

A Special Meeting of the North Brunswick Township Council was held on Thursday June 10, 2021 at 7:02 pm in the Municipal Complex located at 710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey (**Via Go To Meeting**)

Mayor Womack called the meeting to order.

Roll call:

Present: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Mehta, Andrews, Davis and Socio
Nays: None
Absent: Mr. Lopez

Ms. Russo announced that the notice requirements of the law have been satisfied. Notices were sent by certified mail on December 30, 2020 to the following:

a) The Home News Tribune b) Star Ledger c) North Brunswick Sentinel

Notice receipts are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. Also, notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Complex and filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Also present (Via Go to Meeting): Business Administrator Justine Progebin, Township Attorney Ron Gordon, Esq., Director of Department Parks, Recreation & Community Services Lou Ann Benson, Municipal Clerk Lisa Russo, Administrative Secretary Marilu Ruiz and Clerk 2 Nellie Sowell.

Councilman Davis led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Womack explains this is a special meeting to discuss the Cannabis legislation and have a Public Hearing to hear feed back Regarding how to proceed in the Township. There was an error with the meeting number on the flyers posted around town That may be keeping residents from logging in. The correct meeting number is on the sunshine notice and website.

Ron Gordon explains in detail about the six types of licenses for cannabis...

1. Cannabis Cultivators
2. Cannabis Manufactures
3. Cannabis Wholesalers
4. Cannabis Distributors
5. Cannabis Retailers
6. Cannabis Delivery

Mayor Womack asks council members if the meeting should be rescheduled for a later date due to issue with flyer error?

It was decided to continue on with this meeting for now to get some of the resident's input and they would decide later in the Meeting if there should be a second meeting held.

Mayor Womack opens the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.

Ken Pflug – no comment at this, he is just attending for information at this time.

Pete Clark – says he would vote to opt out. He thinks the Township should take the “wait and see” approach before deciding on Anything. Mr. Clark believes that if the six licenses would be allowed there would be an increase in youth usage, there will be a Decline in home values. There will be an increase in traffic/safety issues. He has concerns what impact this would have on the Parks. He believes there will be an increase in DUI offenses. These are some of his concerns that he has seen from other towns Through the county. Mr. Clark said he understands they can not keep it out of North Brunswick because it can be delivered to North Brunswick residents but he asks the Township to do our part to keep it out as much as possible.

Mayor Womack asks Ron Gordon what happens if they do not make a decision by August?

Ron Gordon explains.

Melanie and Mary Paccillo say they are looking for more information. She asks if anyone can reach out to similar towns to see their perspective and how they are going to proceed with it. Councilman Andrews enquires on how the delivery works.

Ron Gordon answers Councilman Andrews.

Councilwoman Guadagnino asks if the Township would have the power through ordinance to control where the areas would be for this?

Mayor Womack agrees with Councilwoman Guadagnino's question.

Ron Gordon explains.

Council President Socio asks if the perimeters are in place for this?

Ron Gordon answers.

Rosa Newkirk – states just on meeting to gather information.

Rich Z. – states cannabis is already in North Brunswick. He states the distribution is 21 and older, it is very strict and when trying to purchase people's ID's are checked 3 to 4 times before getting to the register. If this was available before his mother passed away from cancer this could have eased her pain. Mr. Z. speaks of the revenue this would bring to the Township and that 70% of North Brunswick voters have already voted yes to the legalization of this in North Brunswick.

Karen – believes this would be good if this can be monitored like drinking and driving is monitored. She said this will help a lot of people that suffer with illnesses and are in constant pain.

Ariel P. – has no comment, states just on meeting to listen. Good to see everyone.

Ezra Helfand – states he will wait for now with his comment, hopes to have a follow up meeting.

Councilman Davis – states there are positives and negatives with having it.

Ken Pflug – asks how many of the six types of licenses the Township can have? Mayor Womack responds to his question. Mr. Pflug thinks the Township should maybe start small with allowing it in.

Councilman Andrews expresses concerns with how the state may change the legislature in the future regarding these licenses.

Mayor Womack asks council members if another meeting should be scheduled to make sure anyone who could not get on this meeting due to issues can still have a chance to be heard?

Council President Socio responds stating to have another meeting.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adjourn the public hearing. So moved by Mr. Mehta, second by Mr. Davis.

Roll call:

Present:	Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Mehta, Andrews, Davis and Socio
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Mr. Lopez

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adjourn meeting. So moved by Mr. Andrews, second by Mr. Davis.

Roll call:

Present: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Mehta, Andrews, Davis and Socio
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Mr. Lopez

Adjourn 7:46 pm
Lisa Russo
Municipal Clerk

Lisa Russo

Subject: GoToMeeting Invitation - cannabis legislation - Public discussion
Start: Thu 6/10/2021 7:00 PM
End: Thu 6/10/2021 8:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative
Recurrence: (none)
Meeting Status: Not yet responded
Organizer: Justine Progebin
Required Attendees: Lisa Russo; Carlo Socio; 'Mac Womack'

cannabis legislation - Public discussion
Thu, Jun 10, 2021 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (EDT)

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