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**OXFORD VILLAGE COUNCIL
PLANNING COMMISSION
SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
RECREATIONAL MARIHUANA**

22 West Burdick Street
Oxford, MI 48371
Council Chambers

May 20, 2019

7:30-8:30 p.m.

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*Village Council Members: David Bailey, Maureen Helmuth, Joe Frost, Allison Kemp, Kate Logan
Planning Commissioners: Justin Ballard, Rose Bejma, Kelsey Cooke, Jack Curtis, Gary Douglas,
Maureen Helmuth, Leslie Pielack.*

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- 1.) **CALL TO ORDER:** President Joe Frost called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
 - 2.) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** With Moment of Silence.
 - 3.) **COUNCIL ROLL CALL Attendance:** Bailey, Helmuth, Kemp, Frost. Login arrived at 7:06 p.m.
 - 4.) **PLANNING COMMISSION ROLL CALL Attendance:** Ballard, Bejma, Cooke, Curtis, Douglas, Helmuth, Pielack.

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Also present: Attorney Robert Davis, Village Manager Joseph Madore, Planner Mario Ortega, Clerk/Treasurer/Recording Secretary Tere Onica, Police Chief Mike Solwold.

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5.) INTRODUCTIONS:

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Chris Johnson, the attorney for the Michigan Municipal League, Village Attorney Robert Davis and Village Planner Mario Ortega gave a review of the Recreational Marihuana Law, the problems/challenges for local government complying with State regulations yet to be implemented and the unknowns. The Public Hearing is for the purpose of getting public input on marihuana establishments operating within the Village limits by way of an informal public forum.

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6.) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

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MOTION: by Helmuth/Bailey to approve the agenda as presented to the Village Council. All in favor. Motion carried.

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MOTION: by Helmuth/Pielack to approve the agenda as presented to the Planning Commission. All in favor. Motion carried.

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Attorney Davis outlined the current position of the Village Council. Council members voted in a joint meeting with the Village Planning Commission held on April 16, 2019 to set in place a moratorium for a six (6) month period with the option to renew for an additional six month period, to decide and set policy for what type of Marihuana establishments will be allowed, where they will be located and what the hours of operation will be. The first set of State regulations are expected to be released in early June. The anticipation is the State will begin taking new business applications for the Recreational Marihuana industry by September 2019. This will not allow the Planning Commission and Council enough time to develop a comprehensive ordinance to addresses time, place and manner for Recreational Marihuana establishments in the Village of Oxford. The attorney strongly suggested an ordinance to prohibit be adopted by council to allow the for a more reasonable timeframe to produce zoning and operating guidelines, protecting the Village from industry lawsuits against the village while policy is established, areas are identified, and ordinance language is drafted.

44 Planner Ortega commented on the need to draft language for zoning regulations. Recreational
45 Marihuana has been mandated by statute and regulated by the State. Location, Special Use, Hours of
46 Operation, Separation of Entities, Application Procedures and many other details need to be
47 considered by local municipalities that want to allow Recreational Marihuana establishments to
48 operate in the community.

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50 Chris Johnson commented that the statute for Recreational Marihuana is different from the Medical
51 Marihuana statute. Medical Marihuana took about 8-years to resolve issues after being voted in.
52 The system to accept applications for Recreational Marihuana is not expected to be available until
53 around September 1, 2019. Any community that wants to regulate must have an ordinance in place
54 by that time. He reviewed the six (6) different licensing types stating there are several unknowns;
55 some aspects are not very well defined.

56 57 **7.) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

58 The purpose of the Public Hearing/Forum was to hear from the public. The following individuals
59 spoke:

60 *Gary Douglas*, Planning Commission chairperson asked procedural questions. The PC agreed to
61 accept a one-year moratorium. The timeline is now a concern under the present circumstances where
62 something would have to be in place by September. Mr. Douglas asked council to reconsider the
63 strategy of a moratorium in favor of an ordinance to prohibit to allow for proper discourse in crafting
64 a comprehensive ordinance.

65 *Andy Reed*-Questioned the benefits and types of people the industry would attract. He asked about
66 the disposal of by-products and air quality. There is wisdom in waiting to see how it works for other
67 communities. It will be a couple of years before the village sees any financial benefit and the amount
68 of benefit is questionable and not guaranteed.

69 *Vince Ziken, 36110 Lakeville Rd.*- Recently moved to the area from Colorado and worked in the
70 marihuana industry. Vince is looking for work and thinks this would be a great opportunity for him
71 to make money.

72 *Brandon Barber, 632 Thornhill*- Thinks it would be beneficial based on supply and demand and
73 would like to take advantage of it.

74 *Joan Reed*-Retired from school district now working in the medical field. The village will not be
75 able to control who comes into the community. Marihuana is classified as a drug. People will come a
76 long way to purchase it and will not so much be a supply for our own community. The people who
77 have a vested interest live in our community and will be impacted in a negative way. Marihuana does
78 not have a positive influence on children under 18 years old. We are responsible for our children.

79 *Brian Cloutier*- Library director. The village is putting the cart before the horse. Had other
80 downtown merchants been polled?

81 *Kate Logan, 10 Crawford*- The village needs to fight the stigma of a new generation. People have
82 been smoking (marihuana) since the beginning of time. It is now legal. Let's find a place for it.
83 Revenue is predicted to be 262 million dollars in 2023. What would it look like here if done
84 responsibly? The village hasn't cleaned up the dingy liquor stores. It is wrong to assume the type of
85 people that will come to our community will be of low character, break into and rob stores, hang out
86 and smoke.

87 *Lynn Dillion- 51 W. Burdick*-Council cannot control the dingy liquor stores it already has in

88 response to Logan's comments.

89 *Jack Curtis*-Planning commissioner, township resident- The question is not having anything in
90 place. The State has control. If we have a prohibitive ordinance, we will be able to control time,
91 place and manner.

92 *Helmuth*, Dayton St.-If marihuana is legal, we should allow.

93 *Angela Profant 4 Park St.*- asked about limits on number and types allowed and does it belong in
94 Oxford?

95 *Allison Kemp*, Burdick St. – Asked about zoning options.

96 *Justin Ballard, PC 61 Pontiac*- Commented on moratorium and the emerging June 1st deadline
97 and September 1st application deadline.

98 *Joe Madore*, Village Manager- With upcoming deadlines, is there enough time to have an
99 ordinance ready? Does a moratorium buy us enough time?

100 *Connie Ogg 40 Burdick Woods*-Compelled to do our due diligence. Retail store fronts on Main
101 Street.

102 *Kelsey Cooke*, Burdick St.-Reconsider moratorium and opt out. It is safest legally. This is a
103 complex ordinance and the first of its kind. Village Council needs to get with PC regarding next
104 steps. The goal is due diligence and doing what is best.

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106 **8.) ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business to discuss meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

107 **MOTION:** by Village Council members Helmuth/Frost to adjourn. All in favor. Motion Carried.

108 **MOTION:** by Planning Commissioners Douglas/Helmuth to also adjourn at 8:35 p.m. All in
109 favor. Motion carried.

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113 Respectfully Submitted,

114 Teresa L. Onica, Recording Secretary

President, Joe Frost