

September 13, 2021

Mayor Wishart opened the regular meeting of the Gaylord City Council with a prayer by Council Member Awrey at 7:00pm on Monday, September 13, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 305 East Main Street, Gaylord, Michigan.

Members Present: Mayor Wishart, Sharrard, Hartz, Ouellette, Awrey, and Witt.

Members Absent: Sides.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Witt to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the August 23, 2021 meeting and accept them as presented.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Awrey, supported by Ouellette to accept the notice of resignation from Councilmember Sides.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Gage Philippy, Eagle Scout, thanked the council for greenlighting his Covid project. He stated that he would like to invite one member of council to the unveiling of his project on October 9, 2021 at 7:00PM.

Jack Turner, Petoskey, MI, spoke about RIZE. The conflict between the RIZE and RISE coalition wasn't something they had any idea about until after they submitted for a license. He believes both are marketing to two different groups of people. RIZE is targeted to 21 years of age and older for marihuana and RISE markets to school age groups. He feels that the children will not misunderstand or be confused between the two. RIZE has satisfied the requirements and has met all the condition in the marihuana ordinance.

Ellen Templeton, project coordinator for RISE stated that the coalition began in 2018. The mission of this coalition is to prevent youth substance use, increase community awareness, and create change through collaboration, education, and prevention initiatives. They have partnered with RiteAid and Family Fare providing lock boxes to keep drugs secure and away from children. The prevention work they provide is important and necessary. She stated that renaming and rebranding would be costly. RIZE offered a donation to RISE to help pay for a change in their name, but the donation could not be accepted. She asked council to consider the planning commission recommendation to have "RIZE" change their name.

Rosemary Davis, 3178 McCoy Rd., stated that the logos for RISE and RIZE are totally different. She wanted to make clear that the donation offered was from family/personal not the business. Donations they make are personal.

Motion by Hartz, supported by Witt to approve the contract modification to the Dickerson Road Project.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Sharrard to refer the policy for sidewalk sales to the DDA to establish guidelines.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Hartz, supported by Witt to approve the Future Planning Committee's recommendation to complete the widening of Maple and 5th Streets from 4th street to the entrance of the middle school, delaying work needed to be completed on Clover and Random Lane to 2023/2024.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Sharrard, supported by Witt to approve the Block Party Street Closure Application.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witt, supported by Ouellette to approve the Social District Application for Moore Hospitality.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Hartz, supported by Ouellette to approve the application for marihuana establishment for Pincanna.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witt, supported by Ouellette to approve the application for marihuana establishment for The Cherry Pitt.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witt, supported by Hartz to approve the application for marihuana establishment for Great Lakes Exotics (820 W. Main Street).

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witt, supported by Ouellette to approve the application for marihuana establishment for Great Lakes Exotics (2625 S. Otsego Avenue).

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Hartz, supported by Awrey to approve the application for marihuana establishment for Dunegrass.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Awrey, supported by Witt to approve the application for marihuana establishment for Highwire Farms.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witt, supported by Ouellette to approve the site plan/special use permit for Oak Flint (Bostic) at 710 Edelweiss Village Parkway, with the following conditions set forth by the planning commission: (1) the existing Knox box stays in place.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Hartz to approve the site plan/special use permit for The Wellflower at 2455 S. Otsego Avenue, with the following conditions set forth by the planning commission: (1) include copy of the access agreement and (2) fence remains in place.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Witt to approve the site plan/special use permit for Great Lakes Exotics at 2625 S. Otego Avenue, subject to submitting a variance for metal siding.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witt, supported by Sharrard to approve the site plan/special use permit for RIZE at 1354 W. Main Street with the following conditions set forth by the planning commission: (1) participate in the Knox box program with the fire chief and (2) operate under an assumed name.

Discussion by council: City attorney advised conditions are discretionary and can be imposed so long as they are related to health, safety, and welfare of the community as a whole. Condition recommended is not a name change for state-wide business, only operating under an assumed name in this community. Ouelette: expressed concern that children may confuse "Rize" with the existing non-profit substance abuse education organization "Rise." Sharrard: experience where a child was confused by "green crosses" as being doctors' offices; children do not understand like adults. Witt: that other establishments are operating under assumed names. More prejudicial to make existing non-profit rebrand than require assumed name for new private business. Many customers use Internet and apps to locate the business. Wishart: Planning commission heard discussion and gave serious consideration, they recommended condition.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Hartz, supported by Awrey to approve the site plan/special use permit for Skymint at 737 W. Main Street with the following conditions set forth by the planning commission: (1) legal description updated to match survey.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Awrey to approve the site plan/special use permit for Golden Rockies at 115 S. Wisconsin with the following conditions set forth by the planning commission: (1) participate in the Knox box program with the fire chief (2) apply for and obtain a variance on the property line setback requirements (3) tint any and all windows that would allow visual access to building (4) submit safety and security plan and (5) maintain fences to ensure public access between buildings is not permitted.

Motion by Hartz, supported by Witt to approve the September expenditures in the amount of: \$521,312.01.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

No other business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Jennifer Molski, City Clerk

William Wishart, Mayor

Unapproved Minutes