

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS  
WORKSHOP/SPECIAL MEETING  
November 25, 2019**

President Johnson called the Workshop/Special Meeting of the Cassopolis Village Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Council Members Present: Yoder, Parsons, Conner, Johnson, Williams and Wagner

Council Members Absent: Sims

Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

**Presentation to Miss Cassopolis Court**

**Consent Agenda:** Parsons motioned, seconded by Conner to approve the following consent agenda as presented:

- a. Regular Meeting Minutes – October 14, 2019 as amended
- b. Workshop/Special Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2019 as amended
- c. Approval of Invoices - \$391,962.13

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Parsons, Conner, Johnson and Wagner

Nays: Williams and Yoder

Abstain:

Absent: Sims

**Motion Carried.**

**Public Comment on Agenda Items:**

Victor Fitz spoke on the handout he provided regarding marijuana facilities going on the ballot. He believes the majority does not want to see medical/recreational marijuana in this community. He urged the Council to vote no on this topic.

Justin Smith spoke on medical marijuana and he believes that the community wants this and having a facility allows for more restriction from children having access to it and provides safer ways for adults to get it.

**Department Reports:**

Clerk: See report.

Treasurer: See report.

Police/Code Enforcement: See report.

Building Inspector: See report.

Electrical Inspector: See report.

Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector: See report.

DPW Superintendent: See report.

Manager: See report.

Reports accepted as presented.

Council and staff discussed:

- DPW staffing

---

Workshop/Special Minutes

November 25, 2019

1 | Page

- AEP power outage on Broadway to work on street lights.
- Showings of Village Hall
- Liquor license opportunities for downtown businesses

**Old Business:**

A. Medical Marijuana (See Attachment 9): Parsons motioned, seconded by Conner to approve the following:

1. Ordinance No. 258; An Ordinance to amend the Village of Cassopolis Michigan Code of Ordinances by adding Article XIX, Medical Marihuana Facilities.
2. Ordinance No. 259; Amending the Village of Cassopolis Zoning Ordinance;
  - Article I Authority
  - Article II Administration and Enforcement
  - Article IV R-1 Single Family Residential
  - Article V R-2 Single Family and Two-Family District
  - Article IX C-2 General Commercial District
  - Article X C-3 Central Business District
  - Article XIV I-2 Manufacturing District
  - Article XVI Supplemental Regulations
  - Article XVII Developmental Regulations
  - Article VIII Signs
3. Resolution 2019-17; Resolution to establish non-refundable application fees for medical marihuana facility operating permit.
4. Process for a Village of Cassopolis Medical Marihuana Facility Permit  
Yoder informed Council that Planning Commission had no recommendation as there was not an agreement on Ordinance 259 but have previously approved Ordinance 258.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Conner, Johnson, Wagner and Parsons  
 Nays: Williams and Yoder  
 Abstain:  
 Absent: Sims

**Motion Carried.**

**New Business**

A. Village Manager Evaluation (See Attachment 10): Parsons motioned, seconded by Wagner to approve a 3% raise retroactive to Managers anniversary date in September. Williams addressed the budget and his concerns regarding the bonding payments and increases for employees.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Johnson, Williams, Wagner, Parsons and Conner  
 Nays: Yoder  
 Abstain:  
 Absent: Sims

**Motion Carried.**

B. 5/3 Bank (See Attachment 11): Parsons motioned, seconded by Conner to approve opening general checking and savings accounts with Fifth Third Bank utilizing the following signors on the accounts: Tonia Betty, Jacqueline Collins, David L. Johnson, and Frank Williams, Jr.

**Roll Call Vote:**

Ayes: Parsons Conner and Johnson,  
 Nays: Williams, Wagner and Yoder

Abstain:  
Absent: Sims  
**Motion Failed.**

**Miscellaneous Council Concerns/Items:**

Johnson discussed the court hearing concerning the dual role of Trustee Conner. Judge Dobrich is dismissing the case without prejudice. Prosecutor Fitz can come back and express why the attorney general's opinion is not applicable. Johnson also addressed the Trustees that had a private meeting with the Prosecutor after the hearing. They were informed it looks inappropriate and if it was related to Village business, the meeting should have included the Village Manager or the Village President.

Williams explained that the Prosecutor just explained what the next steps are.

Yoder expressed she believes no one has a problem with Conner as a Trustee, but she believes that he should not have been able to run for the position since he is an employee.

Conner asked why we're discussing the issue of having a dual role if Council already voted and the Judge said it was ok. He would like them to drop the issue so he can do his job. He expressed concern over members wanting to stop projects after spending a quarter of a million dollars but has issues with a few bills.

Johnson believes the dual role remains an issue with other Council members due to the way Trustee Conner has voted on certain items.

**Public Comments-Non Agenda Items:**

None.

**Announcements:**

- Tree Lighting Event will be held Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at the Log Cabin from 5 pm-6:30 pm with the lighting of the tree at 6.
- Main Street Meetings are held monthly prior to Regular Council Meetings at 5:15 pm
- Next CAUA Meeting: 12/16/2019 at 7:00 pm
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> Workshop Meeting Cancelled

**Adjournment:**

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
David L. Johnson, Village President