

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ADULT USE RECREATIONAL CANNABIS ACT AND THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN OF THE NORMAL TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, NORMAL CITY HALL, FOURTH FLOOR UPTOWN STATION, 11 UPTOWN CIRCLE, NORMAL, MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS – MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2019.

1. START:

The Work Session was called to order at 5:07 p.m. on Monday, October 7, 2019.

2. ATTENDANCE:

The following Councilmembers were physically present

PRESENT: Mayor Chris Koos and Councilmembers Kevin McCarthy, Chemberly Cummings, Stan Nord, Karyn Smith, Kathleen Lorenz, and Scott Preston. City Manager Pamela Reece, Assistant City Manager Eric Hanson, Corporation Counsel Brian Day and Town Clerk Angie Huonker were also present.

ABSENT: None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tiffany Jackson, Romeoville, Illinois, a medically retired veteran, spoke about her experience with post-traumatic stress, initial treatments, the use of medicinal marijuana, and her support of the Social Equity Program.

4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE ADULT USE RECREATIONAL CANNABIS ACT:

Corporation Counsel, Brian Day, presented information on the general allowances under the new Cannabis statute, background information on the Cannabis Act, and what is prohibited under the Act. Mr. Day discussed possession allowances and limitations and resident versus non-resident possession. Mr. Day then gave summary definitions of the different types of cannabis businesses that include cultivation centers, processors, infusers, craft-growers, dispensaries, and transporters. Mr. Day then provided an overview of local regulation that explained land-use restrictions, lack of local licensing, and the use of zoning regulation.

Mr. Day outlined three options the Council could consider for local regulation. Option one would be prohibiting cannabis use all together. Option two would allow cannabis use under zoning special use, and option three would allow cannabis use under zoning permitted use. Mr. Day then reviewed draft ordinance guidelines and restrictions and reviewed the potential cannabis location map.

During the Council question and answer period multiple items were discussed, such as banking restrictions, the relevance of medical use versus legal dispensaries, state and local tax revenue, revenue projections, restriction of use on revenue from cannabis tax, and options to prohibit certain cannabis businesses but not others. Also during the discussion next steps for Council to consider were determined to be whether to prohibit cannabis use, allow cannabis use but regulate, enacting sales tax, and the associated timeline for each action. Council also requested an opportunity for public engagement before any significant action is taken, and background information on how to curtail the possible increased sale of illegal cannabis. Council requested that the Normal Police Department and possibly the McLean County Chamber of Commerce be invited to present information on the effects of cannabis use in the community and to businesses.

City Manager, Pamela Reece, closed the discussion by reviewing the options for Council next steps and the timeline associated with each pending action.

5. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN:

City Manager, Pamela Reece, provided an overview of the Community Investment Plan, staff process in preparing the plan, and project recommendation timeline for council.

Finance Director, Andrew Huhn, reviewed the Community Investment Plan document, highlighting where the plan is available to the public, how it functions for users, how the plan helps identify and prioritize projects, reviews funding estimates, and how the document identifies future project and funding needs. Mr. Huhn also reviewed fund accounts and the projects included, both funded and unfunded.

City Manager, Pamela Reece, noted this budget cycle presents an opportunity for Council to offer input on projects they would like to highlight or ideas they would like to share pertaining to capital projects.

Councilmember Kathleen Lorenz noted the condition of West College Avenue was an area of specific concern. Councilmember Kevin McCarthy shared the same concern. City Manager, Pamela Reece, stated this area is a high priority with the recent growth of activity in the area.

Councilmember Stan Nord stated he feels with significant changes in local economy and job loss relating to State Farm, Town debt, and potential State budget cuts, he would like to see a pull back on capital projects for a year to see what happens.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items for discussion, the work session was adjourned at 6:46 p.m., Monday, October 7, 2019.