

The City of Martinsville, Illinois held a public hearing on April 12, 2023 at 6:00pm in regards to repealing Chapter 815 of the City Ordinance entitled "Cannabis Business Establishment Prohibited." The following Alderpersons were in attendance: Chris Davidson, Chris Perry, Melinda Lovell, Troy Propst, Jacob Hammond, and Ashley Wilhoit. Also in attendance were Mayor Herman Davidson, Clerk Jana Spires, Treasurer Terri Connelly, and Attorney Richard Bernardoni. Full list of attendees is attached to minutes.

Mayor Herman Davidson called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Bob Lovell asked the first question to the council and stated that two years ago when this was brought up that it was a nuisance, he wanted to know what had changed that it is no longer a nuisance?

Mayor Davidson stated that when this originally came up they were under the impression it would be grown here and not clean, that is not the case after being educated on it. It is regulated by the state.

Bob Lovell said that doesn't recall that his is worth putting a price on our families and being out our backdoor, poor people, homeless, jobless, are the biggest consumers. The low-income people can't afford it and will go to the streets to get it. He said that he feels it is a bad idea and there is other ways to generate revenue for our city. He wanted to know what happened to make the revenue worth it?

Chris Davidson stated that two years he was ignorant on it. He goes through Charleston and sees that there aren't the ones in the junky cars at the facility like he thought, it's the ones in the luxury vehicles and knows it's not the poor that will use it. He has asked around and Drs. are telling them to use it as a treatment suggestion.

Bob Lovell stated that he has done the research and it affects the kids under the age of 23 the most. The shops will sell THC levels of about 90% and people below age 25 will become addicted.

Melinda stated that they are wanting people to get hooked to it and when will it end, alcohol is that same way.

Bob Lovell stated if we knew now what we knew then about cigarettes would we have allowed them, probably not.

Troy Propst asked if the ordinance could be medical only, but then it would bring people.

Terri Connelly stated that if it was voted for, what message is the council sending, saying its okay to use it and is it really worth the money, its marijuana, what's the next step.

It was also stated that addiction is going to happen anyway.

Bob Lovell-is it really good or is it about the money?

C Davidson- said that his opinion would have been different two years ago if he wasn't ignorant on it.

--It was asked if someone overdosed who was responsible.

--this would only be to regulate recreational use- can't prohibit medical.

--Bob Jenkins mentioned when a toy donation was being done that when some places opened the door the smell of marijuana hit them in the face. It is taking money away from the families that don't need the money taken away from them. It would take the city down the wrong road.

--Jordan Wilhoit mentioned thinking of it as you are running a business, on the business aspect it makes more sense, its not a family aspect, that should be dealt with in the home.

--B Lovell stated it shouldn't be a moral thing, you don't want it in your home, don't do it.

--T Connelly stated that she believes in going to church on Sunday, and believes this is wrong, Gods saying it is wrong, then its wrong.

--M Lovell asked again about what message we were sending to the kids

--J Wilhoit stated that its not giving kids access to it, you have to be legal age of 21 to go in there, its not about the kids, its about morals and a lot don't care.

--C Davidson said a lot of people don't care if its brough to town, he spoke to them about it

--A Wilhoit stated that people are still going to do to whether it's here or not and it doesn't matter what we do the kids are still going to do it anyway and you just have to raise your kids to be the best kids possible and they have the opportunity to get it elsewhere is they wanted it.

--B Lovell/B Jenkins stated we should be an enabler.

--It was stated that emergency visits have gone up because of it being legal and the medics can't do anything because of the laws and its doing nothing but brining chaos but it's a bad deal. They are seeing more and more psychosis in young people.

--Public Meeting was closed at 6:50pm

City Clerk
Jana Spires