

Summary of the November 2, 2022 Public Meeting on Cannabis
City Hall- Council Chambers
6:00 PM- 7:00 PM

1. Attendance:
 - a. 4 members of the public
 - b. 3 members of the media
 - c. 3 staff members

2. General Comments:
 - a. Donny Henry- 316 SW Washington St- Chairman of the Libertarian Party for Peoria County and Commissioner on the Racial Justice and Equity Commission
 - i. Not a cannabis user, in the military since he was 18
 - ii. As a liberation this is not about cannabis this is about individual rights and freedom
 - iii. In a free society we have the liberty to do what we see fit as long as it doesn't affect the rights of another to do the same
 - iv. Cannabis is a plant and any adult that uses cannabis is a willing user and any adult that sells cannabis is acting in a voluntary transaction between two individuals
 - v. War on drugs is a fool's errand- we lock people in cages who never hurt anyone, we destroyed our poorest communities with tough on crime initiatives, and we were so heartless that we turned addicts into criminals
 - vi. Huge step in the right direction when Illinois legalized cannabis for recreational use
 - vii. However, the law is sloppy without an understanding of economics- high tax is a barrier for consumers to enter the marketplace and it preserves the black market
 - viii. Cannabis is a 25-billion-dollar industry and will be valued at 40 billion by 2025 as reported by Forbes
 - ix. Cannabis industry also creates jobs
 - x. Huge opportunity for Illinois and Michigan when they legalized recreational use
 - xi. Peoria is a dying town in a failing state
 - xii. The fastest growing industry should be welcomed
 - xiii. We should not be creating more barriers
 - xiv. Government should have no role in this because the market will determine success
 - xv. Cannabis businesses should be treated the same as alcohol
 - xvi. On site consumption should be allowed
 - xvii. Peoria needs to stop being our worst enemy and welcome businesses- we need to be more business friendly

3. Public Comment Submitted Electronically:

a. Susan O'Neal- 718 W Melbourne Avenue

- i. I am writing to ask you to re-schedule these public hearings on potential changes or additions to ordinances affecting cannabis-related businesses, hearings which the public knows nothing about. You also need to for real get that survey out to the public. I had to dig for all of this information and I only knew to do so from listening to the last council meeting.

I am also asking you to cancel or re-schedule the "special meeting" you scheduled for Tuesday, 11/8. That's Election Day.

You have to have known that your most engaged citizens are all very busy this week, trying to make sure all Peorians vote. On Election Day, hundreds of us are working as election judges, poll watchers, etc.

Like others, I don't have time to do attend any meetings for the next 8 days. As a lawyer, I am tasked with voter protection this week and on Election Day, in addition to running my two businesses.

I will tell you however, that there are equity applicants who've waited 2 years for litigation to end so they could start their businesses. It isn't only dispensaries and consumption lounges. There are infusion and craft grow businesses wanting to open. I have considered applying for an infusion license, as an equity applicant, to make topical products, such as balm and oils. But, since I only qualify because of living 5/10 past years in an affected zip code, I only became eligible in May. And, it is expensive. My point is that besides the 3 equity applicants now waiting in the wings, there are others making plans who you know nothing about.

It is ridiculous to put a moratorium on cannabis businesses or only dispensaries. The only 2 here in Peoria are owned by the same white business people. There have been no crimes or even police calls to either of them and Trinity on University has been open over 7 years. There seems to be no moratorium on how many vape shops, car washes, or oil change businesses we can have.

Just like with the casino, these businesses will just go across the river. Everyone downtown now goes across the river to NuEra in East Peoria. More tax dollars leaving Peoria County, is that what we want? What about the snow plow routes and firefighters we were able to add back with American Rescue Plan money? Don't we want to ensure we have the money to keep them? Where else can you make this much tax revenue as from the tax that cannabis-related businesses generate for

the City? There are plenty of liquor stores, bars, smojie shops, and video poker machines if you are thinking of cannabis taxes as some 1950's era "sin tax."

- b. Don Grove- Chapel Park one HOA
 - i. Stacy. Your survey does not reflect those of us who want zero more cannabis dispensaries. Pleas add zero as an option in the survey.
 - ii. Stacy, we still do not agree with your survey because it assumes we agree with the 3 potential cannabis dispensaries above the 2 in place today.

We do not agree with any additional cannabis dispensaries above the 2 in place today. Period.

Please adjust your survey to reflect this option.

4. Questions Posed by the Audience:

a. Can you explain the expired special use permit (NuMed East Peoria LLC- 5001 N University)?

- i. The special use permit at 5001 N. University had a 90-day shelf life. If a cannabis business wanted to locate at 5001 N. University, then it would have to go through the zoning process again. To locate at 5001 N. University the cannabis business would require both the Planning & Zoning Commission's approval and the City Council's approval.

b. If the special use permit process standard?

- i. There are some communities that will allow cannabis businesses by right. However, it is more common to have a zoning process in place. The special use permit process (through Planning & Zoning Commission → City Council) is a local requirement.

c. Does liquor/ tobacco go through the special use permit process like for cannabis businesses?

- i. Most bars or package stores are permitted uses in industrial, commercial and form districts. Cannabis is permitted in industrial, requires a special use permit in commercial, and is prohibited in form districts.

d. NuMed East Peoria, LLC at 5001 N. University is a 90-day special use permit and the rest of the special use permits are still valid and two years. Why?

- i. Two years is the standard for special use permits. The cannabis business would need to be up and operating before the end of the two-year period. The 90-day special use permit for NuMed East Peoria, LLC was a specific requirement between the applicant and City Council. One criteria City

Council is looking at is limiting the time frame special use permits are valid so that the special use permits are not hanging in the abyss.

e. Is there a limit on special use permits that are available for cannabis businesses?

i. Right now, there is not.

f. What is the difference between permitted use and special use?

i. Regarding cannabis businesses, if an area a cannabis business wants to locate is already zoned industrial, then the applicant would not have to go through the special use process because it would be considered a permitted use. If the area that the cannabis business wants to locate is zoned any other way the applicant would have to go through the special use permit process (through Planning & Zoning Commission → City Council).

g. Where do we compare to other municipalities in cannabis business licensing fees?

i. See chart below.

Local Cannabis Licensing Fees

Municipality Name				
Peoria		1 st Year	2 nd year	3 rd year
	Craft Grower	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000
	Cultivation Center	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000
	Dispensary	\$2,500	\$3,750	\$5,000
	Infuser	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
	Processor	\$500	\$750	\$1,000
Bloomington	No fee schedule			
Normal	No fee schedule			
Springfield	No fee schedule			
Champaign	No fee schedule			
Joliet	\$150 a year for a license, for items designed or marketed for use with illegal cannabis or drugs only Chapter 18 Article XV 18-290 to 18-294			
Rockford	No fee schedule			
Moline	No fee schedule			