

City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

<http://a2gov.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, September 23, 2019

7:00 PM

Special Work Session - Marijuana Regulation Discussion

**Larcom City Hall, 301 E Huron St, Second floor, City Council
Chambers**

City Council

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Christopher Taylor called the Work Session of the Ann Arbor City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Guy C. Larcom, Jr. Building, 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 301 E. Huron Street.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Present: 11 - Councilmember Jane Lumm, Councilmember Jack Eaton, Mayor Christopher Taylor, Councilmember Julie Grand, Councilmember Zachary Ackerman, Councilmember Chip Smith, Councilmember Anne Bannister, Councilmember Jeff Hayner, Councilmember Kathy Griswold, Councilmember Elizabeth Nelson and Councilmember Ali Ramlawi

WS WORK SESSION DISCUSSION - MARIJUANA REGULATION

WS-1 [19-1816](#) Discuss City Proposed Ordinances for the Zoning and Permitting of Adult Use (Recreational) Marijuana Establishments as allowed by the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act

Brett Lenart, Planning Manager; and Kristen Larcom and Kevin McDonald, Assistant City Attorneys; presented to City Council regarding Recreational Marijuana and the proposed options for City Council to take regarding adoption of a local ordinance. A copy of the presentation is on file in the City Clerk's Office.

Councilmember Lumm stated she is supportive of a temporary opt-out ordinance to allow for more time and to allow the State process to begin first.

There was discussion regarding the currently proposed cap of 28 permits on certain provisioning centers and consumption facilities.

Councilmember Nelson suggested that a Review Board should be created as part of the new ordinance.

Additional questions were raised regarding parking and other zoning issues.

Received and Filed

PUBLIC COMMENT - GENERAL (3 MINUTES EACH)

The following persons were present for public comment:

A candidate for County Prosecuting Attorney spoke about the legality of marijuana and expressed some concerns.

Brian Fenech, Ward 4, stated the proposed cap has social and economic implications. He urged Council to open the cap to allow for a more robust process, stating the caps are creating monopolies.

Diane Giannola, Ward 4, spoke in opposition to the proposed consumption centers, stating they are dangerous for all drivers on the road. She stated this concept is not the same as a liquor license establishment serving alcohol.

Charles Ream stated those supportive of marijuana rights have been waiting for years. He stated the process is not rushed and should proceed.

Kenneth Bryan, of Medicine Man, expressed concerns about the current SEU process and the permit staying with the building.

Ben Joffe, attorney, stated the question should be "how" not "if" regarding allowing current businesses to transition to recreational.

An oncologist from Michigan Medicine spoke about the dangers of marijuana and the newly proposed consumption facilities.

Alison Ireton, attorney for Bloom City, suggested a compromise be reached for existing businesses to transition to recreational.

The community outreach coordinator for OM of Medicine spoke in support for the City's proposed ordinance and for adoption prior to November 1.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Nelson, that the meeting adjourn. On a voice vote, the Mayor declared the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Community Television Network Channel 16 live televised public meetings are also available to watch live online from CTN's website, www.a2gov.org/ctn <<http://www.a2gov.org/ctn>>, on "The Meeting Place" page (<http://www.a2gov.org/livemeetings>).

CTN's Government Channel live televised public meetings can be viewed in a variety of ways:

Live Web Streaming: <https://a2gov.org/watchctn>

Video on Demand: <https://a2ctn.viebit.com>

Cable: Comcast Cable channel 16 or AT&T UVerse Channel 99

Videos are also available for a nominal fee by contacting CTN at (734) 794-6150.

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City Clerk's Office
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Requests made with less than two business days' notice may not be able to be accommodated.

A hard copy of this Council packet can be viewed at the front counter of the City Clerk's Office.

Jacqueline Beaudry
Clerk of the Council

Anissa R. Bowden
Recording Secretary