place will expire shortly. He said that based on the information we have from the state, he is asking Council to approve an additional 6 month moratorium which will take us into September 2017. Based on the information we have, the state is supposed to have all of their plans finalized by then. He felt that this would be a good gauge for us at that time to look at all the information and to deal with this issue. He said he understands that moratoriums are not looked upon favorably by legislators unless there is a good reason. He said that in this case it is prudent to extend this for another 6 months at this point. Mr. Langshaw said that he respectfully disagrees. He said that he has reached out to a member of the Governor's advisory panel for this program. He said that this program will not be operating or fully functional until spring of 2018 at the earliest. He does not support a 6 month moratorium because he thinks we need more time and we will be back here in 6 months asking for another moratorium. If it is the intent of Council to tread carefully here he thinks 12 months will be more than enough. He said that we have to factor in that at the federal level there has been a change in the presidency and the cabinet is not yet all in place and there is a potential that there could be a change at the federal level regarding enforcement. He said that this is currently against federal law and is a schedule one drug. He said that he has previously stated that he is not in favor of medical marijuana but if the intent of this Council is to make an informed decision he thinks that 12 months will be more than enough. He said that he thinks it is bad precedence if we come back in 6 months and ask for another moratorium. He said that a 12 month moratorium would expire in March 2018 and he felt that it would be plenty of time to make a decision about what we are going to do. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that he disagrees with Mr. Langshaw. He said that taking the longer stand is not practical based on all of the information he has seen. He felt any decisions by the new federal government would happen quickly and would not take a year to make a decision on this matter. Mr. Antoskiewicz felt that a moratorium should be enacted for the amount of time that is felt to be sufficient to deal with a subject and all of the information. He said that if for some reason the state does not come through on their time frame, then we can look at it once again and make a decision at that time based on the information available. Mr. Nickell agreed with Mr. Antoskiewicz. He said we are talking about medical marijuana, not recreational marijuana. He said there is plenty of research that shows that medical marijuana helps people with severe illnesses, seizures and rare conditions. He said we are not talking about marijuana you buy on the street, we are not talking about selling this to our children, we are not talking about selling this to anyone under the age of 18. He said that there is a divide between what is federal law and what is state law but we haven't gone there yet and we need time to figure this out. Mr. Kasaris said that we are also not talking someone walking down State Road smoking a joint. The medical marijuana enactment would not permit smoking of marijuana; it can be ingested but you can't smoke it. Mr. Langshaw said that residents want the city to spend their time on other sources of economic development. He said that minors can get medical marijuana with parental consent. Mr. Nickell said that it would be dispensed via prescription. He said he saw a story on the news about a 4 year old child who had 34 seizures per day and the family was out of options. The parents moved to Colorado where medical marijuana was legal and the young girl's seizures were reduced to 3-4 per day. He said that he is looking at the medical side. As a city, we have agricultural land and he wants to be open minded to this issue and not to fear monger just to get his name in the paper. Mrs. Hannan agreed with what Mr. Nickell has said and she believes that there are people for whom this is

their only hope or chance. She said that she is in favor of deferring this and see what comes out of Columbus on this issue. Mr. Kasaris asked if she was in favor of the 6 month extension or 12 months. Mrs. Hannan said that she is in favor of the 6 month extension as written. Mr. Antoskiewicz said that we are not here to debate medical vs. recreational marijuana. This is not and has never been the issue. The issue is strictly that the state has said that we are allowed to have medical marijuana. We need to decide if we want to be able to grow it and dispense it here in North Royalton. We are not here to debate whether it is good or bad. He said that he does not like cigarettes, but they are legal and sold in every store whether he likes it or not. Mr. Langshaw believes in doing the 12 month extension. He used oil and gas wells as an example of things that the state recommends but are not beneficial and it would be prudent to take a more cautionary approach.

Moved by Mr. Marnecheck, seconded by Mr. Kasaris to **recommend approval of Ordinance 17-18 as written.**
Yeas: Two (Marnecheck, Kasaris). Nays: One (Langshaw). **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Marnecheck to **adjourn the February 7, 2017 special meeting.**
Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.