

AUGUST 10, 2021

PAULSBORO, N.J.

5:00 P.M.

SPECIAL MEETING

Council Chamber:

Mayor Stevenson presided at the Special Meeting of Council held on the above date and place.

Mayor Stevenson called the Special Meeting to order.

Borough Clerk VanScoy read the opening statement regarding the Open Public Meetings Act.

Members present were: Council President Giovannitti, Councilman DiTonno, Councilman Giampola, Councilman Haynes, Councilman Kidd. Absent: Councilman Holloway.

Privilege of the floor.

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman DiTonno seconded to open the floor to the public regarding any agenda items at 5:03 p.m.

Jaime VanSciver, 427½ Greenwich Avenue, stated Council talking with residents is hearsay. She wants access to cannabis and shouldn't have to go 50 miles away. She further stated there is a lot of money and jobs involved for the Borough. It is a controlled market and it will raise property value. There should be armed guards. She felt Paulsboro wants the cannabis market as Bellmawr is the closest.

Joy Campbell, 1429 Swedesboro Avenue, stated she has been a resident for over thirty years and has wanted to see a cannabis business in Paulsboro for some time. She will speak with Mayor and Council and will work with the State on a cannabis delivery service. She has faith in the community and crime has nothing to do with cannabis. She felt it was a big opportunity for Paulsboro and further felt to give the community a chance. The good outweighs the bad.

Jennifer Maden, 1803 Commerce Street, stated she supports cannabis and the town needs something to help rejuvenate it. Mayor and Council should explore and

Council President Giovannitti moved and Councilman Haynes seconded to open the floor to the public on Ordinance #08.21. All were in favor of the motion. Mayor and Council discussed Ordinance No. 08.21.

Administrator Jacobucci stated this Ordinance only allows cannabis classes 1-4.

Solicitor Givens stated Council could reintroduce the Ordinance and take it back to the Land Use Board.

Councilman Haynes stated the Land Use Board approved all six (6) cannabis classes.

Solicitor Givens stated if Council did nothing at this meeting it would automatically allow cannabis. Council must regulate cannabis by August 21, 2021.

Councilman Giampola questioned if Council could amend to allow Cannabis classes 5 & 6 and then hold a teleconferenced meeting on August 20th.

Solicitor Givens suggested introducing an amendment to Ordinance #08.21 to allow Classes 5 & 6 in the manufacturing district and having armed security in all classes. She would amend the Ordinance to allow all six (6) classes in the manufacturing district, remove the wording of a Paulsboro Police Officer with the businesses own armed security stationed at the business.

RE-INTRODUCE AMENDED ORDINANCE ON FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION:

O. #08.21: ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE ENTIRETY OF THE BOROUGH OF PAULSBORO, COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO PERMIT CANNABIS CULTIVATORS, MANUFACTURERS, WHOLESALERS, DISTRIBUTORS, RETAILERS AND DELIVERY SERVICES WITH THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICT. Councilman DiTonno moved and Council President Giovannitti seconded to adopt amended O. #08.21 on introduction and first reading and schedule the second reading and public hearing at a Special Meeting on August 20, 2021.

Councilman Kidd questioned if this was for all the town or certain districts.

Solicitor Givens stated it would only be in the manufacturing zones.

Mayor Stevenson stated the State is only giving out so many licenses throughout the State.