

## Economic Development Committee Minutes

Honorable Council  
City of Newark, Ohio  
November 21, 2023

The Economic Development Committee met in Council Chambers on November 20, 2023 with these members in attendance:

Spencer Barker, Chair  
Michael Houser – Vice Chair  
Colton Rine  
Beth Bline  
Dustin Neely

We wish to report:

- 1. Consider Ordinance No. 23-59 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A MORATORIUM ON THE PROCESSING OR APPROVAL OF ANY APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF ZONING CLEARANCE, BUILDING OCCUPANCY PERMIT, OR ANY OTHER PERMIT OR APPROVAL REQUIRED UNDER THE ZONING CODE FOR ANY PREMISES THAT WOULD ENABLE THE RETAIL SALE OR DISPENSING, CULTIVATING, OR PROCESSING OF ADULT USE MARIJUANA FOR A PERIOD OF 180 DAYS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**Tricia Moore, Law Director** - As you know Issue 2 passed on the November ballot which established the legalization of recreational marijuana. Part of that legislation that passed is establishing the Division of Cannabis Control within the Department of Commerce which is to license, regulate, investigate and penalize everything that is in the initiative petition in reference to use of recreational marijuana. They also carve out an exception for municipalities with an option to prohibit dispensaries or limit the number of dispensaries of recreational use. The problem is that we don't know enough about the system because it hasn't been established yet. However, I did speak with zoning and I have spoken with a couple members of Council and the fact that we are already getting phone calls of people that want to come to the City and establish dispensaries, we thought we would put a moratorium until we learn more about it, learn more about what our options are, learn more about what benefits would come from the State of Ohio and what kind of regulations they are putting on it. So, I am asking for at least a 6 month, it does go into effect December, however they are forecasting a year to two

years before they get licensed to dispense, but hopefully before that time they will get some regulatory format out to us so we can kind of see what we're looking at.

**Motion to send to full Council by Mr. Neely, Second by Ms. Bline**

**Mr. Houser** - I just commend you for bringing this forward, I appreciate it.

**Ms. Bline** - Thank you, is there any way you can let us know by email when processes have been established?

**Law Director Moore** - As soon as I know, I will let you know.

**Motion passed 5-0**

Economic Development Committee stands adjourned

Spencer Barker, Chair