

January 10, 2017
5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in a Workshop Session to discuss Florida Medical Marijuana Laws at 212 W. Main Street with the following members present:

President Ryan
Vice President McBride
Councilwoman Hepfer *(not present)*
Councilwoman Bega
Councilman Hinkle *(not present)*
Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Manager Williams, City Attorney Haag, and City Clerk Jackson.

PUBLIC NOTICE

DATE: December 29, 2017

PLEASE BE ADVISED, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, WILL MEET IN A WORKSHOP SESSION ON **TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2017 @ 5:30PM** AT THE INVERNESS GOVERNMENT CENTER, 212 W. MAIN STREET, INVERNESS, FLORIDA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING:

“MEDICAL MARIJUANA”

/s/ Dave Ryan
President of City Council

City Manager DiGiovanni referenced handouts that were provided for Council, including the current laws in effect in Florida, the Constitutional Amendment passed by approx. 71-72% electorate, draft ordinance from the City Attorney, and excerpts from City Manager’s personal Facebook page showing numerous comments. The City of Inverness is looked upon, in Citrus County, as progressive and a leading government.

City Attorney Haag noted that a similar provision was on the ballot 2 years ago, and failed due to not get the required 60% for adoption as a constitutional amendment. He spoke of statutes relating to low-dose THC medical marijuana (cannabis), also known as Charlotte’s Web, to treat patients with seizures and other ailments. He noted that the legislature pre-empted the regulation of growing and dispensing. Currently, we only have jurisdiction on the low-dose cannabis relating to the number and location of dispensaries, licensing, etc. is conducted by the State. City Attorney is recommending, like many other cities, to adopt an ordinance to create a 180 day moratorium, limited to distance and number of facilities, and referenced the ordinance provided. The process would be to present to the Planning Commission first, followed by 2 public hearings with City Council, as part of the Land Development Code (LDC).

Council members questioned permitting, growing, and dispensing, with City Attorney Haag providing clarity to the issue. City Manager DiGiovanni stated it is unknown what the regulations will be and reminded that this is to be dispensed by prescription. City Attorney clarified that the moratorium would halt any permitting so there would be clear regulations in the future. Since there is pending legislation, the City staff has the right to deny permits at this time. Councilwoman Bega agreed the right move is to hold off until we know what direction to take. Mayor Plaisted questioned the LDC and zoning, with City Attorney stating this is licensed by the State, certificates are required, and will be regulated like drug stores. Councilman McBride questioned the origin and process of the medical marijuana, with City Attorney clarifying the regulations through the State. Council President Ryan opened the floor to public comment.

Public Comment

Mark Fallows, DO, Interventional Pain Physician clarified that medical marijuana cannot be prescribed but ordered, and spoke of the DEA. He noted the small number of patients that will possibly qualify for this type of treatment in Citrus County.

Winston Perry, City Business Owner, stated he is encouraged and that Inverness has always been a progressive community. Spoke of Small Town Done Right and how this could save lives of those with various illnesses. He introduced scientist friend, Wayne Coe to further elaborate.

Wayne Coe, Chemical Engineer provided science behind medical marijuana with details regarding research and various aspects of the issue, referencing Israel and Spain cultures.

Sheila Jacobs, County Resident, spoke to her personal experience and is in favor of the benefits provided by medical marijuana. This is important and needs to move forward for those in need.

Meeting adjourned at 6:19pm.

City Clerk

Council President