

**City of Rockford, Minnesota Planning and Zoning Commission Special Meeting Minutes
7:00 p.m., Thursday, December 19, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Petersen-Biorn called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 pm. The meeting was held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 6031 Main Street, Rockford, MN.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Chair Petersen-Biorn, Vice Chair Morter, and Cihlar. The following members were absent; Vergin. Also in attendance were City Clerk/Assistant City Administrator Debbie Buoy, Council Liaison Mike Werman and City Planner Dan Licht.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

MOTION was made by Cihlar, seconded by Morter to approve the agenda.

MOTION CARRIED Voting in favor, Petersen-Biorn, Morter, and Cihlar.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION was made by Morter, seconded by Cihlar to approve the minutes of the Planning Commission meeting of October 10, 2024.

MOTION CARRIED Voting in favor, Petersen-Biorn, Morter, and Cihlar.

PUBLIC HEARING

Regarding Proposed Amendments to the City's Zoning Regulations Related to Cannabis and Hemp Businesses

Chair Petersen-Biorn opened the public hearing at 7:11 pm.

No one was present to speak

Chair Petersen-Biorn closed the public hearing at 7:12 pm.

City Planner Dan Licht stated that Minnesota Statutes Chapter 342 became law in 2023 allowing for legalization of recreational adult-use cannabis. The Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) is responsible for implementation of the law through regulatory rules and procedures still being developed. The draft Ordinance prepared for the Commissions review provides for regulation of cannabis businesses to the extent allowed by Statute. Adult use of cannabis is only allowed on private properties and those properties licensed to permit its use. The Statute establishes that counties and cities may impose limits on the number of cannabis business licenses issued within their jurisdictions. The license minimum requires one license for each 12,500 population within the issuing county or city. Additionally, if a county has one license for each 12,500 of county population, a city is not required to register a cannabis business. Operation of a retail cannabis business shall be prohibited within 1,000 feet of a school, 500 feet of a daycare, 500 feet of a residential treatment facility and 500 feet of an attraction within a public park that is regularly used by minors, including a playground or athletic field. Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk

Debbie Buoy asked for clarification on the licensing procedures if a daycare wants to open a business but there is an existing cannabis business within the 500-foot setback. City Planner Dan Licht stated that the setback requirement is on the cannabis business. The daycare is allowed to waive the setback and open their business. The existing cannabis business is allowed to renew their license. However, if the existing cannabis business were to close, a new cannabis business would not be able to be approved for that location as they can not be within 500 feet of a daycare. Conversation continued to the joint powers agreement with Wright County. This agreement would have Wright County handling all licensing and regulations of the cannabis businesses. City Planner Dan Licht recommends that the city sign this agreement as City staff are not equipped to handle the enforcement of violations with a cannabis business. It was also noted that the City of Rockford is within two counties, and we have not heard from Hennepin County but believe that they are also preparing a joint powers agreement. City Planner Dan Licht asked the Planning Commission to discuss where they felt cannabis sales should be allowed within the city. He asked if they wanted it along Hwy 55 or in the downtown area or both. Commissioner Morter stated that if we did not allow it along the highway and allowed it in the downtown area, taking into consideration the setbacks from daycares, schools, etc., there would be few location possibilities.

MOTION was made by Morter and seconded by Cihlar to recommend approval of the Ordinance amendment regulating cannabis businesses, subject to changing the Ordinance to allow retail uses only in the downtown commercial district.

MOTION CARRIED Voting in favor, Petersen-Biorn, Morter, and Cihlar,

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

None

CITY STAFF UPDATES

City Clerk/Assistant City Administrator Debbie Buoy noted the upcoming Planning and Zoning meetings dates, which are January 9, February 13 and March 13. She also stated that the Enclave 48-unit apartment has submitted plans, and we expect this development to move forward in the spring. She also gave a thank you to everyone that donated to the local toy drive and stated that the event is a huge success because of the donations received and hard work from the volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made by Cihlar, and seconded by Morter, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm.

MOTION CARRIED Voting in favor, Petersen-Biorn, Morter, and Cihlar.

Typed this 26th day of December 2024

Debbie Buoy

City Clerk/Assistant City Administrator

City of Rockford Minnesota

All meetings of the Planning and Zoning Commission are video recorded and available for

viewing on-line at www.cityofrockford.org. Meeting minutes are intended to be a general synopsis of the meetings of the City Council, and more detail regarding discussions and policy considerations is provided by watching the recording of the meeting.

Approved: 

3-13-2025

Nick Morter

Vice-Chairperson

Attest:


Debbie Buoy

City Clerk/Assistant City Administrator
City of Rockford Minnesota