

**Bronson City Council**  
**Work Session**  
**Minutes**

May 30, 2024

City Hall- 141 S. Matteson Street, Bronson MI 49028 Phone: (517) 369-7334  
5:00 pm

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM

**2. Roll Call**

**Council Members Present:** Councilmember Bill Rinehart, Vice Mayor Bill Earl, Mayor Matt Watkins, Councilmember Larry McConn, and Councilmember Rick Johannes

**Council Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** City Manager Brandon Mersman, City Attorney Charles Lillis, Clerk/Treasurer Tricia Rzepka and Fellowship Patrick Bird

**Public Present:** Don Reid, Sherrie Reese, and Diane Bishop

**3. Public Comments - None**

Public comments shall be limited to 3 minutes

**4. Old Business**

A. Discussion-Marijuana

City manager, Brandon Mersman brought information to the council from the last council meeting so that it could be discussed regarding marijuana. State law defaults to 1000 feet from a school however it can be lower.

Mayor Matt Watkins stated that we needed to determine the types of uses that the City Of Bronson would like regarding growing, retail, or provisioning.

It was questioned whether or not the City of Bronson has any additional property that could be utilized for this industry.

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated that there are 6 acres left in the industrial parks. There are also many vacant buildings that could be utilized. He also stated that M&M Core still uses the parking lot so they may not be willing to sell the building.

Bill Earl stated that the City of Bronson does not have to own the property for it to be available. Others may be interested in selling property if they are propositioned.

Brandon Mersman did state that south of the industrial park is zoned as residential and therefore would not work for an available area.

Council member Bill Rinehart questioned the police coverage stating that if a marijuana store is broken into in Coldwater that two officers must be present for the

response. It was stated that that is not a state law, but merely Coldwater Police Department rules.

Discussion took place as to what type of licenses would be allowed, and the consensus was that they would like to see grow or retail.

It was then brought up as to whether or not you should limit the number of grow or retail?

Mayor Matt Watkins suggested that it should not be limited, but rather go through zoning.

Councilmember Rick Johannes agreed.

Vice Mayor Bill Earl stated that he has heard that there is a potential for court issues if you were to minimize the number that would be allowed. It might be better to have zoning limit the number in regards to where they could be.

Councilmember Larry McConn questioned whether or not they would be allowed to be in residential area?

Vice Mayor Bill Earl stated that it would be up to planning and council along with zoning to determine where they would be allowed.

City Manager Brandon Mersman stated that they can limit with zoning and can also do an overlay map that would show areas that would be available.

Vice Mayor Bill Earl stated through zoning you can determine potential spaces and buildings that would be available.

Council member Larry McConn stated that he is not in favor less than a 1000 foot for distance from church and schools.

General discussion took place stating that the council would like to see an overlay as to where the schools and churches are on the maps and then see the different radiuses that would fall and allow for grow or provisioning centers. Discussion also took place for the distance from schools and churches. Additional conversations will have to take place regarding this as there was no consensus.

## B. Bronson Area Youth Program Discussion

City Manager Brandon Mersman did report to the council regarding the afterschool program stating that the school was not willing to reduce the rent. The \$3400 that has been paid by the City of Bronson would cover for the summer program and is currently in the budget for this year.

Direction was given from council members that as long as the funds were in the budget that they would like to see those funds provided to the afterschool program this year, letting them know that it would probably not be continued in the next year.

## **5. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Councilmember Bill Rinehart with support from Vice Mayor Bill Earl.

5 ayes/0 nays Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Tricia Rzepka  
City of Bronson  
Clerk/Treasurer