

**CITY OF REED CITY  
SPECIAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
TOWN HALL MEETING  
In Person and Virtual Meeting  
June 8, 2021**

Mayor Roger Meinert, called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. in the Reed City Depot, 200 N. Chestnut, Reed City, Michigan in person, and also electronically for participation via computer or phone. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag.

Present Mayor Roger Meinert. Council Members: Nate Bailey, Dan Burchett, Nicole Woodside, Trevor Guiles, Russ Nehmer arrived at 6:10 p.m. and Brad Nixon. City Manager, Ron Howell, also attended in person. City Attorney, David Porteous, attended via electronically.

There were 24 citizens in the audience.

Social District

The purpose of the joint meeting was for public comment on establishing a social district under the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Public

Comments

Lyndsey Burchett, 102 West Church, stated she is not for a social district and doesn't feel that it would bring in tourism. She would like store owners to be surveyed to get opinions and concerns. She feels like there is a lack of planning and research where it will be unsuccessful. She feels the council should look into hours, location, management, policing, finance, insurance and promotion etc. She feels council should require this document before continuing the social district project. Wants to know where funding is coming from. As a tax payers she feels she shouldn't have to pay for this out of the general fund.

Joann Flinton, 432 East Lincoln, spoke not in favor of a social district. Attended council meeting last month, never saw a bunch of people sitting on a council that had no idea and couldn't answer her questions. She says the community is being lied to and it isn't going to work. She will get petitions to stop this she has did it before and she can again. She feels we don't need this in a 2400 person community. She say it istotally uncalled for there is a law for spending tax payers' money on alcohol.

Nate Vanderhoff lives in Reed City, north of town. He is not condemning a social district as a whole but it needs much more thought, development to meet the needs of Reed City. He wants the council to tell the community how social district will address these community development: economic development, infrastructure, schools and the business development. How will if benefit these? He proposes to close the 100 downtown block from 5pm on Friday until Noon on Sunday to let all local restaurant participate with outdoor dining. Will not cost the city a dime.

Roger Meinert read from an email the City Clerk received from Sandy Duke from Hersey TWP she is on the board of the Reed City Crossroads Theatre, who is in favor of social district. She finds this intriguing. Anything to bring patrons to the City is a great idea.

Roger Meinert read: Garry Ruttle, 546 West Upon told City Clerk is not in favor of Social District.

Roger Meinert read: Louise Devendorf, 311 West Franklin, called the City Clerk and is not in favor of a social district.

Stew Thompson II, 732 Mill Street. Spoke in favor of a social district. He has attended numerous different social districts and sees nothing but good come out of it. Family, friends getting together to socialize eating food and getting together. He says the concerns that others had are addressed in the ordinances of the City of Reed City.

Brad Doornbos, Lives outside of City Limits, Rotary Club President, spoke in favor of a social district. He has passion for the City of Reed City. Trial bases if there is abundance of crime and filth and garbage then pull the plug. There is a \$250.00 application cost that Rotary Club could cover. If as a community we aren't growing we are dying. This will increase foot traffic in the city.

Jessie Kailing of 122 West Upton, business owner of Sunny's Bar and Grill, ask a question outlining a proposal for dates and times. Roger answered when they first asked the police they thought Friday and Saturday night, but extended it to Thursday and Sunday. Thursday 5- 11, Friday 5-11, Saturday Noon – 11, Sunday Noon- 5. The purpose of later is for bring outdoor movie and couldn't start until dark after 9pm. The street would only be closed off if there was an event or special event going on. The social district goes on beyond Upton.

Rich Saladin, 228 West Osceola, spoke in favor of a social district. This is a tool to provide businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to grow as a community. Rules are on the books for this if problems occur. City of Grand Rapids just opened up there Social District 54 more blocks so that shows it is growing and doing well or they wouldn't do it. This is about social interaction and growing as a community.

Jesse Kailing, lives in the city & has a business on West Upton, spoke in favor of social district. He was concerned about parking after talking with police and the mayor he feels this it is addressed and all is good. He feels like if you open up the social district people will come. He hopes it's a go and says it's the business owners responsible to police the people.

Tricia Wirth, 127 West Upton, business owner of Results Realty, and spoke for all Chamber of Commerce board members, are in favor of a social district. Feels more development needs to be made but we need to do this and get it started as soon as possible for our community to grow.

Deb Ahlich, business owner of Pere Marquette Bistro, spoke in favor of a social district. She supports this to bring people to town. The trail is such a draw to the community. She sees this as a way for the community to grow.

Tricia Wirth asked the question of the next step or how the council accepts the social district. Roger Meinert answered at there needs to be formal motion, defined date range and hours of operation. Apply for a more open schedule so the City won't have to apply again when it grows.

Deanna Murphy 141 West Upon, business owner of Reed City Brewing, spoke in favor of a social district. They have people come in looking for something to do and feels like this will be beneficial to the community.

Chris Lockhart, Chief of Police, City of Reed City, the law of social district states governing body must maintain the health & safety of the social district to prevent it becoming a public nuisance. Recommendation if the council wants to approve this, then the police can be handle Friday and Saturday 5 -10p.m. to be policed until Labor Day.

Adjourn Motion by Bailey, seconded by Woodside to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.