

**City of Red Bud
Planning Commission Meeting
September 17, 2019
Meeting Minutes**

The September 17, 2019, meeting of the Red Bud Planning Commission was called to order by Chairwoman Andrea Letcher-Martin at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Andrea Letcher-Martin, John Holzum, Glenn Gielow, J.R. Hudson, Jeff Hicks, Janet Braun, David Wittenhauer, Rob Aubuchon,

PC Members Absent: Larry Mehring,

Others City Officials Present: Susan Harbaugh, David Friees, Both City Council members

In the Audience: No One Initially, Mark Vogt arrived about 45 minutes into meeting

Meeting Minutes:

Chairwoman Andrea Letcher-Martin opened the meeting indicating that there was no hearing scheduled. She also did not have prior months minutes due to technical difficulties. So she ask for anything for the good of the order.

General Discussions:

Planning Commission Discussion re: Cannabis retailing

IML wants codes in force by November 1

Cities can choose, through zoning ordinances to allow or disallow as they so choose as well as where such retail outlets would be permitted per zoning code.

Cities that have retail will be able to add a up to 3.75 % sales tax and target the revenue generated.

The state law that makes Cannabis legal on January 1, 2020 allows for initially 200 retail licenses.

David Friees thought that chances are pretty slim that small towns in Southern Illinois will be selected for a license. At least on this initial go round.

The state law that goes into effect on Jan1 allows for home use, not public use. It also allows for growing a small number of plants.

Besides our ordinances addressing retail, there is the possibility of businesses that would be smoking lounges. So these are the 2 things we need to address, retail sales and smoking lounges.

If we want to prevent these types of business, the ordinances need to be in place by Jan 1.

In the discussions that followed, We have mixed opinions on the planning board. Comments were varied and could be classified as:

This is coming and is inevitable And we may as well be in front of it. The situation is similar to alcohol in the 20's and 30's.

We should not encourage so we should not allow sales here.

If we don't allow, won't we just still have people distributing out of their cars.

Wouldn't we have better control if it was allowed to be retailed as a local business.

Let's take a wait and see approach which would mean not permitting per code initially. Require a hearing to consider.

Isn't this really "All about the Money?"

So we discussed having a open forum meeting next month to take public comments with a hearing in November to formulate a recommendation to the council for their consideration.

David Friees feels like the initial licenses will go larger towns and border towns so this most likely won't affect Red Bud initially..

If we are going to have a public discussion, we need to have the ability to answer questions.

Dave Wittenauer was concerned about other unsavory businesses this might bring. He also cited that Colorado spends \$4.50 to deal with the business activity for every \$1.00 produced. That's a net negative .

So, in preparation for next month meeting, Andrea was going to see if Jeff Mueller could try to find out what this type of business might generate in revenue for the city. Possibly poll some sort of similar cities in states that have been doing this for a while. Illinois is the 17th state to allow this.

Andrea will check our current business grid to see if this type of business would be addressed in our zoning code. At minimum that needs to be included.

Have Jeff Mueller check other towns who have done this to see how and what they all considered in their process.

Mark Vogt walked in near the end of the meeting to voice his opinion against allowing this in Red Bud. Mark lives on Blackjack Rd just outside the city limit of Red Bud. Andrea summarized our discussions for him.

Rob Aubuchon motioned, Jeff Hicks seconded to adjourn. All voted Aye.

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Respectfully submitted.

Glenn Gielow
Secretary