



**IRONWOOD**  
MICHIGAN | *Find Your North*

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE IRONWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION**  
Thursday, February 13, 2020

---

A Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission was held on Thursday, February 13, 2020 in the Women's Club Room, Second Floor of the Municipal Memorial Building in the City of Ironwood, Michigan.

1. Call to Order: CD Director Bergman called the meeting to Order at 5:00 p.m.
2. Recording of the Roll:

MEMBER	PRESENT		EXCUSED	NOT EXCUSED
	YES	NO		
Mark Surprenant		X	X	
Bob Burchell	X			
Vacant				
Sam Davey	X			
David Andresen	X			
Nancy Korpela	X			
Joe Cayer ex-officio, non-voting member	X			
Mark Silver		X	X	
	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Quorum</b>	

Also present: Community Development Director Tom Bergman and Community Development Specialist Tim Erickson.

3. Approval of the January 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes:

**Motion by Burchell to approve the January 2, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Second by Korpela. Motion Carried 4 to 0.**

4. Approval of the Agenda:

**Motion by Burchell to approve the Agenda. Second by Korpela. Motion Carried 4 to 0.**

5. Citizens wishing to address the Commission regarding Items on the Agenda (three-minute limit): None.
6. Citizens wishing to address the Commission regarding Items not on the Agenda (three-minute limit): None.
7. Public Hearing on "City of Ironwood Regulation of Adult-Use Marihuana Establishment Ordinance".
  - A. Chair Davey addressed the public on rules for the hearing.

Director Bergman addressed the public and discussed the process. Bergman presented 3 new 100 foot buffer zones surrounding the Ironwood Carnegie Library, a behavioral health location, and a recovery center.

Dennis Anderson Hemlock Street. Dennis stated that he 100 feet is inadequate and asked a question about firearms at marijuana locations. He questioned the need for 12 plants at each resident versus 6 plants and talked about other states how they compare to Michigan. He suggested that edibles should not be sold because kids can easily eat.

Caitlyn Tolstad 221 S. Curry St. She talked about the concerns with large operations and hoped that the City focused on harder drugs. She would like the money being appropriated to the City to help fund infrastructure.

Josh Traczyk Negaunee. He addressed some items from the previous City Commission workshop. He talked about some banks being open to accepting money. He stated that child proof packaging is on edibles that his company sells.

Dennis Anderson addressed the Commission and said that the growing operations should be in the Township.

Brandon McThoon Erwin Township. He is in strong favor of passing the ordinance. He was concerned with the shortage of licenses available. He said that the medical marijuana would be more likely to get out of the neighborhoods if more commercial licenses were available.

Arlene Szot Ironwood. She is concerned that many of the downtown improvements will be hampered by marijuana activity in the community. She doesn't believe that marijuana businesses are compatible with downtown Ironwood.

Rich Duncanson Bessemer. He talked about having to move here from Minnesota to have to move to Michigan because of medical marijuana. He also talked about the farmers market that he helped to start.

Chandra Marino 216 E. Aurora. She talked about the hard work to pull together to write the ordinance.

Mickey Valey Cloverland Dr. He talked about senior citizens as a larger market today. He talked about cannabis tourism as an option.

Marcus Ernestman Bessemer. He talked about a concern with only allowing single story buildings.

Ben Tompson 414 Silver St. He thought that the ordinance was good, but thought that allowing a couple more micro businesses. He was concerned with the single story requirement as well.

Janice Wyssling Ironwood Township. She was pleasantly surprised with the current zoning ordinance. She thought that Ironwood needs rules and regulations.

Mark 1300 E. Cloverland. He talked about a lot of issues with many employees related to drugs outside of marijuana. He said that there is economic opportunity with it.

Mark Belmas 1300 E. Cloverland. He thought that selling marijuana and providing an economic activity will bring in more money.

Dennis Anderson addressed the Commission again and asked if Bessemer should opt-in. He thought that it would hurt businesses and said that you can't give marijuana to a child.

Arlene Szot addressed the Commission and thought that we might not want to opt in because the City of Ironwood neighbors have opted out. She wants the City to focus on new jobs that pay more money.

Chandra addressed the Commission again and talked about the cannabis industry creating new jobs across the country.

Mark addressed the Commission again and said that marijuana consumption will happen with or without the ordinance.

8. Discuss and Consider recommendation to City Commission to adopt "City of Ironwood Regulation of Adult-Use Marijuana Establishment Ordinance".
  - A. The Commission discussed some options for recommendation. Bergman gave a recap of how the ordinance came to be. Burchell asked if the ordinance is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. Burchell asked if law enforcement was involved in the process.

**Motion by Korpela to recommend to the City Commission to recommend the ordinance as written if the City Commission chooses to opt in. Second by Andresen. Motion Carried 4 to 0.**

9. Other Business: Cayer asked about the next steps for the marijuana ordinance.

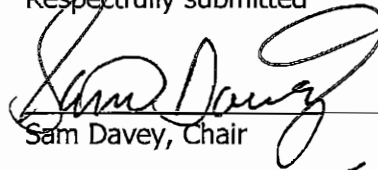
10. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 5, 2020.

11. Adjournment:

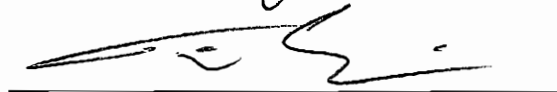
**Motion by Burchell to adjourn the meeting. Second by Korpela. Motion Carried 4 to 0.**

Adjournment at 6:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted



Sam Davey, Chair



Tim Erickson, Community Development Specialist