

**MINUTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF NOVEMBER 5, 2018**

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, and Claudette Reid joined via the conference phone line. Mayor Patricia Randall and Councilmember Terry Urban were absent with excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Laurence Shaffer, Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis and Deputy City Clerk Erica Eklov.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson opened the meeting and inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding items on the proposed November 6th Regular Meeting Agenda.

With regard to Item A.3, Prohibiting Marihuana Establishments – Other than Medical Marihuana, Councilmember Burns asked for clarification regarding how the proposed ordinance prohibiting recreational marihuana will function, should the November 6th General Election ballot proposal regarding marihuana pass. He wanted to confirm that the proposed ordinance simply provides the city with time to wait and see what the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) says about administering the potentially new state guidelines. In the interim, Portage will not allow any new recreational facilities until LARA publishes its official rules. Then, the city will have the ability to make its own ordinances regarding recreational marihuana.

City Manager Shaffer responded in affirmation, that the proposed ordinance is viewed as transitory in nature. He relayed that the city hopes to have the opportunity to: 1) gauge how Portage voters feel about recreational marihuana at the polls on November 6th; 2) determine what the state's potentially new rules and regulations will be; and finally, 3) allow the City Administration the ability to produce a follow-up report at a later date as provided for in the proposed ordinance. City Manager Shaffer further noted that the City Administration had considered implementing a sunset clause while drafting the proposed ordinance, but did not pursue due to concerns with stringency. City Manager Shaffer ultimately noted that the proposed ordinance provides the city time to proceed unimpeded while the statewide position is clarified.

Councilmember Burns also asked to confirm that the proposed ordinance will not affect the city's existing Medical Marihuana ordinance which the City Manager confirmed.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson relayed his prior comment to the City Manager that, should the November 6th ballot proposal pass, the language allows homeowners to grow up to 12 plants. He noted that this is separate from opening a recreational marihuana store and should be examined.

ADJOURNMENT: As there were no additional questions on the November 6, 2018 Agenda, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson adjourned the meeting at 8:03 a.m.

Erica L. Eklov, Deputy City Clerk