

VILLAGE BOARD
Committee of the Whole Meeting
November 18, 2019
Lemont Village Hall – Village Board Room
418 Main St., Lemont, IL 60439

I. Call to Order

Mayor Egofske called the COW Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present were Trustees, Kittridge, Kwasneski, Maher, McClafferty, Sniegowski and Stapleton. Also present were George Schafer, Jason Berry, Marc Maton and Village Attorney Mike Stillman.

III. Discussion Items

A. Recreational Cannabis Unified Development Ordinance Text Amendments Discussion

Community Development Director, Jason Berry presented, beginning January 1, 2020 adults over the age of 21 will be legally able to purchase cannabis for recreational use from licensed dispensaries across the State of Illinois. The following analysis and text amendments to the UDO are proposed. The considered amendments to the Lemont Unified Development Ordinance are to modify Chapter 17.02 (Definitions), Table 17-06-01 (Permitted and Special Uses in the Zoning Districts), Section 17.06.180 (Medical Cannabis Organizations) and the parking requirements as it relates to recreational or medical cannabis regulations.

The Village of Lemont held a Cannabis Public Workshop on October 8, 2019 to discuss with residents the public legislation approved by the State of Illinois regarding recreational cannabis.

- A dispensary shall not be located within 1,500 feet of the property line of a pre-existing dispensary or 500 feet of the property line of private or public school grounds, or within 100 feet of a child care center not in a residence, a public park, a library, or a games arcade establishment to which admission is not restricted to persons 21 years or older.
- Cannabis dispensary as a permitted use in the B-3, Arterial Commercial zoning district and a special use in the B-1, Office/Retail Transitional zoning district.
- Craft Grower as a special use in the B-3 zoning district and in the M-1, M-2 and M-3 Manufacturing districts as a special use.
- Cannabis infusers and transporting organizations as a special use in the M-1, M-2, and M-3 Manufacturing districts.
- Add and modify definitions as they relate to cannabis derived from the State cannabis legislation.
- Add parking requirements for cannabis industry businesses.

The board did not reach into an agreement, this item will be discussed in future meetings.

B. Business Licensing Regulations- Massage Parlors and Business Licenses Discussion

Community Development Director, Jason Berry presented, during the current year's budget development process, the Village made changes to the business license fee structure, to account for size of principal business establishment. The new business license renewals have gone out to the business community to reflect these changes. The board may also want to evaluate industry specific licenses due to issues in their industry.

Village Attorney, Mike Stillman stated, new license will regulate massage therapist. Every therapist working in those parlor will need to have a state issued license which needs to be displayed. The license will also regulate the hours of operation for the parlors, employee

background checks, and massage therapists' uniform regulation. The board is in agreement with the proposed item. Staff will prepare ordinance for approval.

IV. Unfinished Business- None

V. New Business – None

VI. Audience Participation –

Richard Will stated he has been a Lemont resident for 24 years. He mentioned a dispensary which might people think is harmless, will only reinforce acceptance of the drug to our youth, children. This decision is a very big and serious decision and should not be determined by Board but rather by the residents in the community.

Nick Rhode, Lemont resident mentioned a cannabis store or dispensary is not compatible with the wholesome family values, characteristics of Lemont. He believes allowing Cannabis dispensary will damage the reputation of Village and property values.

Al Rhode, Lemont resident mentioned it feels like to him the Board already made up their mind about Cannabis retail establishment and discussing zoning for it. He asks the board to make the conscious decision for Lemont communities.

Terry Lemont, has been a Lemont resident for 26 years. He mentioned special interest groups, wealthy investors and high price lobbyist most of which were not from Illinois were employed to push for legalization of marijuana issue. Groups like the Illinois association chiefs of police, Illinois Sheriffs Association, Illinois Municipal League and other community based groups voiced were not heard. He believes this is about tax revenues and not about the community well-being.

Robert Val, new Lemont resident stated state legalizing did not change the pharmacology of marijuana, it is still addictive. The dispensaries operating people probably will not be residents of Village of Lemont, he only has one objective, cannabis is driven by greed, it is about making profit and the only way to increase that profit is to increase the habitual use by more people including our young people.

Judy Techmant, Lemont resident read an article to the board that researched correlation between Cannabis and mental illnesses such as schizophrenia.

Jeanette Debarus, Township resident mentioned she will be attending every Cook county meeting to make sure Cannabis does not get approved in unincorporated Lemont. She asks the Board to pass an ordinance opting out of no dispensary or growing of Cannabis. She also asked Village Attorney why the opting out was not looked at as an option.

Brian Brenard, Lemont resident stated he was curious to find out how cannabis dispensary operates in different states, so he visited one in Toronto. He noticed dispensaries are in the dark corner of the town, scariest section of town, steady stream of tinted windows, dark characters coming in and out of these locations. He does not want an environment like this in any part of Lemont.

Stephanie Kolvesek, Lemont resident state this decision should not be made by Village board, it should be in ballot, so the community's voice can be heard. She does not want marijuana in the town and asks the board rethink the decision they are making for the community.

Kathy Henrikson, Lemont resident voiced her opinion on cannabis to the board. She does not think it is a good idea to allow a cannabis establishment in Lemont. She states it is a gateway

drug and young generation should not have the availability here in town.

Nick Hewitt, new Lemont resident stated he moved to Lemont because he wants to raise his young family. Mr. Hewitt mentioned cannabis brings in risks that is harmful for the community. He also thinks number of impaired drivers will increase and it will be very difficult for law enforcement to regulate it.

Michelle Bernard, Lemont resident state that the reason why she chose to move to Lemont is because she wanted the small united community which she thinks she has gotten. She is very concerned with the consideration of putting dispensary in town. She thinks adding this type of business is not good for the community.

John Ratkovich, Lemont resident mentioned he is ashamed of the state legislators that approved the legalization of marijuana.

Vicki Cobbett, Lemont resident stated just because something is legal, we do not need to enable it, enhance it or encourage it especially it is something not well understood or even well studied. She suggests Village official to find more creative and attractive types of business that do not enable marijuana use.

Marge Geristikas, new Lemont resident stated she does not want to live in Lemont permanently if cannabis gets approved. She also suggests the board to add more frequent train schedule during the day to Chicago because Lemont is losing new potential residents.

Richard Lighthart, Lemont resident mentioned he resents the mindset of more revenue increase. Businesses always want more revenue, he believes in minimizing, decreasing government, decreasing employee, decreasing police, decreasing pension.

Dan Mitchell, Lemont resident suggested Village board to opt out on recreational cannabis but he supports medical marijuana. Mr. Mitchell is a veteran and believes in medical aspect of marijuana as certain war injured veterans' needs medical marijuana. He would not be very upset if Lemont has a Cannabis dispensary for medical only.

Kathy Wanta, new Lemont resident asked a question to Village Attorney if Board decides to opt out, how do we opt out?

Village Attorney, Mike Stillman answered there are four options. First one is to opt out, second one is you do not opt out and put zoning regulations, third one is regulate zero licenses in town and fourthly put a moratorium for six months and put an advisory referendum in March of next year.

David Pazzomi, Lemont resident who attended middle school, high school in Lemont spoke about harmful effect of drugs in youth.

Village Administrator, George Schafer thanked everyone for their comments. He also mentioned the state legislation was done in Springfield in matter of a week with other legislations at that time as well. Mr. Schafer mentioned the board does have the option.

Steve Rosendahl, Lemont resident stated if Lemont opts in then people have little leverage in convincing Cook County that the community is against it.

VII. The Committee of the Whole Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.