

BOROUGH OF JAMESBURG
GOVERNING BODY SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
JULY 12, 2021
6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm. This meeting is being held pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1974 and all provisions of that Act have been met. Any contracts awarded require the contractor to comply with N.J.S.A.10:5-31 et.seq. and N.J.A.C. 17:27. Also, in the event of a fire and pursuant to the N.J. Uniform Fire Code, members of the audience are requested to take notice of the exits at the front and rear of the Council Chambers as well as in the main hallway.

FLAG SALUTE: Led by Mayor Lowande

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Lowande
Council President Sussman
Council Member Czarneski
Council Member Ludas
Council Member Rampacek
Council Member Rutsky
Council Member Shaughnessy
Administrator Frueh - ***ABSENT***
Borough Attorney – Raffetto

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD – ANY ITEM - EXCLUDES ORDINANCES (they have their own public hearing): Members of the public wishing to address the Mayor and Borough Council must approach the podium and state their name and address for the record. There is a five (5) minute time limit for all comments and questions.

MOTION TO OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Proposed By: Sussman
Seconded By: Rampacek

Jennie Ludas – 38 Ridgeview Road – Ms. Ludas thanked Mayor and Council for all they have done in the past 18 months to keep the resident of Jamesburg safe.

MOTION TO CLOSE PUBLIC COMMENT:

Proposed By: Rampacek

Seconded By: Shaughnessy

DISCUSSION ITEM:

Borough Attorney Raffetto explained if we write up an Ordinance it will have to go to the Land Use Board for discussion after the introduction. He discussed the guidelines for having a special meeting. Here are a few things to think about: type of use you would want, where, number of licenses you would like in town, security

Mayor Lowande asked the Councilmembers for their opinions and if they are ready to move forward.

Councilmember Czarneski would like to move forward with one wholesale and one distribution license.

Councilmembers Ludas, Sussman, Shaughnessy all agree with one wholesale and one distribution license. Hours to be limited, councilmember Shaughnessy suggested 9am-9pm and no public consumption, not within 1,000 feet of a school, conditional use only. Councilmember Ludas also asked if something could be added to the Ordinance about having a secure armored truck pick up the monies since it is a cash business.

Councilmember Rutsky agrees with the other councilmembers on the types and numbers of license along with the hours. She would like to see the downtown area filled up, allow only in a commercial area and conditional use only. She shared quotes from other towns Mayors who have had positive things to say about opting in.

Councilmember Rampacek is not 100% on board. She would like to hear the opinion of the Land Use Board, see how it works out in other towns, would like more information from the League of Municipalities. The Master Plan would have to be updated. Monroe Township is having workshops for the Master Plan to get the publics opinion. If I were to agree to opt in I would agree with one wholesale and one distribution license, conditional use only, parking requirements, security, handicap access.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD –Discussion Item Only: Members of the public wishing to address the Mayor and Borough Council must approach the podium and state their name and address for the record. There is a five (5) minute time limit for all comments and questions.

MOTION TO OPEN TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Proposed By: Shaughnessy

Seconded By: Czarneski

Bertin Lefkovic – 27 Lake Street – Mr. Lefkovic is disappointed but not surprised council will not allow a dispensary when 2/3 of the voters voted to legalize marijuana. He feels it is great they are willing to consider a distributor and wholesaler. He feels these two classes will have no impact on the vacant stores, only a dispensary will. He feels we are missing out on the benefits this business can bring to the town.

Shannon Spillane – 29A Lincoln Avenue – Ms. Spillane would like to know where these businesses would be allowed keeping in mind the restrictions. Attorney Raffetto explained there would have to be specific zones. Ms. Spillane is very concerned, let the deadline pass so you aren't chained for the next five years. Take into account the residents and how they feel about it.

MOTION TO CLOSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT:

Proposed By: Czarneski

Seconded By: Rampacek

Councilmember Czarneski asked Mayor and Council if she can add a statement to the meeting. The statement is as follows:

At our last special called meeting, we spoke about the need and desire for additional revenue for the town that cannabis can generate. A family member of one of the candidates running this year seemed to imply that the Council were supporting defunding the Police. I would like to go on record stating I believe that to be utterly reprehensible. I and members of this Council are strong supporters of the Police and all law enforcement and we will continue to support the Chief and the entire department. Our meetings are not the place for political agendas."

Councilmember Rutsky added she spent timeless hours on her vacation rethinking and reallocating the budget to find what is best. We do appreciate our police.

Councilmembers Ludas and Rampacek do not believe in de-funding the police, they support them.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Proposed By: Rampacek

Seconded By: Shaughnessy

TIME OF ADJOURNMENT: 7:00 PM

Susan Boulogne
Registered Municipal Clerk
Borough of Jamesburg