



Lowell City Council

Zoning SC Meeting Minutes

Michael Q. Geary
City Clerk

Date: March 27, 2018
Time: 4:00 PM
Location: City Council Chamber
375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA

PRESENT:

Present on Roll Call were Chairman Milinazzo, C. Kennedy, C. Nuon. Also present were Eric Slagle and Christine McCall (Insp. Services), Christine O'Connor (City Solicitor), C. Conway, C. Elliott, Manager Murphy and C. Cirillo.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Chairman Milinazzo called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM in the Council Chamber. C. Milinazzo outlined agenda items noting a proposed draft ordinance for cultivation and distribution of marijuana.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Mr. Slagle noted draft ordinance concerning regulation of recreational marijuana commenting that Lowell was a "yes" community in terms of the recent referendum. Mr. Slagle noted time frame in which the State would be formulating regulations and the need for the City to make proper arrangements for their own purposes. Mr. Slagle noted issues outside of the ordinance which includes a 3% tax on consumer sales and a limit on the number of facilities that can be present in the City. C. Kennedy questioned tax on cultivation centers and noted they would be subject to host agreements with the City. C. Kennedy commented on the limit imposed on the number of facilities allowed. Mr. Slagle noted the number of facilities currently operating in the City. C. Nuon commented on current vendor, Patriot Care. C. Milinazzo commented on current host agreement with Patriot Care. Mr. Slagle noted there was an agreement for cultivation and dispensary. Mr. Slagle noted State regulations regarding safety for these facilities. C. Nuon commented on current buffer zone regulations. Mr. Slagle noted the buffer zone requirements are being met by current facilities. Bob Mayerson (CEO Patriot Care) commented on his host agreement for both of his facilities and the financial impact per those agreements. C. Milinazzo questioned effect of draft ordinance on existing facilities. Mr. Slagle commented on



“grandfather” element of the ordinance and noted the ordinance allows facilities in certain areas and as well as providing regulations for conversion to the sale of recreational marijuana. Mr. Mayerson noted that there are differing opinions regarding legal language surrounding conversion policies. Mr. Slagle outlined City position regarding conversion to recreational marijuana sales. C. Kennedy commented on grandfathering element of ordinance. C. Nuon questioned impact of grandfather clause. Mr. Slagle outlined following sections of draft ordinance: 1. Definitions; 2. Table of Uses; and 3. Districts as a matter of right and by special permit. C. Kennedy noted another requirement is a host agreement with the City. C. Elliott questioned the number of facilities allowed in the City.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to Adjourn and to accept the report as a report of progress by C Nuon, seconded by C. Kennedy. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM

Michael Q. Geary, City Clerk