

At the Public Hearing held in the Council Chambers by the City Council, May 16, 2022, the following proceedings were held and entered in this record in the following words and figures to wit:

---

City Clerk

---

Mayor

The Mayor called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 P.M.

Roll Call - Aldermen Brown, Bryant, Budd, Dorchinecz, Driskell, Olive, Skultety, and Wilson were present.

Also present were Mayor Barry, City Clerk Lilly, City Attorney Romano, Water Superintendent Brune, Superintendent Mann, Fire Chief Adermann, Treasurer Miles, Lisa Sassatelli, Bill Sleeman, Mark Earhardt.

Mayor Barry announced that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to discuss An Ordinance making Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Taylorville, Illinois by adding a new Chapter 16 to Title 10 of the Taylorville City Code regarding Special Use for Adult-Use Cannabis Dispensing Organization. The Plan Commission called their meeting to order to discuss the Ordinance as proposed.

Alderman Budd stated he had received a phone call requesting the Cannabis Dispensary have both medical and recreational cannabis. City Attorney Romano stated that the definition in the Ordinance includes both. Alderman Bryant expressed her support for the potential dispensary, stating that the funds generated would be allocated for dredging of Lake Taylorville. Alderman Skultety stated that he feels that the legacy being left by the Council is one of unlimited gaming, liquor licenses, and now potentially cannabis. Alderman Driskell further stated that the City has a bad image, which will be made worse by voting for the Cannabis Dispensary. She challenged the Council members to consider the drug problem already present in the City and the potential for it to become worse with the addition of the Cannabis Dispensary.

Plan Commission member Skinner agreed with Alderman Driskell on the negative image in conjunction with the Dispensary and challenged the Council to think of the hard work of Downtown Taylorville to expand local business. She questioned why the Council wants this to move forward, and asked if this would be a foot in the door to allow a cultivator/grower in the future. She requested the nine block radius of the Square be prohibited as a potential location due to the many retail stores and restaurants, as well as nearby homes and schools. Chairman Kretzer agreed, also stating concern for the youth, crime, and potential increased theft. Mayor Barry countered that this Ordinance sets the basic parameters, but the Council could decide to extend the prohibited areas to include the Square. He further stated that he feels it is a complex decision, but it is primarily driven by the potential to receive thousands of dollars in tax revenue. Any and all tax money received from the sale of Cannabis would be placed into an account specifically for Lake Restoration.

Mark Earhardt addressed the Council and Plan Commission stating that he has been a resident for forty years. He believes this to be a bad idea for the community, and specifically for the youth.

Plan Commission member Hamell inquired as to whether the Plan Commission could offer revisions to the proposed Ordinance, setting guidelines and restrictions relating to the location. City Attorney Romano stated that the Plan Commission could offer any kind of recommendation to the City Council. The City

Council could then accept the recommendations or vote to approve the Ordinances as written with a two-thirds vote, regardless of any recommendations made. The Plan Commission continued their meeting for further discussion.

Motion by Alderman Driskell and seconded by Alderman Wilson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried (8-0).

The Public Hearing adjourned at 6:59 P.M.