

**Ad Hoc Marihuana Committee
Minutes
September 15, 2020**

Attendance: Mayor Wishart, Council member Witt, Council member Akin, Casey Buckleitner, Paul Gunderson, Dr. Wisnicwski, Mark Hansen, City Attorney Paul Slough, Manager J. Duff

Absent: Katie Kucharek, Tiffany Larson

Mayor Wishart began the meeting thanking the Committee members and the municipal staff. He also thanked the audience for their participation throughout the process.

Review of the Ad Hoc Committee Report to City Council and Further Discussions

Duff led the Committee through the report. Each section was reviewed and discussed. There was some discussion on merit scoring and establishing some criteria to separate out the potential license applicants. The Committee has continued to express their thoughts that some criteria should in deed be included in any ordinance discussion. The Committee also like some of the aspects that were pointed out in the Iron Mountain ordinance which Casey had sent along to the Committee. Attorney Slough agreed that some criteria should be established in an ordinance.

There was then discussion on the fees charged for applications for licenses. All agreed that a \$5,000 application fee be set for new applicants for licensing. Attorney Slough felt comfortable that the initial fee should be set at that rate. He did express that the City will need to review annually the rate for renewals on the license to insure that we charging appropriately for the reviews and can document the time spent in such regard. Duff indicated that scheduled visits to each licensed facility could be made by both law enforcement and the Zoning Administrator to insure compliance issues are being adhered to and that could become one of the documented costs associated with each renewal. Also a log should be kept that documents any complaints so registered in regards to any of the new licensed establishments to also detail appropriate fees and time spent on administration of these facilities.

The Committee also agreed that inclusions on the application forms should also include “waivers not to sue” as an added precaution. This is being done in some communities already.

Public Comments

Scott Dianda of Tranquility Fields introduced the owner of the company and provided the Committee members with information on their company. Scott pointed out that the Committee and City should take into consideration that when a microbusiness is established that they are designed to have two (2) licenses in one building. This is approved by the State and the areas in the building are separated. This then provides for the ability of having two (2) distinct owners benefit by the facility and allow product to able to be provided on a consistent basis. He would encourage and hope that the City does allows this in its writing of the ordinance.

Phil Glebbe, owner of the Crossroads building at the Gaylord Industrial Park thanked the Committee for all of their hard work. Phil indicated he was anxious to be able to proceed with an application sometime in the future.

John Burke thanked the Committee as well and encouraged the City to proceed with allowances for licenses in the City. He also asked that they provide some criteria that would allow existing local citizens an opportunity to attain some of the licenses available.

Another gentleman from the Waters area indicated that he felt that the number of retail and microbusinesses be limited and that the City should not move towards too many retail licenses at this time.

The Committee then had a discussion on the benefits of medical marihuana facilities and should we open that discussion up for more consideration. The Committee expressed satisfaction on where they were now at this time in the process.

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Joseph P. Duff
City Manager