

A Special Meeting of the North Brunswick Township Council was held on Thursday August 5, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the Municipal Complex located at 710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey **Hybrid – Live and Via GoToMeeting**

Mayor Womack called the meeting to order.

Roll call:

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

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, Director of Department of Community Development Michael Hritz, Chief Financial Officer Cavel Gallimore, Municipal Clerk Lisa Russo and Clerk 2 Nellie Sowell.

Township Attorney Ron Gordon states all proper notices have been satisfied.

Councilman Davis led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Womack explains this is a special meeting to have Public Hearing and Second reading on Ordinance #21-11.

Ordinances/Second Reading/Public Hearing:

#21-11 Second Reading and Public Hearing -An Ordinance by the Township of North Brunswick in Middlesex County, New Jersey permitting the operation of ALL Classes of Cannabis Licensed Business by amending the North Brunswick Township Code and by creating new Chapter 140 entitles "Cannabis, Licensed Businesses" and new Chapter 308 entitled "Establishment of Cannabis Transfer Tax and User Tax in the Township of North Brunswick"

Mayor Womack opened the Public Hearing.

Davis Lewis, Franklin Township (via GoToMeeting) - is interested in starting a Cannabis Cultivation. He is excited about getting started. Mr. Lewis states the business can bring a lot of talent, tax, revenue and jobs. Mr. Lewis thanks everyone for their time.

Jeff Lonza, 29 Quince Place (in person) – is trying to get caught up, he is surprised it got to this point. Mr. Lonza is fascinated by Cannabis and has been tracking Colorado and states things are not great there. Mr. Lonza said he supports the medical use but feels the other uses for Cannabis are risky. Mr. Lonza asks if this can be banned for now. He believes this is a big issue and he knows of a lot of towns that are allowing this but he also knows a lot of towns that are not allowing this. Mr. Lonza asks what the Police Department thinks of this. Councilman Andrews answers. A discussion between Mayor Womack, Councilman Andrews and Councilwoman Guadagnino commences. Attorney Ron Gordon explains what the legislation states regarding he licenses and what happens if the Municipalities do not accept any. Mr. Lonza states he still thinks it is better to hold off and doesn't understand the rush for this.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to close Public Hearing so moved by Council President Socio second by Mr. Davis

Council President Socio states he is conflicted about this. Council President understand the profit from the revenue but is concerned about the negative effects and the final formalities of this.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adopt Ordinance #21-11, So moved Mr. Andrews second by Mr. Davis that Ordinance #21-11 approved on second and final reading and referred to the Mayor for his action and then published in the August 10, 2021 issue of the Home News Tribune according to the Law. This ordinance is posted in the Municipal Complex, 710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey and copies are available upon request.

Roll call:

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

Council President Socio comments this now moves to the stage with the Council and Planning Board, in the near future, to iron out details and find the proper area.

Councilman Andrews agrees 100% with Council President Socio. There will be movement soon with Attorney Ron Gordon to move forward with this. Meetings will be scheduled and any questions answered going forward

Council President Socio states the process will start and everyone will be included.

Mayor Womack opens the Public Hearing at 7:23 p.m.

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

Roll call:

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

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adjourn meeting. So moved by Council President Socio, second by Ms. Guadagnino

Roll call:

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

Adjourn 7:23 pm
Lisa Russo
Municipal Clerk