

**OSSEO CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
September 25, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Duane Poppe called the work session of the Osseo City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 25, 2023.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilmembers Juliana Hultstrom, Ashlee Mueller, Mark Schulz, Alicia Vickerman, and Mayor Duane Poppe.

Members absent: None.

Staff present: City Administrator Riley Grams, Police Chief Shane Mikkelson and City Attorney Mary Tietjen.

3. AGENDA

Council agreed to discuss the work session items.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. DISCUSS MUNICIPAL CANNABIS SALES OPTIONS

City Attorney Tietjen stated the purpose of this item is to provide an overview of the currently available information related to municipal-operated retail cannabis businesses. There are 14 types of cannabis business licenses, with only cannabis retailers being a business type that sells cannabis products to the public but does not also cultivate/grow its own cannabis. The Office of Cannabis Management (“OCM”) is the only entity that can issue a license to sell cannabis. Prior to issuing licenses the OCM will go through the administrative rulemaking process to establish additional requirements related to the operation of cannabis businesses, including establishing the process and timelines to apply for and issue licenses. Currently, the OCM’s website provides that “the rules may not be approved and in force until 2025.” See the OCM’s webpages Rulemaking Overview and For People Interested in Starting A Business. ii The administrative rules will hopefully fill in many of the gaps and answer questions that arise from the lack of clarity in the Cannabis Act. Staff commented further on the municipal cannabis sales options and asked for comments or questions from the Council.

Schulz supported the City taking a serious look at this as a possibility. He explained this would be a way for the City to create revenue to help offset the tax burden on residents. He discussed how municipal cannabis sales would help the City in managing how the sales occur in the City. He stated the extra revenues could help the City in funding a new City Hall and police department. He anticipated the City would have to hire a consultant or bring someone in with knowledge to help in establishing this type of facility.

Mueller asked if the City could apply for a license at this time. City Attorney Tietjen reported this could not occur until the State was ready. She anticipated this could not occur until 2025, which would allow the City time to prepare for this endeavor.

Mueller questioned if the City could partner with another entity for this type of venture.

Schulz stated the City could find a partner to work with for a municipal dispensary.

Vickerman inquired if the employees at the municipal dispensary would be City employees. Grams stated they would be City employees.

Vickerman commented she believed it made sense for the City to pursue a municipal dispensary. She indicated she would like to see examples of how this has worked in other communities.

Hultstrom stated she supported the City pursuing this as well. She explained there were very few additional revenue streams for the City to explore and this could be a good option for the City.

Poppe indicated this would be an option for the City to explore that would not take away a current business, but rather was a new opportunity.

Grams asked if the League of Minnesota Cities had guidelines in place on how to run a municipal liquor store. City Attorney Tietjen indicated they do have informational memos and resources about this. She suspected the LMC would be creating resources on how to manage a municipal dispensary over the next year.

Schulz suggested City Administrator Grams contact the City of Rogers to learn more about their municipal liquor store. He stated he was pleased to hear the Council fully supported the City exploring a municipal dispensary. He indicated the City would have to further consider the concerns from the Police Chief when it comes to cannabis sales in the community. He recommended the Police Chief have a seat at the table as this item moves forward.

Hultstrom agreed with this recommendation stating this would be an asset to the overall business plan.

Mueller asked if low potency options would only be sold at the municipal dispensary, or would the municipal dispensary only deal with the sales of high potency products.

Schulz anticipated the municipal dispensary would have all of the above. He commented on how tools would be created by the League in order to help cities manage operations.

Vickerman reported the Council would have to consider what kind of initial investment would be required for a municipal dispensary. She commented on how the City pursuing this would have overarching revenue benefits for the entire community.

Schulz urged the Council to consider putting a dispensary subcommittee together to support staff through this process.

Poppe agreed with this recommendation and noted it would take time for the City to put this together.

Schulz stated he would be interested in serving on the subcommittee.

Mueller indicated she would be interested in serving on the subcommittee as well.

B. DISCUSS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Police Chief Mikkelson stated on Monday, September 18, 2023, we were notified that the Maple Grove Police Department was suspending the School Resource Officer (SRO) program. We have been working hard this last week creating a plan to assist our schools. He updated the Council on all the behind-the-scenes work we have been doing to get this plan together and let you know what we will assist. He hopes our plan will relieve parents and students who may have some consternation about the School Resource Officers being removed from the schools. He believed that we are prepared, and all of our officers are willing to do the work to protect our students at the Osseo Senior High School and the Osseo Middle School. He discussed how the school was like another city within the City. He commented further on how the department has been working with the school district and noted Brett Letourneau would be serving as the SRO beginning on October 2.

Vickerman thanked Police Chief Mikkelson for making a shift within the department. She requested further information on how the department would be filling in. Police Chief Mikkelson reported his officers would be filling in at football games and at other extra-curricular events. He stated he believed things went smoothly last Friday night and there was enough support and protection in place.

Vickerman questioned if Maple Grove would be providing any additional assistance going forward. Police Chief Mikkelson stated at this point, it was on Osseo to respond to the schools and to take all calls.

Hultstrom asked if Maple Grove provided SROs for Maple Grove Senior High. Police Chief Mikkelson reported this was the case.

Hultstrom inquired how Police Chief Mikkelson came to recommend Officer Letourneau for this position. Police Chief Mikkelson stated Officer Letourneau works well with youth and makes connections with students, which led him to choose Officer Letourneau for this special position.

Schulz thanked Police Chief Mikkelson for stepping up and responding in such a positive manner to this situation. He stated he was at the football game on Friday night, and he appreciated seeing all of the positive interactions he saw between residents and the police officers in attendance. He reported he was also encouraged by the positive relationships that would be formed between Officer Letourneau and students in the schools. He anticipated this would transfer into other positive relationships between students and other officers in the community. He believed it was going to be a good

thing for the community to have officers building relationships in the community with students.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial