

**OSSEO CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MINUTES
July 29, 2024**

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, July 29, 2024.

2. ROLL CALL

Members present: Councilmembers John Hall, Mark Schulz, and Mayor Duane Poppe.

Members absent: Councilmember Juliana Hultstrom.

Staff present: Interim City Administrator Shane Mikkelson and Interim Fire Chief Mike Cogswell.

Others present: None.

3. AGENDA

Council agreed to discuss the work session items.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. UPDATE ON MUNICIPAL MARIJUANA DISPENSARY – PRESENTATION VOYAGEUR SERVICES – Patrick Hurley and Dane Brower

Mikkelson stated at the work session on June 24, 2024, he was given the task to start working on the Municipal Marijuana Dispensary. This will be an update on the work done and what will come in the future. He reported the Council will have a presentation from Voyageur Services about how they can work with the city to make this a reality. Patrick Hurley and Dane Brower will be giving the presentation. He explained he would then be able to update you on the steps taken to secure a location for our dispensary.

Patrick Hurley, Voyageur Services, introduced himself to the Council. He explained his team brings extensive service given the cannabis work they have done in Missouri. His goal was to support Osseo in the safe creation of a municipal dispensary. He believed Osseo had a unique opportunity to have a municipal dispensary which would drive local economic development while also enhancing public safety. He commented on how getting to market early was important noting it would be important for the City to have a supply chain in place. He further discussed how Osseo would be a great location for a dispensary and described the vision for a potential dispensary. He reviewed the build out expenses for a full build out and noted the security measures that would have to be in place. Conservative forecasted estimates for Osseo's cannabis market were discussed with the Council. Potential marketing strategies were reviewed with the Council stating loyalty and referral programs were recommended. He ended his presentation describing

why Voyager Services would be a great partner for Osseo and asked for comments or questions.

Hall questioned what cities Voyager Services was located in. Mr. Hurley reported the bulk of his dispensaries were in Missouri. He gave the Council an open invitation to visit one of his dispensaries. He indicated he was currently located in five different cities. He commented further on the growth he was seeing in his stores.

Hall inquired if a warehouse would be located in Minnesota in order to assist with the supply chain for Osseo. Mr. Hurley explained this would be a separate cultivation license noting the State would be offering 13 cultivator licenses. He reported the City would have to find a partner to supply cannabis for the municipal dispensary.

Hall commented on his experiences when visiting dispensaries in Illinois, Colorado and Michigan. Mr. Hurley further discussed the security he had in place within his five stores.

Hall questioned if Voyager planned on having any other stores in Minnesota, besides the one in Osseo. Mr. Hurley anticipated he would partner with other municipalities.

Hall asked if Voyager would be in charge of the build out, or would the City be responsible for this expense. Mr. Hurley stated negotiations on this matter would be ongoing.

Hall explained he understood other states allow for a delivery service. He inquired if this would be pursued if the State allows it. Mr. Hurley reported 10 delivery licenses would be permitted by the State of Minnesota. He recommended Osseo pursue a delivery component.

Hall questioned if the employees of the dispensary would be employees of Voyager or employees of the city. Mr. Hurley suggested all dispensary employees work for Voyager.

Schulz discussed how products would be dispensed from behind the counter and no plants or flowers would be on display in the dispensary.

Hall reported this would be similar to dispensaries in Illinois. Hall inquired if this would be a cash only business. Mr. Hurley explained he was still waiting to hear a determination from the State if this would be a cash only business.

Schulz indicated Mr. Hurley was invited to this meeting after he learned about how dispensaries were set up in Missouri. He understood Voyager was interested in pursuing new facilities in Minnesota. He commented on how the City could partner with Voyager on a municipal dispensary and stated he was excited about this opportunity for the City of Osseo. In addition, he appreciated how the municipal dispensary would provide the City with another revenue stream. He thanked Mr. Hurley for being in attendance at this meeting and for reviewing the proposed business plan.

Schulz asked if the Council had to provide consensus in order to move this item forward.

Mikkelson reported this was necessary in order to continue to meet the proposed timeline. He stated the City does have a proposed location in mind and noted negotiations were underway for rental rates. He was of the opinion, Voyageur would be a great partner for the City.

Schulz indicated he was encouraged by the first year projected revenues given the cost for the proposed build out.

Hall stated he would like to see the City move forward on this. He recommended this item come back to the City Council for further consideration on August 12.

Schulz supported this item coming back to the Council on August 12 as well.

Poppe supported having hard numbers for the Council to review at the August 12 meeting.

B. DISCUSS FIRE CHIEF POSITION AND FUTURE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Mikkelson stated on September 25, 2023, the Osseo City Council accepted the resignation of Osseo Fire Chief Mike Phenow. At the same Council meeting, the Council gave the Interim Fire Chief position to Interim Fire Chief Mike Cogswell. In the 2024 Budget, a full-time Fire Chief was included. During some early 2024 discussions, the full-time Fire Chief Position was put on hold to investigate other options for the Fire Department. He met with the fire department on Wednesday, June 13, 2024. During that meeting, he spoke to the entire staff, and they had many questions about what the City wants to do with the Fire Chief position and what the department's future may look like.

Interim Fire Chief Cogswell read a letter to the City Council that addressed the responsibilities of the Osseo Fire Department and discussed how the department was dedicated to giving back to the community. He stated as the fire department evolves, and with an auto aid agreement in place with Brooklyn Park, he believed it was necessary for Osseo to have a full time Fire Chief in place. He explained he currently has 25 members after having only 15. He indicated as the Interim Fire Chief, he would continue to push for training, equipment updated facilities for his firefighters.

Schulz thanked Interim Fire Chief Cogswell for his presentation. He stated he appreciated the fact that former Fire Chief Phenow's recommendations were included for consideration. He explained there were a lot of challenges facing the City's fire department model, which included getting volunteers. He appreciated how the City was working to get reps by offering auto aid to Brooklyn Park. He anticipated some changes would have to be made in order to ensure the department does not move back to 15 staff members. He discussed how it was important for the community to have well-trained firefighters in the community in the event there was an emergency. He noted his father was a fire chief and he had a long-standing appreciate of the fire department. He indicated he supported the City hiring and retaining a full time Fire Chief.

Poppe questioned if an open application process would be followed for the Fire Chief position.

Schulz believed it would be important to open the application process in order to allow the City Council to choose from the best applications. He anticipated the Interim Fire Chief would submit an application.

Poppe questioned how fire inspections were handled at this time. Interim Fire Chief Cogswell reported he had a part time inspector that handled this work. Mikkelson discussed how the fire inspection work would be rolled into a full time Fire Chief position.

Hall supported staff bringing forward a recommendation on this item at the August 12 City Council meeting. Mikkelson reported this item may get pushed to August 26 given the high level of work staff has at this time, and with the primary election. He indicated he would like to have the Risk Management and HR Committees review this position as well.

Schulz stated he really appreciated all of the support the Osseo Fire Relief Association offered to the community.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Guenther
Minute Maker Secretarial