

Village of Russells Point
July 30, 2025
Council Special Meeting

Mayor John Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Council members Joan Hinterschied, Greg Iiams, Joan Maxwell, Steve Reid, Rebekah Smith and Dave Wallace were present. Village Administrator Spencer Mitchell was also present.

Guests: Dianne Gauder (Zoning Officer/Floodplain Administrator), AshLee Hullinger (Clerk of Court/Admin Assistant), Joe Freyhof (Chief of Police), Morgan Styles (Russells Point Police Sergeant), Randy Dodds (Logan County Sheriff Department), Joe Kopus (Logan County Sheriff Department), Chuck Wirik (Washington Township Police Department), Josh Strayer (Indian Lake EMS), Robin Reames, Al Solomon

Medical Marijuana Moratorium:

- On March 3, 2025, council passed Ordinance 25-1257 imposing a 6-month moratorium on the establishment, development and construction of any building, structure, use or change of use that would enable the cultivation, processing, or retail sale of medical marijuana and/or adult use marijuana within the village. Al Solomon, from the Department of Commerce and speaking as a Law Enforcement Liaison, presented information regarding the topic of medical and adult use marijuana. Mr. Solomon noted that most marijuana dispensaries are being ran and monitored correctly and www.com.ohio.gov/dccmap lists all legalized dispensaries and non-registered dispensaries. Mr. Solomon stated that illegal marketing events are taking place and advises that local zoning officials should use local rules to put a stop to the events because legal marijuana sales must occur within a dispensary. It was noted that there are 150+ dispensaries across Ohio, it is illegal to bring marijuana from one state to another, and it is illegal to sell products to a dispensary staff at a lower cost than to customers. Mr. Solomon continued to state that it is important to monitor advertisements and reminded all that you must be 21 years of age to sell or use marijuana. Council members discussed topics such the impact of possibly having dispensaries within the community and if the village was even an appealing location for a dispensary and how much revenue the village would receive if there was a dispensary within the corporation limits. It was noted that the sale of hemp has no regulations whereas dispensaries do have regulations. Mr. Solomon noted that there are no statistics currently available that would suggest an increase in crime and he stated that there should be no issues if a dispensary is following regulations, but dispensaries are not currently being closely monitored. The Logan County Sheriff publicly opposes legalization of marijuana dispensaries and discussed the negative impact at local schools centered around vaping. Councilor Reid discussed current tourism challenges at Indian Lake and potential negative impacts to the village if there was a dispensary. Councilor Smith noted that it is difficult to determine which locations are suitable for potential dispensaries. Robin Reames stated her opinions about previous conversations had by the village council about Ordinance 25-1257 and how farm stands, bars and other establishments are not regulated in what is sold. Dianne Gauder discussed previous inquiries made by dispensary businesses looking at the village as a possible site.

There being no further business, **motion** was made by Councilor Maxwell and seconded by Councilor Iiams to adjourn at 8:10 PM. Motion passed.

John Huffman, Mayor

Marc McGuire, Fiscal Officer

Date Passed