

EUREKA TOWNSHIP
Dakota County, State of Minnesota

PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING/ PUBLIC HEARING
December 9, 2024-7:00 PM

Call to Order

The Planning Commission Special Meeting/Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Melanie Storlie and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Commissioners Present: Melanie Storlie (Chair)
 Dan Heyda (Vice Chair)
 Donovan Palmquist (Commissioner)
 Brian Storlie (Commissioner)
 Dave Wheeler (Commissioner)

Others Present: Amy Liberty (Deputy Clerk), Kathleen Kauffman, Linda Ripley
Zoom Attendees: Randy Wood, Jeff Otto, Ashley & Terry Schultze

Opening Statement

Chair Melanie Storlie opened the meeting at 7:00pm, shared the procedures and the expected conduct of this public hearing and stated the following:

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a proposed ordinance written by the Township lawyer, amending Chapter 240 of the Town Code regarding cannabis businesses. The ordinance establishes zoning regulations for cannabis businesses.

Public Comment

Chair Melanie Storlie opened the public comment period, directing the Deputy Clerk to read the submitted written comments from citizens not in attendance and then call on citizens who have signed up on the Speakers List in the order listed until everyone has spoken.

Submitted Comments read by the Deputy Clerk

Jeff Otto, 25580 Dodd Blvd.

I understand the structure of this Ordinance is based on recent Minnesota Statutes forcing cannabis operations and businesses on all local government units in the State, usurping local zoning authority on this subject. Basically, this means we are powerless to stop it.

This is the most egregious example of overreach and ill-considered legislation ever put forth by Minnesota. I know there are certain prescribed benefits in carefully controlled, medical contexts, but this goes far beyond into the realm of so-called recreational use overseen by non-medical monitors and bureaucracy.

The balance of my comments, for our public record, are direct quotes from actual medical authorities and researchers studying some of the concerns about widespread cannabis use without medical oversight.

From the Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, Ohio:

“As cannabis is legalized and is more accessible in various forms across the country, there is increasing concern among health care providers about potential impact on children. Researchers at Nationwide

Children's Hospital have new findings to add to the existing evidence that cannabis exposure before birth can negatively impact children.

"In a study published October 28, 2024, in *JAMA Pediatrics*, researchers found prenatal cannabis exposure was associated in early childhood with poorer thinking skills and behaviors such as impulse control, paying attention, planning ability, and more aggressive behavior, all of which play a vital role in how children perform in school and interact with others.

"Although cannabis is a natural product, there are still many risks to using it during pregnancy," said Sarah Keim, PhD, principal investigator in the Center for Biobehavioral Health at Nationwide Children's, and lead author of the study. "Some women may turn to cannabis to help deal with some common issues of pregnancy including nausea, sleep problems and stress. This is not recommended. Consulting with a health care provider to find safer options to help with these issues during pregnancy is important.

"Our findings were not surprising – they actually confirm and expand on longstanding evidence from previous research," said Dr. Keim. "With our more contemporary and diverse sample of women and children, and with much higher potency of cannabis now than in past decades, this study validates previous research and supports existing clinical recommendations for patients."

The JAMA Pediatrics researchers analyzed data on cannabis exposure at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. The study was titled "Prenatal Cannabis Exposure and Executive Function and Aggressive Behavior at Age 5 Years". 80 children born of mothers who had used cannabis were evaluated among a group of 250 children.

This concludes my comments.

Speakers List

Kathleen Kauffman, 25506 Ipava Ave.

Kathleen questioned as to why we would need to allow a cannabis business when we currently do not allow any retail in the Township. Clarification is needed. She went on to express her concerns about the proposed ordinance, stating that it was too thin. Kathleen did her own investigation and found a guide offered by the Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management and shared this with the Planning Commission. She ended by cautioning the Planning Commission not to rush the process and said the world would forgive being late, but not being wrong.

Linda Ripley, 9460 235th St. W.

Linda shared her concerns with the challenges already facing Minnesota with cannabis, in the implementing of the license lottery system and the pending lawsuits. She questioned if the Township must follow all the state's regulations. She agreed with the comments that were submitted by Jeff Otto and the comments spoken by Kathleen Kauffman.

Chair Melanie Storlie thanked the two citizens in attendance, Kathleen Kaufmann and Linda Ripley, for coming to the special meeting in the Town Hall and for sharing their comments and concerns.

Public Comment was closed at 7:25pm.

The Planning Commission discussed the possible ordinance and assembled the following questions to ask the lawyer:

- Any differences between State recommendations 11.21.2024 vs ordinance drafted by Attorney.
- In this situation, is the state forcing retail since it is not allowed in current zoning within the Township?
- Private Party can grow up to 4 plants. Does anything need to be in this proposed ordinance or is that regulated by the state statute?
- Does the IUP allow the Township to prohibit or limit cannabis businesses... such as allow cultivation, but not allow retail?
- How much control does the IUP have, if granted?
- How much authority does a township have in regulating the cultivation and retail of the business?

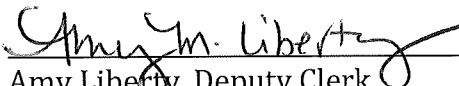
These questions will be included in the Findings of Fact that will be composed and presented to the Town Board on December 10, 2024.


Motion: Planning Commissioner Palmquist moved to approve the ordinance as presented with the changes and questions we talked about. Chair Melanie Storlie seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5-0.

Motion: Chair Melanie Storlie moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Brian Storlie seconded the motion. *Motion carried 5-0.*

Public Hearing ended at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Amy Liberty, Deputy Clerk

Minutes Officially Approved by:  on: 1/7/25
Planning Commission Chair Date

PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKER LIST

EUREKA TOWNSHIP

December 9, 2024

PUBLIC HEARING

To discuss a proposed ordinance amending Chapter 240 of the Town Code regarding cannabis businesses.
The ordinance establishes zoning regulations for cannabis businesses.

7:00 PM

If you would like to make a comment during tonight's public hearing, please provide your name and address below. Speakers will be called in the order they are listed.

**If you would like your comments to be included in the official meeting minutes, you must submit the comments in writing to the Township Clerks.*

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS

PRINT NAME	ADDRESS
Kathleen Knuffman	25506 Spawer
Linda Ripley	after listening to previous speakers