

**Cape May Court House, New Jersey
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION AGENDA
June 21, 2021 5:00 PM (prevailing time)**

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor's Announcement: I hereby declare that notice has been given to the Herald Times, the Atlantic City Press and posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Building, stating the time and place of the following meeting, as required in P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the State of New Jersey. (Sunshine Law).

Notice of this meeting was properly given in Resolution No. 26-21 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 7, 2021.

Members present are Mayor Donohue, Deputy Mayor Gandy, and Committee member Norris

Business Administrator/Township Clerk Kimberly Krauss, Deputy Business Administrator Suzanne Schumann, Deputy Township Clerk Andrea Singley, Township Engineer Vincent Orlando & Municipal Solicitor Marcus Karavan

FLAG SALUTE:**PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:**

Medical and Adult-Use Marijuana
Dispensaries in Middle Township

Mayor Donohue:

- *Discussed purpose of the work session topic*
- *Gave brief background of the new law and timeline for municipalities to adopt policies and procedures*
- *Discussed the state law and current guidance for the implementation of the new law*

Stan Doniger, Rio Grande:

- *Asked Chief Leusner about the enforcement of the use of marijuana in public*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Explained law makes adult-use of recreation marijuana legal*
- *Spoke of ordinance passed and explained the areas that smoking is not allowed*
- *Continued to discuss use of marijuana in public area; deferred to Chief Leusner regarding underage use of marijuana*

Chief Leusner:

- *Spoke of concern regarding use of marijuana and alcohol by underage persons*
- *Discussed difficulties with the new law introduced and its relation to under age use of marijuana and alcohol*
- *Spoke of training of officers to adapt to the new laws*
- *Continued to discuss use of marijuana especially in regards to driving spoke of concerns of dark markets and the sale of marijuana*
- *Described the various challenges faced with the new law*

Jesse Ridge:

- *Spoke of support of allowing dispensaries within the Township of Middle*

Peter Jespenson:

- *Spoke of support of the allowing of dispensaries but agrees with Chief Leusner regarding the challenges*

Bob Noel:

- *Spoke of opportunities by allowing dispensaries and setting the law in the Township to regulate the number of dispensaries allowed within the municipality*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Spoke of regular communication with INSA*
- *Discussed benefits of their knowledge regarding the marijuana industry*
- *Spoke of actions taken and language of the laws by the other municipalities concerning the limiting of dispensaries*

Kimberly Krauss:

- *Clarified that the municipalities have the ability to change the law to be less restrictive within the next 5 years*

Bob Noel:

- *Asked if State sets a limit on the cost of a license*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Explained that the State issues the license*

Bob Noel:

- *Asked if the Township can sell a license similar to the process utilized to sell a liquor license*

Marc Karavan:

- *Clarified how the Township gets revenue*

Mark Logan, CMCH:

- *Asked if the Township is able to craft an ordinance to limit dispensaries to industrial zones*

Marc Karavan:

- *Responded that the Township would be able to do so*

Mark Logan, CMCH:

- *Discussed maintaining dispensaries to certain zones; feels as though the public would be more welcoming*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Stated he believes the owners would prefer to be in more commercial shopping areas; further explained*

Nathen Dewalt, Tampa, Florida:

- *Explained he is a 100% disabled veteran; provided background on his experience in the marijuana industry*
- *Spoke of various areas his company operates within*
- *Also discussed importance of education of the use of marijuana and social responsibilities; continued to discuss the importance of working with towns to help people understand marijuana use*
- *Spoke of benefits of the tax revenue the Township makes from the dispensaries*

Peter Jespersen:

- *Spoke of responsible use of marijuana*
- *Discussed the minimal turn out for the Work Session*

Stan Doniger, Rio Grande:

- *Clarified he is in support of medical marijuana*
- *Spoke of concern over the usage of recreational marijuana*
- *Continued to discuss concerns regarding education of the use of the marijuana*
- *Spoke of setting aside a portion of revenue with assisting persons with over-use of marijuana*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Discussed bills being passed in Trenton to address these issues*

Jesse Ridge:

- *Spoke of personal family experience with addiction*
- *Expressed belief that marijuana is not as addictive as other pharmaceutical drugs*
- *Stated he believes marijuana may help people get away from pharmaceutical drugs*

Nathan DeWalt, Florida:

- *Spoke of data collected to suggest that medical marijuana has helped persons with opioid addictions*
- *Continued to discuss the studies of benefits of medical marijuana use including the creation of jobs*
- *Spoke of previous experiences with a town in a different State that rushed to make decisions regarding dispensaries*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Asked Mr. DeWalt about his experiences with regards to the timeline for regulations and policies from the State*

Nathan DeWalt, Florida:

- *Explained the large timeline he has experienced with various other States*
- *Spoke of litigations other states have faced when rushing the licensing process*

Committeeman Norris:

- *Stated there are good arguments on both sides*
- *Thanked everyone who came out to express their opinions*

Committeeman Gandy:

- *Stated he was on board for medical marijuana*
- *Spoke of his concerns that there are too many unanswered questions with recreational marijuana*
- *Continued to discuss reservations over the allowance of recreational marijuana*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Stated that uneasiness with the new law is justified*

Committeeman Gandy:

- *Spoke of difficulties if the town changes their mind at a later date*
- *Continued to discuss the unknowns of the new law*

Committeeman Norris:

- *Asked if the Township approves one recreational marijuana shop, what would be the timeline for a license to be issued and the dispensary to be set up*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Responded that the timeline is still unknown*
- *Spoke of various factors that have to be considered*

Nathen DeWalt, Florida:

- *Discussed possible timeline from the time the State develops regulations to the time the license application may begin*
- *Explained the process could take about 18-24 months, at least*
- *Continued to discuss various factors that affect the timeline of the issuance of recreational marijuana licenses and opening of dispensaries*

Mayor Donohue:

- *Spoke of the supply and demand effect since the marijuana must be grown within the State of New Jersey*

Bob Noel:

- *Commented that it's the Township's responsibility to ensure that the people opening the dispensaries are responsible and good for the town*

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES:

Administration:

Finance:

Public Works:

Engineering:

Legal:

Tax Collection:

Tax Assessment:

Construction/Planning/Zoning:

Recreation:

Police / Animal Control/ Code Enforcement:

Buildings and Grounds:

Sewer:

Economic Development:

Personnel:

Zoning:

Township Clerk:

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:53 pm

1st: Committeeman Gandy 2nd: Committeeman Norris

Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Gandy, Committeeman Norris, Mayor Donohue

Andrea N. Singley, Deputy Township Clerk

Minutes prepared by E.Bowman