



Lowell City Council

Cannabis Control SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: August 9, 2022
Time: 5:30 PM
Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack St./Zoom (Hybrid)

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were C. Drinkwater, C. Leahy and C. Robinson (ZOOM). Also present Conor Baldwin (CFO), C. Nuon, C. Scott, C. Mercier and Christine McCall (DPD).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

C. Drinkwater noted agenda items and attendance.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Ms. McCall provided presentation entitled "Marijuana Businesses in Lowell". Ms. McCall noted presentation would be available on website and outlined the following topics: Regulating through zoning and ordinances; Planning Board review for site plans and special permits; Host Community Agreements (HCA); Approved zoning areas; General terms of HCA; Preferences for hiring, ownership and location of facilities; State process after City procedures and completed HCA; and considered changes with CAP, increased zoning areas and cannabis cafes. C. Robinson commented on HCA and social equity applicants. Ms. McCall noted State oversight with their preferences and that the City has added preferences as well. Ms. McCall noted stringent State regulations that would make it difficult to start such businesses. Ms. McCall noted that City should begin drafting regulations for cafes as to be ahead of curve when State begins their process. C. Drinkwater commented on delivery in the City and that it should be noted that out of town delivery service can deliver into the City so it is in best interest to have those types of businesses with in Lowell. C. Drinkwater noted that delivery businesses would be better alternative for social equity applicants. C. Leahy questioned the delivery process. Ms. McCall noted possible changes to ordinance to allow delivery. C. Scott questioned if current operators would have preference for delivery permits. Ms. McCall noted no formal preference but that situation would be better suited. C. Drinkwater noted proposed ordinance will be before the Zoning SC. Mr. Baldwin provided revenue review indicating local option of 3% as excise tax and HCA tax of 3% as well. Mr. Baldwin noted that HCA tax will end as excise tax



continues. Mr. Baldwin noted that revenue is diverted to special fund for municipal improvements.

C. Drinkwater opened meeting to public with no response.

C. Drinkwater opened agenda item regarding increasing the CAP on the number of facilities in the City noting current State regulations regarding HCA agreements. Ms. McCall noted increased CAP would ensure longer lasting HCA. C. Scott questioned if there should be any CAP. Ms. McCall noted that the industry is well regulated in the City. C. Drinkwater noted there are other means to increase the number without CAP use, as per example, zoning and ordinances. C. Nuon noted caution when increasing CAP. C. Robinson agreed with added discussion regarding CAP. C. Drinkwater noted further meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to recess by C. Leahy, seconded by C. Robinson. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6: 25 PM.

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk
