

Ad Hoc Marihuana Committee Minutes
August 4, 2020
6:00p.m.

Attendance: Mayor Wishart, Council Member Witt, City Attorney Slough, Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Awrey, Casey Buckleitner, Mark Hansen, Dr. Steven Wisniewski, Katie Kucharek, and Tiffany Larson.

Absent: Council Member Akin and Paul Gunderson.

License Type Discussion

Attorney Slough started out by telling the committee that the next steps would be to decide what types of licenses, if any, they would like to see; how many of those licenses that they would like to allow and where they would like the businesses to be located. Caution was given that if the number of businesses were limited we would need to develop a merit based system to choose who the licenses would go to. Using this type of system could open the city up to litigation.

Discussion ensued on the different licenses that could be offered by the City of Gaylord. It was unanimous agreement that growing and processing should be allowed in the manufacturing district of the city. The city would not limit the number of these businesses that would be allowed and rely on the market to set that number.

The committee also unanimously agreed to allow an unlimited number of secure transporters and testing centers in the city's commercial district.

It was noted that the city would have the ability to set its own standards for each of these licenses and could have stricter requirements than put forth by the State of Michigan.

Retail licensees were discussed as well. The potential revenue from excise taxes and how the amount will be determined was discussed. The stigma of having these businesses on our main corridors was also discussed. John Ovington addressed the committee regarding the need to keep these businesses in an area where they are easier to access and not tucked away in an industrial park. State law prohibits signage and advertising of these businesses, so they shouldn't impact the current retail areas of our community. John's recommendation would be to locate them west of 1-75 or on South 27.

John will return for the August 18th meeting with site plans/renderings of the development he would like to have in the city. He would like to have a 30,000 to 40,000 square foot building in the industrial park as well as a retail store on West M-32. This will allow the committee to see what these facilities will potentially look like. At the meeting there will also be a presentation by Attorney Craig Aronoff to inform and help answer questions regarding the retail and microbusiness licenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm

Kim Awrey
Assistant City Manager/City Clerk