

Village of Howard City
Council Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2018

President Heckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Smith, Williams, Hacko, Bassett, Hagstrom, MacTavish, and Heckman. Absent: None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Motion by Williams seconded by Hacko to approve the agenda with the addition of five bills to be added to the treasurer's report totaling \$12,041.20. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by Hacko seconded by Bassett to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Public Comment: No public comment.

Motion by MacTavish seconded by Williams to go into the public hearing for the Zoning Board of Appeals special land use for a solar farm by Cypress Creek Renewables at 7:03 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Public Comment:

A representative of Bruce Marcusse expressed Mr. Marcusse's concerns regarding the solar farm and how the property was going to be handled as far as keeping the habitat and whether there was going to be a lot of traffic once the farm was erected. Mr. Falcon assured Mr. Marcusse's representative that Cypress Creek will be planting natural vegetation that goes with our demographic. Additionally, Cypress Creek intends to keep a natural barrier between the solar farm and the surrounding properties.

Question was asked what a solar farm is and where it will be located. A solar farm collects energy from the sun through solar panels, stores the energy and then sells this energy back to the electric companies. This farm will be located on Hazel Street.

Motion by Smith seconded by Bassett to close the public hearing at 7:11. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by Bassett seconded by MacTavish to accept the special land use permit for the solar farm Cypress Creek Renewables. Roll call vote: Bassett – yea; Hacko – yea; Hagstrom – yea; MacTavish – yea; Smith – yea; Williams – yea; Heckman – yea. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Mike Mattzela from Fleis and VandenBrink presented the Council with a project schedule for the CDBG grant. Motion by Williams seconded by MacTavish to allow Mr. Falcon to go ahead with authorization to work with Fleis & VandenBrink for the CDBG grant project. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by Smith seconded by Bassett to go into the public hearing for the Planning Commission Medical Marijuana Ordinance at 7:17 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Public Comment:

John Kroneck brought a handout regarding the cons of medical marijuana and the impact to children and provided his personal concerns regarding marijuana in the community.

Medical marijuana supporter presented information regarding the pros of medical marijuana along with economic benefits regarding full-time jobs that will be brought to the Village. He also shared his personal belief in the medical benefits.

Paul Kellogg asked who would regulate the medical marijuana. Mr. Falcon stated that the ordinance that we produced gives the Village the right to monitor the facility along with State regulators who would be inspecting with and without notice.

Joe Titleman, a reporter for the Lakeview Area News, expressed his concerns regarding having a facility and also shared his personal story explaining his support against a facility.

Noreen Gondre stated she agreed to wait to make a decision until after the vote in November.

Motion by Hacko seconded by Bassett to close the public hearing at 7:34 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Mr. Falcon commented that the Council has been discussing medical marijuana for 7-8 months. He outlined many of the topics that have been discussed previously. There are still many unknowns as to what could happen if recreational marijuana is legalized in the November vote, but emphasized that the ordinance before them wasn't about recreational usage.

Motion by Hagstrom seconded by Hacko to deny the 2018-6 and 2018-7 Medical Marijuana Regulatory Licensing and Zoning Ordinance. Roll call vote: Bassett – nay; Hacko – yea; Hagstrom – yea; MacTavish – nay; Smith – yea; Williams – nay; Heckman – yea. Motion CARRIED (4-3)

Motion by Bassett seconded by Smith to pay bills with the addition of the five bills presented by the treasurer totaling \$74,184.07. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by MacTavish seconded by Hacko to accept the bid from Powell's Excavating to perform the infrastructure work on Henkel for incoming businesses. Motion CARRIED (6-0) Heckman abstained.

Motion by Smith seconded by Bassett to accept The Right Place administrator bid for the CDBG grant process. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by Hacko seconded by Bassett to post one parking spot in front of the Pizza Café to designate as 15 minute parking only. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Council would like Mr. Falcon to go ahead with Hometown Decorations to get better Christmas decorations for the Village this year.

Mr. Falcon thanked the Harvest Festival Committee for all their hard work with the pageant and Harvest Festival and stated the event was a success. He heard lots of positive comments.

Public Comment: John Kroneck thanked the Council for erring on the side of caution regarding the medical marijuana facility.

Paul Kellogg also thanked the Council for not passing the ordinances as well.

Motion by Hacko seconded by Bassett to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Melissa Kuzmik, Clerk

Randy Heckman, President