



# City of Norway

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*Mayor Candy Brew Council Members: Bret Kraemer, Lee Meneghini, Jeff Muraro, & Scott Popp*

## PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING LEGAL MARIHUANA



This past month the City Council held a public hearing regarding a request from the company “Higher Love” regarding their petition for the council approval to amend ordinance number 431 which outlaws the commercial sale and cultivation of marihuana in the city limits of Norway. The current ordinance follows the regulations established by the State of Michigan under the *Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act* which allows the City to prohibit marihuana establishments within its boundaries. This does not affect the medical marihuana activities or legal use activities governed by the state. The city received a request this past summer to officially revisit this ordinance and consider an amendment which would allow the legal commercial sale (storefronts) and commercial growing of recreational marijuana. Under state law, the local legislative body, city council, must pass ordinance allowing or not allowing commercial operations. The city must also amend their zoning code to stipulate which zoning districts each type of commercial activity can operate as a permitted or conditional use.

The City Council held the public hearing on September 21. Following discussion they felt that more time was needed in order to hear from the public and to perform a survey (below) in this newsletter. The survey will be accepted up to the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at which time council will hold another public hearing to review the survey results and take more public opinion. Contact city hall if you need further instruction. The meetings are currently held via zoom pursuant to the governor’s executive order so if you would like to participate please let us know and we can send you the connection information. Also this information is always available on line at the city’s web page. Again the public hearing will be conducted live via zoom on October 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Some information to consider when completing the survey:

1. The location identified by zoning for proposed legal marijuana sales will be on west US 2 west of White’s Creek (Subway) or east US 2 east of the railroad tracks.
2. The company must follow all state LARA regulations and licenses which are controlled by the state similar to the current liquor licenses and laws. Enforcement by the state, not local enforcement.
3. License fees and taxes will be collected by the City of Norway. The amount is not yet determined.
4. Higher Love has publicly stated that they plan to hire 15+ people at their store starting at \$15 per hour plus benefits.

You can view a public presentation Higher Love made to the City Council at the July 20<sup>th</sup> council meeting on the city web site [www.norwaymi.gov](http://www.norwaymi.gov). The public hearing link is on the front page and then the link to the council meeting plus other information is on this page.

In November 2018 the state of Michigan held a statewide vote on the legalization of marihuana, voters in the City of Norway voted roughly 60/40 against the initiative. City Council then approved Ordinance #431 in December 2018 to ban commercial sale immediately following the state referendum. Much of the thought at that time was that the state LARA regulations pertaining to commercial operations were not in place and most communities were waiting for LARA to complete their work and provide the necessary oversight. Today there are many communities across the state and including in the UP that have now approved moving forward so based on that premise, the City Council felt it appropriate to revisit this issue especially considering the request from Higher Love. Council also wants to make sure that they receive as much feedback as possible from our residents to see if sentiments are changed or remain unchanged regarding allowing legal commercial marihuana establishments in the City of Norway. Please take the following simple survey and return to the City Hall or go to the city’s web page at [www.norwaymi.gov](http://www.norwaymi.gov) and see the public hearing link for more information.

**Do you think that the city should allow Commercial Marihuana Establishments in the City of Norway pursuant to the Michigan Regulatory and Taxation of Marihuana Act?**

YES  NO

*Cut out and return to City Hall*



***This is an advisory survey (Not Binding) for the Norway City Council.***





## 2020 Local Road Projects

Bacco Construction will be in town in October performing some local street projects. The project will consist of repaving a number of streets as follows:



- ◆ Main St. from Railroad Ave. to 16<sup>th</sup> Ave.                      \* 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. from Main St. to 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.
- ◆ Summit Rd. from Swede Lane to Valley View Dr.           \* Keweenaw St
- ◆ Pearney Ln. from end of last project, north to Boundary Line Rd.
- ◆ Curry Rd. from end of last project to Norway Mountain Rd.
- ◆ Walnut St. from US 2 to 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. and from 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Chestnut St.

The project will start at the beginning of October and run through the end of October. The contractor will mobilize and grind up the asphalt first then come back and pave. We do not have a specific date for any one of the locations so we will try and keep track on a day by day basis and notify what we can on channel 7 and at city hall.

Every fall the city comes by and does a leaf pick-up from the boulevards. The City **DOES NOT** pick up brush. Please continue to take your brush to the compost site located near the golf course on Oak Crest Drive. The City will be picking up leaves that are piled on the Boulevard. Tentative start date will be October 26<sup>th</sup> and run approximately two weeks. **Please DO NOT rake the leaves into the street. Per City ordinance #410, No person shall sweep or cause to be swept any dirt or litter of any kind or type whatsoever out of or off of any building or private property and into any public, sidewalk, parkway, alley or roadway of the city.** With leaves dropping in October, you may need to take them to the compost site.



## Halloween



There have been many questions coming into city hall this year regarding Halloween in light of the current covid restrictions. As many communities struggle with this same issue, city halls across the state have been asked whether they will cancel. As we discussed this issue it was consistent that Halloween is not a activity that the city can cancel. What we decided was that this is an activity that will be up to the individual families. On the one hand if you are not comfortable having people come to your door then turn your light off and not participate. On the other hand if you are taking your children out trick-or-treating then please do not go to the houses that are dark. The city does recommend to participate during the traditional hours of 4 pm to 7 pm but this year please all wear the appropriate masks and to keep social distancing. Check out the City of Norway's web page to find additional information from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Participate but do your part to keep Norway Covid safe.



## Leif Erickson

Due to the covid situation in 2020 it is not possible to hold the traditional Leif Erikson event this year. Hopefully we can come back strong and safe to have the event once again in 2021. Those dates will be October 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. We are planning to have a dedication ceremony at 1 pm on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> to announce the new name for pocket park, see our new statue, and dedicate our new Veteran's Park. If you decide to come out please follow proper covid protocol with masks and distancing..

**Don't forget to VOTE**  
**November 3rd**

*Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm. Absentee Ballots are available at City Hall.*  
*Please contact City Clerk, Trisha Plante at 906-563-9961 Ext. 204 with questions.*



**NOTICE....City Parking Ban is in effect as of November 1st.**



No parking on street from 3am to 7am.  
If you are parked on the road and it freezes or snows and the plow/salt trucks need to get out, **YOU WILL BE TICKETED, NO WARNINGS WILL BE ISSUED!**  
*Tickets will be issued with the first sign of inclement weather!*

**Set your clocks back**  
**November 1st**

