

**CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING**

7:00 P.M.

Monday, September 16, 2024

Present: Mayor Wade LeBlanc  
Richard DeRosier  
Shane Hoff  
Ben Bautch  
Dustin Goutermont

Lana Fralich, City Administrator  
Tim Costley, City Attorney  
Joe Rhein, City Engineer via Zoom  
Kitty Mayo, Lake County Press via ZOOM  
Rick Evans, Northshore Journal  
John Anderson, Sawtooth 16, LLC  
Tina Goutermont, via ZOOM  
Noreen Carlson  
Nancy Christenson  
Catherine Miller  
Eric Judkins  
Tammy Alcaraz  
Dean Floen  
Donny Thompson  
Morris Manning  
Marcia Oates  
Judy Carlson  
Phil Huston

Jenny Bjerken via ZOOM  
Renee Pearson  
Patrick Miller  
Teresa Schulz  
Gregory Lien  
Erica Jensen  
Annette Lewis  
Debbie Russell  
Carolyn Hudyma  
Karen Rautio  
Gene LaFond  
Observer via ZOOM

Mayor LeBlanc called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor LeBlanc described the purpose for the hearing is to obtain comments regarding Moratorium on Cannabis Operations in the City of Silver Bay.

Mayor LeBlanc explained that the Council will open the hearing up for public comments, take comments, and then adjourn the Public Hearing. The Regular meeting will immediately follow the Public Hearings at which time the City Council will accept, deny, or table the adoption of the Moratorium on Cannabis Operations.

The Mayor called for comments.

Renee Pearson asked for clarification regarding the 1955 bylaws stating what businesses are allowed in the city, are they still being followed, where to locate them, and how often they are updated. Mayor LeBlanc stated they are updated by the Planning & Zoning Commission periodically. City Attorney Costley advised her to let him know

what specific code she is looking for and he will provide the information. Ms. Pearson asked for more information regarding if the codes would allow for cannabis business in the city. City Attorney advised her that the State is who will determine the number of licenses to be available.

Mayor LeBlanc asked if there were any other written or verbal comments received.

Tammy Alcaraz asked when the City was informed of the Cannabis information. City Attorney explained that the information was provided to the city by himself, as the City Attorney. He further explained the status of licenses issued via lottery by the State and the odds of a license being issued before the end of the year is very low as the rules have not been established yet.

Gregory Lien provided written and verbal comments regarding his opposition to the Cannabis Moratorium. He has applied for a cannabis business license preapproval as allowed under the social equity provisions in the cannabis law and is awaiting the lottery results. The costs to apply for a license range from \$500-\$10,000 and non-refundable. He feels the timing of a city placed moratorium is unreasonable, the risks to the city are minimal, benefits outweigh the risks, and a moratorium would delay early cultivation for microbusinesses. He is asking the council to consider not placing a moratorium but consider less restrictive measures than an outright prohibition of cannabis business until January 1, 2025, and work with OCM to develop a model ordinance to restrictions on the time, place, and manner of the operation of cannabis business.

Mayor LeBlanc called for any additional public comments.

Tammy Alcaraz expressed her support and feels it is a good idea to consider and bring to the city.

Patrick Miller asked if the city was applying for a license and if so doesn't that prevent anybody else from obtaining one. City Attorney Costley stated that yes the city may apply for a license and reminded those in attendance that a moratorium is a temporary halt to stop and allow the city to explore the options and give the council time to decide by the end of the year. A moratorium will have no effect on licenses because he feels the odds of license issuance is 0%.

Gregory Lien feels that a moratorium will effect early cultivation and feels there is a possibility of businesses being allowed to start early cultivation.

Morris Manning feels the city should not get involved in the cannabis business.

Noreen Carlson expressed her disagreement with the whole cannabis issue and feels it is unnecessary.

Donny Thompson expressed his concern that it will put more of a load on EMS, which is

already strained.

Gene LaFond stated that it could possibly generate funds for EMS.

Catherine Miller asked if the city decides to do a cannabis business does the city get first shot at a license. City Attorney Costley stated that the city will have to apply like everyone else.

Mayor LeBlanc called for a final time any other comments. Hearing none he requested a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion by DeRosier, second Bautch to adjourn the public hearing at 7:16 p.m. MOTION CARRIED.

Minutes taken by Lisa Christenson

Attest:

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Wade LeBlanc, Mayor

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Lana Fralich, City Administrator